

**ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT**

Complaint No. AC21-437	Date Entered 6-Aug-21	Received By 06/06/2021
Referred To Hadjis/Gowins	Reply Due 5-Sep-21	

Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against

Name Cocalico Biologicals Inc		Customer/License/Registration No. 360/23-R-0089	
Address 449 Stevens Road			
City Stevens	State PA	Zip 17578	Phone No

Complainant

Name Anonymous		Organization	
Address			
City	State	Zip	Phone No./Email address

How was complaint received?
Email

Details of Complaint: SEE ATTACHED

Results: A focused inspection was completed on August 31, 2021 by Jessica Gowins.

The complainant alleged that animals were euthanized with CO2 without sedation and conscious rabbits were euthanized by cervical dislocation. According to the Program of Veterinary Care, Euthanasia Standard Operation Procedures, and records the registrant is authorized to perform the euthanasia of rabbits. Rabbits are sedated with Ketamine and Xylazine before euthanasia. Euthanasia is completed through barbiturate overdose if blood samples are not required for study. When blood samples rabbits are required, exsanguinated through severed jugular or cardiac puncture is performed. If severed jugular is performed cervical dislocation as secondary method of euthanasia. When cardiac puncture is performed organs required for study purposes are harvested. CO2 is not used as a method of euthanasia used by the facility. The Attending Veterinarian reviews the Program of Veterinary Care annually and has reviewed all animal health Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

The complaint alleged that rabbits were dying from heat stroke due to no air conditioning in buildings. The facility uses an evaporative cooling system in addition to fans that keep the animal buildings cool. Temperatures are recorded by animal care staff daily. The thermometers are calibrated to the record 24-hour high temperature and 24-hour low temperature. The High and Low temperatures are also recorded daily by animal care staff. All the temperatures of the buildings were within the regulatory range. At the time of inspection, none of the rabbits showed signs of heat stress. According the facility representative, they have not had rabbits to die of heat stress.

The complaint alleged that a rabbit was left with an open wound that exposed it bone. According to the facility representative and records at the facility, there was not a rabbit that had an open wound with exposed bone. Animal care staff observe rabbits during daily observations and feeding times. Animals that are observed to have health care issues are identified and recorded. Treatments are provided based on Health Care Standard Operation Procedure. This Health Care Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) is reviewed by the Attending Veterinarian. If there is an emergency or a health care issue that is not addressed in the SOP, the animal care staff report this issue to the manager. The manager of the facility contacts the Attending Veterinarian who is available 24 hours a day.

The complaint alleged the USDA inspector is a friend of the owner. The USDA inspector is not a friend of the owner. 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. We will continue to inspect this facility to make sure that AWA-regulated animals are protected to the fullest extent of Federal law.

Application packet provided? Yes ☐ No ☒

INSPECTOR
Jessica Gowins

DATE
31-Aug-21

REVIEWED BY
Tonya Hadjis

DATE
14-Sep-21