



# USDA-APHIS-Animal Care



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT		
Complaint No. AC22-612	Date Entered: April 22, 2022	Processed By: Jeremy Flockhart
Referred To: Jeffrey Shepherd		Reply Due: May 22, 2022
<b>Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against</b>		
Name: NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY	Customer No.: 842	License No.:
Address: CAMPUS BOX 7514		Email Address:
City: RALEIGH	State: NC	Phone No.:
<b>Complainant Information</b>		
Name: anonymous		Organization:
Address:		Email Address:
City:	State:	Phone No.:
How was the Complaint received? Email		
Details of Complaint: See Files section		
<b>Results:</b> An inspection was conducted on May 11 - 16, 2022. An inspection report was generated and some of the concerns listed in this complaint are addressed therein. In response to some of the specific questions in the complaint that are relevant to the AWA, 1. The dates of transfer from Reedy Creek Equine Facility to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital are indeed unclear. The facility is already working to get a permanent records solution in place. 2. The January incident was recorded via medical record as a sedation and repair of a facial laceration Delete the Day (DD) received in the pasture. Documentation was determined to be adequate, although it was difficult to pull all the pieces together. 3. The March incident is, indeed, unfortunate, with the loss of life being the outcome. The complainant is referred to the aforementioned inspection report for further details. 4. The concern expressed by the complainant regarding lacking Standard Operating Procedures was addressed with facility representatives and a plan is under development to ensure adequate care, oversight and communication regarding the horses held as blood donors (and all horses on CVM property. Effective communication between daily observers and the Attending Veterinarian (AV) is addressed in the aforementioned inspection report. 5. The concern regarding starving horses could not be verified. The AV documented that one of the two horses in that pasture was a cribber, which may account for the damages noted on the wooden structures. The remaining horse had been transferred back to RCEF at the time of this inspection.		



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6. Horses are considered livestock, per the AWA definition, and therefore no perimeter fence is required. The concern regarding the presence of halters and lead ropes and non-secured enclosures was addressed with the facility representatives, but this does not violate the AWA at present.

7. The concern regarding retaliatory activities should be addressed via NCSU Human Resources and is outside the scope of a USDA inspection.

This inspector will continue to inspect NCSU on a timely schedule to ensure compliance with the federal Animal Welfare Act.

Application Kit Provided:

Yes:      No:

Inspector:

MARY ANN MCBRIDE

Date:

May 17, 2022

Reviewed By:

Jeffrey Shepherd

Date:

May 20, 2022



## Inspection Report

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

CAMPUS BOX 7514  
RALEIGH, NC 27695

Customer ID: **842**

Certificate: **55-R-0005**

Site: 001

NORTH CAROLINA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 11-MAY-2022

### 2.31(c)(4)

#### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

--The IACUC did not conduct a thorough investigation into circumstances surrounding the unanticipated death of a rabbit subsequent to handling by a veterinary student.

--The IACUC did not conduct a thorough investigation into circumstances surrounding the unanticipated death of a ferret subsequent to prolonged surgery by a veterinary student.

--The IACUC did not conduct a thorough investigation into circumstances surrounding the unanticipated death of a blood donor horse. The IACUC did conduct an inspection of the pastures that had contained the horse. However, the IACUC did not investigate how daily observations were conducted and how these observations should have been communicated to the AV. The horse was urinary incontinent, had urine scald, and was subsequently euthanized due to a large bladder stone.

--Failing to conduct in-depth investigations into unanticipated deaths of animals, especially when brought to the attention of the IACUC by personnel and/or faculty, does not provide a method for determining how these unanticipated deaths can be mitigated and/or prevented in the future.

--Per the regulations, the IACUC, as an agent of the research facility, shall review, and if warranted, investigate concerns

Prepared By: MARY ANN MCBRIDE

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

16-MAY-2022

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: IACUC Representative

Date:

16-MAY-2022





## Inspection Report

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involving the care and use of animals at the research facility resulting from public complaints received or from reports of noncompliance received from laboratory or research facility personnel or employees. Correct by June 15, 2022.

**2.33(b)(3) Critical Repeat**

**Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.**

--A blood donor horse was noted by an observer to be exhibiting urinary incontinence, urine scalding on the rear legs and a foul odor. The observer notified the attending veterinarian (AV), who was not aware of the condition of the horse at that time. The husbandry sheet indicated that the horse was observed daily, but there was no indication in the records that the urinary incontinence, urine scalding of the rear legs and/or the foul odor had been detected and/or reported to the Site Veterinarian or the AV.

--The inspector's investigation documented that several CVM employees expressed concern about the status of this horse, that this illness had not been observed or communicated appropriately, and that there was no apparent Standard Operating Procedure describing how daily observations and communication to the AV must occur.

--Once the AV learned of the condition of this horse, the horse received immediate care. The horse was found to have visible urine scalding and urinary incontinence. The horse was referred to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital for further diagnostics. A large cystolith was found to be present in the bladder of the horse and the decision was made to euthanize the horse.

--Failure to conduct adequate daily observations of the animals, coupled with subsequent appropriate and timely communications with the AV, can result in prolonged suffering and can result in unanticipated deaths of the animals.

--Per the regulations, each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that includes daily observations of all animals to assess their health and well-being, provided however, that daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the AV; and provided further, that a mechanism of direct and

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frequent communications is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the AV.

### 2.38(f)(1) Critical

#### Miscellaneous.

--A rabbit vocalized while being handled by a veterinary student in its enclosure. Upon physical evaluation by the instructor, it was believed that the rabbit's back had broken and the animal was subsequently euthanized. The exact actions being taken by the student at the time of the incident remain unclear and could not be determined by the inspector. No necropsy was conducted to document the nature of the injury requiring euthanization.

--Improper handling of animals can result in injury and death to the animals.

--Per the regulations, handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

Correct by June 6, 2022.

### 3.127(b)

#### Facilities, outdoor.

--Sixteen horses at RCEF were housed in pastures containing inadequate or no protection from the elements during severe weather. One pasture of nine horses had only a shade cloth cover that would not provide protection from severe weather. No trees or shrubs were present for natural shelter. The other horses were held in pastures that had similar shade cloth covers that would not provide protection during severe weather and had inadequate amounts of trees or shrubs available to provide marginal protection from severe weather. No run-in sheds were present in these pastures.

--Not providing adequate shelter from local climatic conditions, which can include severe thunderstorms, hail and other types of severe weather at this time of year, jeopardizes the health of the horses held in those pastures.

--Per the regulations, natural or artificial shelter appropriate to the local climatic conditions for the species concerned shall

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be provided for all animals kept outdoors to afford them protection and prevent discomfort to such animals. Correct by July 1, 2022.

This inspection (May 11 - 16, 2022) and exit interview (May 16, 2022) were conducted with facility representatives.

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### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
842	55-R-0005	001	NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY	11-MAY-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000024	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000082	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000055	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000073	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000009	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000038	<i>Equus caballus</i>	DOMESTIC HORSE
000098	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	PRAIRIE VOLE
000040	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>	MONGOLIAN GERBIL
000005	<i>Canis rufus</i>	RED WOLF

000424 **Total**





Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Animal Care

Fort Collins Office  
2150 Centre Avenue  
Building B, 3W11  
Fort Collins, CO 80526  
Phone: 970-494-7478

April 22, 2022

anonymous

Dear Complainant,

Thank you for your correspondence dated April 21, 2022. We are reviewing your concerns and assigned tracking number AC22-612. 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 publicly 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. US 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,

Elizabeth Goldentyer, D.V.M.  
Deputy Administrator  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care



**From:** [noreply@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:noreply@aphis.usda.gov)  
**To:** [APHIS-AnimalCare](#)  
**Subject:** USDA APHIS ANIMAL CARE - Animal Welfare Complaint Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 2:20:01 PM

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### Details of complaint:

- Name of USDA licensee/registrant: North Carolina State University
- USDA license/registration number: 55-R-0005
- City/State: Raleigh, NC
- Complaint details: I think it is worthwhile to look into the recurring failure of accountability with full audit of medical records and documents for the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Too many faculty, administration and IACUC are covering up continued welfare concerns. There are more than the ones provided below but this is to provide a glimpse of what is going on at NCSU CVM:

Delete the Day was taken to live at the large animal hospital under the care of the hospital Equine Faculty & staff on 12/5/2021 as requested by the equine faculty for blood donation. Equine faculty required horses to live at the hospital in the paddocks out front so that in the event an emergency case came in that required blood, there would be horses on site for their use. Delete the Day was a BCS of a 5/9 when she arrived at the hospital; pic of her BCS is in her EzyVet file which was taken the day she arrived. Her EzyVet ID is 206212.

1/16/2022: She was administered detomidine HCL 10mg/ml Injection 1ml(0.6)

1/16/2022: Records show she was administered Flunixin 50mg/ml Injection 1ml(from 250ml)(10)

What the records fail to show is WHY she was administered those drugs on 1/16/2022

Her medical records are missing her weight - how can medications be administered when there is no weight to refer to? She was observed by an RCF employee as they drove by the pastures (worth noting that RCF staff work off site) with a BCS score of 3/9 and found her with a severe urine scald that was evident had been going on for some time due to the hair attempting to come back. The horse could be smelled from 100ft away even after she received 4 baths when she was brought back to RCF. RCF immediately came and got the two horses (here and Barmaid) from the hospital. It was further evident that she had a UTI due to the constant dribbling/urination. What she presented with (urinary tract wise) was similar to a teaching horse of which had prolonged urinary catheter placement procedures performed; which important to note the blood donors at the hospital were not to be used for teaching. She was in such poor condition and was determined that she had not only a UTI but two 200gm bladder stones. It was decided that she should be euthanized. It was noted on her medical record in EzyVet that at time of death she was a 3/9 BCS. However, I find it extremely interesting that her necropsy report (performed by the CVM) states she was an 8/9 at time of death. So please explain that? Mistake? Or coverup? IACUC was informed and yet nothing has been done. No follow up, no reports, no nothing. There is picture evidence of this severe animal welfare and

ultimately abuse! Far too often hospital records for University Owned Animals are incorrect (e.g. 9/8/2021 - Delete the Day was listed as having the procedure "blood donor" when in fact she was not a blood donor she just had 1 vial of blood collected to be tested for EqHV and Equine Parvovirus. It is important to note as well, the university owned horses are being moved across the various paddocks at the hospital, which are shared use with client horses. The general public has direct access to the horses; they are not in a locked/secured area. Halters and lead ropes are hanging on their gate of which the gate is simply just latched. Furthermore, the equine faculty began to target RCF employees after it was reported to IACUC. But seemingly the targeting lightened up with IACUC did an inspection at the hospital (which was weeks after the incident and scheduled with the facility) and they passed their inspection with no noted faults. The failure of faculty to adhere to SOPs and holding protocols of animals is absurd. Their comments time and time again are "welfare isn't our mission here, it is education." How is it that a Veterinary College, particularly the hospital fails to provide adequate care for a university owned animal, they seem to provide somewhat better care for their private clients. Furthermore, why is it that no one noticed for 3 months a horse was losing drastic amounts of weight, that she had a persistent ongoing urinary tract issue which left her with severe urine scald on her legs? Lastly, important to note, the "starving" of the horses was easily seen by the fact that horses had chewed through their wooden shelter and fences.

Submitted To:

**Complaint Contact Information:**

Can Contact Complainer: No, I would like to remain anonymous.

Name:

Organization:

Street Address:

Apt/Suite:

City / State / Zip: , ,

Phone Number:

Email:

Submitted on: Apr 21, 2022 8:19:55 PM UTC