USDA-APHIS-Animal Care

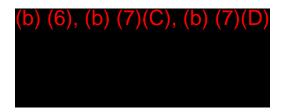## ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT

Complaint No. AC20-221	Date Entered: 27-Mar-20	Processed By: AVB	
Referred To: Gowin / Hadjis			Reply Due: 28-Apr-20

Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against

Name: Rutgers State University of NJ		Customer No.: 177	License No.: 22-R-0025
Address: 604 Allison Rd		Email Address:	
City: Piscataway	State: NJ	Phone No.: (848) 445-4168	

Complainant Information

Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)		Organization: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (
Address: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)		Email Address: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)
City: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7	State: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Phone No.: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)

How was the Complaint received?
Email

Details of Complaint:
SEE ATTACHED

Results:
The complaint alleged that on March 25, 2019, a goat was distressed after immobilizing itself in a goad feeder and eventually lead to loss of the animal. As of 9/30/20, this facility could not be inspected due to COVID. This issue will be evaluated during the next routine inspection.

Application Kit Provided:
Yes: ☐   No: ☒

Inspector: Jessica Gowins	Date: 5-Nov-20
Reviewed By: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Date: 5-Nov-20

**Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service**

**Animal Care
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737**

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

Thank you for your corresopondence dated 28-Feb-20. We are reviewing your concerns and assigned tracking number AC20-221. Please allow us enough time (30 to 60 days) to thoroughly look into your concerns. You may submit a request to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office to obtain any publically available information regarding our review.

FOIA requests can be submitted three ways:

1. Web Request Form: https://efoia-pal.usda.gov/App/Home.aspx
2. Fax: (301) 734-5941
3. U.S. Mail:
    USDA-APHIS-FOIA
    4700 River Road, Unit 50
    Riverdale, MD 20737

Should you have any questions regarding the APHIS FOIA process or need assistance using the Web Request Form **please contact the APHIS FOIA office at 301-851-4102.**

Animal Care is a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that directs activities to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. Animal Care establishes standards of humane treatment for regulated animals and monitors and achieves compliance through inspections, enforcement, education, and cooperative efforts under the Acts.

Please be assured that we will look into your concern(s) and take appropriate action(s).

Thank you for your interest into the humane treatment of these animals.

Sincerely,

Betty Goldentyer
Deputy Administrator
Animal Care

From:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)
Sent:	Friday, February 28, 2020 9:49 PM
To:	Goldentyer, Betty J - APHIS
C	nimalCare
	omplaint Rutgers University

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

2/28/20

USDA/APHIS/AC
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2000
Raleigh, NC 27606

Dr. Goldentyer,

I am writing to you today relevant to Rutgers University (22-R-0025) for major violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

I have obtained three Rutgers reports which reveal significant violations of the Animal Welfare Act connected to the deaths of three animals.

One report dated 9/16/19 discussed the death of a rabbit in the autoclave:

"On January 22, 2019, the University's Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) reported that a staff member inadvertently cycled the autoclave machine with a single rabbit remaining in a cage, leading to the loss of that animal."

As you know, autoclaves sterilize with heat, meaning that this rabbit was boiled alive. This horrendous incident is a clear violation of Sec. 2.38 Miscellaneous (f)(1) Animal Handling, and this clearly should be considered a CRITICAL violation.

A second report, dated October 17, 2019 states:

"On March 25, 2019, the University's Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) reported that a goat was distressed after immobilizing itself in a goad feeder and eventually lead to the loss of the animal."

This was obviously a highly stressful incident for this animal if it resulted in death. This would clearly be another violation of Sec. 2.38 Miscellaneous (f)(1) Animal Handling, and this clearly should be considered a CRITICAL violation.

A third Rutgers incident dated 11/22/19 discusses yet another death:

"On July 22, 2019, two pigs were implanted with a stent from a different manufacturer than stated in the approved protocol. One pig developed fever, vomiting, and anorexia two days following the procedure. This pig was treated and recovered. The second pig developed abdominal pain and fever the day following the procedure. This pig did not respond to treatment and was euthanized. Necropsy showed that the bowel adjacent to where stent was placed may have been damaged during surgery, resulting in perforation of bowel."

Any experienced surgeon knows that bowel perforation is a possibility and would have examined the bowel at the close of the procedure to insure no injuries had taken place. Therefore, this incident potentially violates Sec. 2.32 Personnel qualifications and/or Sec. 2.33 Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

 Major violations of the Animal Welfare Act are very serious in nature, especially when the violations unnecessarily take the lives of animals. I must insist that you launch an investigation of Rutgers University (22-R-0025) and at the conclusion of that investigation, take the most severe action allowable under the Animal Welfare Act and begin the process of issuing the maximum allowable fine of $10,000 per infraction/per animal against Rutgers University at the completion of your investigation. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future about the fate of this facility.

Sincerely,

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

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

Attachments: 3 Rutgers University Reports

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