



USDA-APHIS-Animal Care



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT			
Complaint No. AC20-481	Date Entered: 28-Sep-20	Processed By: SPR	
Referred To: Program Support		Reply Due: 30-Oct-20	
Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against			
Name: W.L. Gore & Associates Inc.	Customer No.: 1051	License No.: 86-R-0009	
Address: 1505 N. Fourth Street		Email Address:	
City: Flagstaff	State: AZ	Phone No.: 928-864-2705	
Complainant Information			
Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)		Organization: SAEN	
Address:		Email Address: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)	
City:	State:	Phone No.:	
How was the Complaint received? Email			
Details of Complaint: SEE ATTACHED			
Results: This complaint refers to citations on a prior inspection report. Animal Care inspectors conduct unannounced inspections for all USDA registered and licensed facilities. Our authority is to ensure that they meet the standards required by Federal regulations. We also perform inspections in response to valid concerns and complaints received from the public to ensure the well-being of the animals and compliance with Federal law. When non-compliant items are found, these noncompliances are cited on the inspection report under the most accurate regulation based on the circumstances of the issue. Multiple noncompliances for the same issue are only cited when appropriate. With the exception of focused inspections, our inspectors evaluate the facility for compliance with all applicable regulations. Although all regulatory requirements are assessed, only noncompliant items are listed on the inspection report. We will continue to inspect this facility to make sure that past noncompliances are corrected and that AWA-regulated animals are protected to the fullest extent of Federal law.			
Application Kit Provided: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Inspector: Program Support		Date: 28-Sep-20	
Reviewed By: Dr. Gibbens		Date: 28-Sep-20	

APHIS-AnimalCare

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@cinci.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Gibbens, Robert - APHIS
Cc: APHIS-AnimalCare
Subject: Official Complaint -- WL Gore & Associates Inc. Federal Complaint

Categories: Valid Complaints



Robert M. Gibbens, D.V.M., Director,
9/3/20
Animal Welfare Operations. USDA-APHIS-Animal Care.
Via e-mail: robert.m.gibbens@usda.gov
animalcare@usda.gov

Dr. Gibbens,

I am contacting you today to file an Official Complaint against W.L. Gore & Associates Inc. (86-R-0009) for serious Animal Welfare Act violations which are connected to the unnecessary deaths of six animals.

A USDA inspection report dated 8/6/20 states:

"There was an incident involving 6 New Zealand adult rabbits (4 females and 2 males) that died soon after being anesthetized for a surgical procedure. The study protocol specified an allowable range of volume by weight of the induction drugs, but the amount administered was above the upper limit of the range. In addition, the amount given for all 6 rabbits were the same volume, rather than a volume adjusted by individual rabbit weight which was specified in the protocol."

Your inspector rightly issued a **CRITICAL** Sec. 2.32 Personnel Qualifications citation for failure to follow a clearly delineated protocol, thereby causing the unnecessary deaths of six rabbits. Any first year veterinary technician could easily follow the stated guidelines in this protocol for drug dosing, based on weight. Clearly the perpetrator of this violation didn't want to be bothered doing something simply like weighing each animal, and calculating the dose based on weight. All the animals were given the same dose, resulting in six deaths. This lab should be severely fined for employing such unqualified and careless staff. And the perpetrator of this violation should never be allowed to work with animals again.

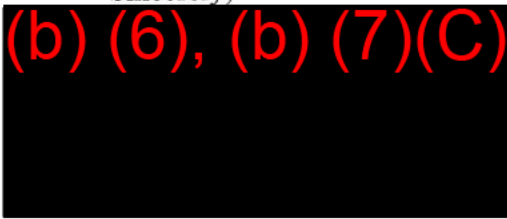
I know that your office considers major violations of the Animal Welfare Act to be very serious in nature, especially when these violations are connected to animal deaths. The overdose deaths of these six rabbits were totally pointless and preventable, if the lab technician had simply done his/her job. Calling this person unqualified is clearly an understatement.

Therefore, I am filing an Official Complaint against W.L. Gore & Associates Inc. (86-R-0009), and I must insist that this facility receive the maximum in penalties for these non-compliances, especially since these incidents are directly relevant to the deaths and potential suffering of six animals -- \$10.000 per infraction/per animal.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future about the fate of this facility.

Sincerely,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender.

Executive Director, SAEN

Attachments: W.L. Gore & Associates Inc. (86-R-0009) USDA Inspection Report

1081-B State Route 28 #280	Milford, OH 45150	513-575-5517	www.SAENonline.org
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Inspection Report

W. L. Gore & Associates Inc.
1505 N. Fourth Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Customer ID: 1051
Certificate: 86-R-0009
Site: 001

W. L. GORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 06-AUG-2020

2.32(c)(3) CRITICAL

PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS.

There was an incident involving 6 New Zealand adult rabbits (4 females and 2 males) that died soon after being anesthetized for a surgical procedure. The study protocol specified an allowable range of volume by weight of the induction drugs, but the amount administered was above the upper limit of the range. In addition, the amount given for all 6 rabbits were the same volume, rather than a volume adjusted by individual rabbit weight which was specified in the protocol.

Deviations from a protocol can result in unanticipated pain or death. The facility must ensure proper use of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers for any species of animals used by the facility. It is the responsibility of the research facility to provide continued training and instruction to all personnel with sufficient frequency to fulfill the research facility's responsibilities.

Corrections were made soon after the incident happened.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the facility representatives.

Prepared By:

SISMOUR NAOMI, D V M

SISMOUR NAOMI, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6121

Date:
11-AUG-2020

Received By:

Title:

Date:
11-AUG-2020