

Addendum to the Annual Report of Research Facility

November 21, 2022

Assurance Statements:

Below is a summary of the exceptions to the standards and regulations of the Animal Welfare Act.

From October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022, the following exceptions were approved by Summit Ridge Farms' Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee:

Section 3.6 Primary Enclosures

(b) Additional requirements for cats.

(3) Litter

Litter exceptions were approved for 282 adult cats participating on digestibility, urine pH, and/or customized trials. The litter exceptions were granted to eliminate the possibility of contamination of samples on studies involving the collection of feces and/or urine.

The following is an explanation to clarify why dogs were placed in Category D.

The number of animals in category D was comprised in total of dogs on dental studies that received anesthesia for dental cleanings and plaque/gingivitis/tartar scoring. These animals did not have any oral pathology that would cause pain on dental cleaning nor were any of the procedures performed painful. On the dental studies performed at Summit Ridge Farms, anesthesia is used for restraint purposes only and in the past the USDA allowed animals that received anesthesia for restraint only to be placed in Category C. Dental cleanings and "scoring" (using a disclosing agent to see plaque buildup on teeth) are performed in conscious humans as the procedures are considered relatively non-painful. Because dogs are not cooperative when it comes to non-painful dental manipulations such as dental cleanings and scoring the current standard of veterinary care is that dental cleanings should be performed in anesthetized animals to properly clean and evaluate the teeth of dogs. Based on the fact that these procedures are performed in conscious humans and that anesthesia in the dogs is only being used for restraint to allow for animal cooperation and technician safety Summit Ridge Farms believes the animals should be in a Category C as was allowed in the past. USDA has changed their stance on this situation by indicating the animals are being relieved of distress hence placing the animals in a Category D. This is a difficult argument to defend since distress in this situation is hard to define. Chemical restraint like physical restraint is considered an acceptable method of restraint in the veterinary field. If physical restraint could be used, would it put these animals in a Category C? Since chemical restraint is considered an acceptable method of restraint, it should not change the category the animals are placed in when used as in many instances chemical restraint is more humane than physical restraint.