



USDA-APHIS-Animal Care

23-03058-F-000237



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT			
Complaint No. AC23-0102	Date Entered: November 7, 2022	Processed By: Jeremy Flockhart	
Referred To: Jeffrey Shepherd		Reply Due: December 22, 2022	
Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against			
Name: VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER		Customer No.: 335389	License No.:
Address: 1161 21ST AVE S MCN AA 6206		Email Address:	
City: NASHVILLE	State: TN	Phone No.:	
Complainant Information			
Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)		Organization:	
Address:		Email Address:	
City:	State:	Phone No.:	
How was the Complaint received? Email			
Details of Complaint: See Files Original File did not Contain any of the Attachments referenced in the email.			
Results: The complaint did not contain any new animal welfare related allegations. The complaint simply contained citations from past inspection reports (issues have already been cited). Regular unannounced inspections are being conducted at this facility.			
Application Kit Provided: Yes: No:			
Inspector: SUSANNE BRUNKHORST		Date: November 9, 2022	
Reviewed By: Jeffrey Shepherd		Date: November 17, 2022	

From: saen@cinci.rr.com
 To: [Gibbens, Robert - MRP-APHIS](#); [APHIS-AnimalCare](#)
 Subject: [External Email]Prosecute Vanderbilt
 Date: Sunday, October 23, 2022 11:13:10 AM

[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

Robert M. Gibbens, D.V.M., Director, 10/24/22
 Animal Welfare Operations. USDA-APHIS-Animal Care.
 Via e-mail: robert.m.gibbens@usda.gov
animalcare@usda.gov

Dr. Gibbens,

I am contacting you to file a Federal Complaint against Vanderbilt University (63-R-0129). As you know, Vanderbilt University failed a USDA inspection on 7/4/22 (attached). This inspection revealed yet another example of Vanderbilt University's fatal negligence.

This July inspection slaps Vanderbilt with a CRITICAL violation in connection to the dehydration death of a monkey.

3.83 Critical Watering.

On the morning of Saturday March 26, 2022 the animal care technician found that one rack of squirrel monkeys (housing 5 monkeys on study) was askew and the water line to the rack was disconnected from the water supply. The monkeys appeared fine and the water supply was reattached and flow verified. A vet tech checked on the monkeys that morning-no issues identified. On the morning of Sunday March 27, 2022 the animal care technician noted that one squirrel monkey was lying on the floor of its enclosure. The vet tech started triage and called the veterinarian who arrived quickly. The monkey was hypothermic, in lateral recumbency and appeared dehydrated. Supportive care was provided and due to lack of response the monkey was euthanized a few hours later. A second monkey was found to be alert but with ataxia and tremors of the hind limbs. Treatment and supplementation were supplied, and this monkey made a full recovery. The other three monkeys remained clinically normal. A necropsy report for the monkey that died showed changes consistent with low fluid volume and/or low blood pressure such as severe dehydration.

The text of this violation screams of negligence, and seems suspiciously incomplete. I find it very odd that the waterline to the enclosure was reconnected, the monkeys appeared fine (according to a Vet Tech), and *then* one of them was at death's door the *following day*, after they had had access to water for a full day?

The second violation in this report was for failure to justify the use of ferrets in a protocol, under *Sec. 2.31(e)(2) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)*. The protocol as approved does not contain a rationale for the appropriateness of the numbers of ferrets to be used.

A more recent inspection report, 9/19/22 (attached), cited Vanderbilt University for the use of expired food. A 4/27/21 USDA inspection hit Vanderbilt with another CRITICAL violation (attached), for the deaths of multiple guinea pigs, and an Official Warning was issued relevant to this fatal violation.

It is clear that Vanderbilt University has total disregard for the lives of animals in their care, otherwise their staff would have at least made certain that monkeys had water, the kind of violation which could land a private individual in jail for animal cruelty. It is also clear that Vanderbilt University has total disregard for the authority of USDA/APHIS/AC, because the facility continues to violate the law over and over again.

It is also worth noting that Vanderbilt University was fined by the USDA for federal violations as recently as 2008 (attached), connected to multiple animal deaths, including another monkey, and several hamsters. This sounds suspiciously like the current situation, in which Vanderbilt has been cited for another monkey death, and the deaths of several more small animals — a repeating pattern.

It is important to note that since April of 2021, Vanderbilt University has been hit with nine USDA violations, two of which were CRITICAL, as well as an Official Warning from APHIS.

These violations involved death/injury/inadequate care for multiple animals. This makes Vanderbilt one of the most criminal labs in the entire nation. I look forward to a serious USDA/APHIS/AC prosecution of Vanderbilt. I assume that the prosecution of Vanderbilt will involve a 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)
SAEN

Attachments: 3 USDA Inspection Reports, 1 USDA Warning, 1 USDA Fine

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