



USDA-APHIS-Animal Care

23-03058-F-000230



ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT		
Complaint No. AC21-696	Date Entered: September 21, 2021	Processed By: Robert Baxter
Referred To: Jeffrey Shepherd		Reply Due: October 21, 2021
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.: 615-322-2231
Complainant Information		
Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)	Organization: SAEN	
Address: 1081-B State Route 28 #280		Email Address: saen@cinci.rr.com
City: Milford	State: OH	Phone No.: 513-575-5517
How was the Complaint received? Email		
Details of Complaint: See attached.		
Results: AC21-696 appears to be a summary of the non-compliances cited on the previous three USDA Animal Care inspections reports that I wrote along with a request for enforcement. No new animal welfare issues were identified in this complaint that needed to be addressed. A routine inspection of the facility was conducted September 28-30.		
Application Kit Provided: Yes: No:		
Inspector: SUSANNE BRUNKHORST		Date: October 5, 2021
Reviewed By: Jeffrey Shepherd		Date: October 6, 2021



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

September 21, 2021

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(D)

Dear Complainant,

Thank you for your correspondence dated May 31, 2021. We are reviewing your concerns and assigned tracking number AC21-696. 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

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

From: saen@cinci.rr.com
 To: [Gibbens, Robert - APHIS](#); [APHIS-AnimalCare](#)
 Subject: [External Email]Federal Complaint Vanderbilt University
 Date: Monday, May 31, 2021 11:33:52 PM

[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, 6/1/21
 Animal Welfare Operations. USDA-APHIS-Animal Care.
 Via e-mail: robert.m.gibbens@usda.gov
animalcare@usda.gov

Dr. Gibbens,

I am contacting you regarding Vanderbilt University (63-R-0129). As you may know, Vanderbilt was inspected by the USDA on 4/27/21 (attached). As you may also know, this inspection cited Vanderbilt for precisely the same fatal violations which were the basis of our 1/12/21 complaint, which was based on Vanderbilt University correspondence (also attached). It is also important to note that the citation was one of the more serious CRITICAL variety, which was also per our 1/21 complaint (available at: <https://saenonline.org/Vanderbilt-University-Federal-Complaint-1-21.html>)

The 10/9/20 report which was the basis of our complaint states: *"On August 18, 2020, the Office of Animal Welfare Assurance (OWA) was notified by the Division of Animal Care (DAC) Veterinary Faculty that five guinea pigs had died or were euthanized as a result of failed ventilator testing procedures conducted on August 17 and 18. The Principal Investigator (PI) performing the procedures did not report the unexpected deaths to the DAC Veterinary Faculty or to the IACUC. In addition, the PI did not communicate the date, time, or nature of the procedures to either the DAC Veterinary Faculty or VUMC Surgical Research Training personnel. As a consequence, observation of the procedures by a veterinarian or the surgical research personnel did not occur as outlined in the approved protocol and required in separate written correspondence from the IACUC to the PI."*

The USDA inspector also agreed with our complaint in that Vanderbilt was cited for violating *Sec. 2.38 Misc (f)(1) Animal Handling for failure to handle "all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort;"*

It is important to note that Vanderbilt has now been issued six citations in three years, with fully half of them being of the more serious variety — either critical or direct. These violations involved death/injury/inadequate care for at least 40 animals. This makes Vanderbilt one of the two 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) (5), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(U)
 SAEN

Attachments: 1 Vanderbilt internal report 3 USDA Inspection Reports

1081-B State Route 28 #280 Milford, OH 45150 513-575-5517 www.SAENonline.org



