



USDA-APHIS-Animal Care



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT		
Complaint No. AC23-0078	Date Entered: October 28, 2022	Processed By: Emily Fausch
Referred To: Jeffrey Shepherd		Reply Due: December 12, 2022
Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against		
Name: Pennsylvania State University	Customer No.: 306	License No.:
Address: OFFICE FOR RESEARCH PROTECTIONS THE 330 BUILDING SUITE 205		Email Address:
City: UNIVERSITY PARK	State: PA	Phone No.: (814) 865-1775
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: An unannounced inspection was performed on 11/10/22. The facility was cited under 2.31(c)(7) for a change to the protocol involving terminal blood collection from ferrets without IACUC approval for utilizing a higher dosage of ketamine than specified in the protocol. The IACUC reviewed the matter and approved an amendment to the protocol which increased the dosage of ketamine. The cause of death of the 2 ferrets that died was undetermined and there have been no additional deaths of ferrets after the protocol change. The complaint states ketamine is not approved for use in ferrets. The attending veterinarian at this facility has approved the extra-label use of ketamine in ferrets.		
Application Kit Provided: Yes: No:		
Inspector: CHRISTINA RADZAI		Date: November 10, 2022
Reviewed By: Jeffrey Shepherd		Date: November 16, 2022

APHIS-AnimalCare

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:44 PM
To: Gibbens, Robert - MRP-APHIS; APHIS-AnimalCare
Subject: [External Email]Prosecute Pennsylvania State University

Categories: Complaints

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov



Dr. Robert Gibbens

9/20/22

Director, Animal Welfare Operations, USDA/APHIS/AC

Via email: robert.m.gibbens@aphis.usda.gov ; animalcare@usda.gov

Dr. Gibbens,

I am contacting you today to file a Federal Complaint against Pennsylvania State University (23-R-0021) for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

A Pennsylvania State University report, dated 7/20/22 states:

"On May 10, 2022, the Principal Investigator (PI) reported the death of two ferrets that died on May 6th while under anesthesia. Six ferrets were sedated by research personnel with a ketamine/xylazine cocktail in preparation for euthanasia at the end of a study. As the procedure was a terminal blood collections, the dosage of ketamine was increased to 50 mg/kg. The first ferret was euthanized without complication. When the second and third anesthetized animals were retrieved from their cages, they were found to have already stopped breathing and had no heartbeat. Research personnel confirmed death and set aside one of the ferrets for necropsy. . . the AV found that the dosage of ketamine used in the euthanasia procedure was higher than the dosage of ketamine approved in the PI's protocol."

These deaths in this botched procedure would violate multiple regulations under the Animal Welfare Act. Failure to follow the approved protocol would violate *Sec. 2.31 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)* ; fatally overdosing the animals, in an attempt to sedate them, would violate *Sec. 2.33 Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care*, and it could also violate *Sec. 2.38 Misc. (f)(1) Animal Handling*. It is shocking that Penn State staff killed animals who were only supposed to be sedated.

It is worth noting "*Ketamine hydrochloride (HCl) is FDA approved for use in humans, subhuman primates, and cats*" according to <https://nexgenvetrx.com/blog/monographs/ketamine-hcl/> . Nowhere are ferrets mentioned.

I am hereby filing a complaint against Pennsylvania State University (23-R-0021) for multiple violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. I am also calling upon USDA/APHIS/AC to open a full investigation, and at the completion of that investigation Pennsylvania State University (23-R-0021) must be given the maximum penalty of \$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), (b) (7)(D)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D), SAEN

Attachments: 1 Pennsylvania State University OLAW report

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