



USDA-APHIS-Animal Care

23-03058-F-000226



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT		
Complaint No. AC22-0417	Date Entered: March 10, 2022	Processed By: Emily Fausch
Referred To: CODY YAGER		Reply Due: April 9, 2022
Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against		
Name: MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE	Customer No.: 1009	License No.:
Address: 44 S. CLEVELAND		Email Address:
City: MEMPHIS	State: TN	Phone No.: (901) 722-8001
Complainant Information		
Name: [REDACTED]	Organization: SAEN	
Address:		Email Address: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
City:	State:	Phone No.:
How was the Complaint received? Email		
Details of Complaint: see attached		
<p>Results:</p> <p>This complaint refers to citations on a prior inspection report. 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.</p> <p>When non-compliant items are found, these noncompliances are cited on the inspection report under the most accurate regulation based on the circumstances of the issue. Multiple noncompliances for the same issue are only cited when appropriate. With the exception of focused inspections, our inspectors evaluate the facility for compliance with all applicable regulations. Although all regulatory requirements are assessed, only noncompliant items are listed on the inspection report.</p> <p>We will continue to inspect this facility to make sure that past noncompliances are corrected and that AWA-regulated animals are protected to the fullest extent of Federal law.</p>		
Application Kit Provided: Yes: No:		
Inspector:		Date:



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Reviewed By: Emily Fausch	Date: March 10, 2022
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United States Department of Agriculture

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

March 10, 2022



Dear Complainant,

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 10, 2022. We are reviewing your concerns and assigned tracking number AC22-417. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Goldentyer".

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



Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!

Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
USDA/APHIS/AC
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2000
Raleigh, NC 27606

1/10/2022

Dr. Goldentyer.

I am writing to you today to file an Official Complaint against Medical Education & Research Institute (63-R-0113) for serious violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

As you know, a USDA inspection report dated 8/5/2021 cites the Medical Education & Research Institute for several violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Four of the five citations were for violations of Section 2.31 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, one of which was classified as a "critical" violation. Because incomplete protocols are being submitted and approved incorrectly, Medical Education & Research Institute should also be cited under Section 2.32 Personnel Qualifications.

The Medical Education & Research Institute was also cited under Section 2.32 Personnel Qualifications because the facility does not train staff, course instructors, or investigators on "humane methods of animal maintenance and experimentation; the concept, availability and use of methods to limit the use of animals or minimize animal distress; proper use of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers; methods for reporting deficiencies in animal care and treatment; and utilization of services available to provide information on alternatives to the use of live animals in research and the intent and requirements of Animal Welfare Act." Therefore, the Medical Education & Research Institute may also be in violation of Section 2.38 Miscellaneous: (f)(1) Animal Handling, and Section 2.33 Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care.

I know that your office considers major violations of the Animal Welfare Act to be very serious in nature, especially when the violations are considered critical. Therefore, I must insist that you take the most severe action allowable under the Animal Welfare Act and immediately begin the process of issuing the maximum fine of \$10,000 per animal/ per infraction against the Medical Education & Research Institute at the completion of your investigation.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future about the fate of this facility.

Sincerely,

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