



Inspection Report

Lehigh University
Research & Sponsored Programs
526 Brodhead Avenue #23b
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Customer ID: 353
Certificate: 23-R-0064

Site: 001
CENTRAL ANIMAL FACILITY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: Feb-03-2016

2.32 (c) (4)

PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS.

Section 2.32(c)(4) Personnel qualifications: The two handling incidents involving hamsters did not get reported to the IACUC in a timely manner. Facility personnel involved were not aware that these types of deficiencies in animal care required reporting to the facility IACUC. The facility IACUC provided new written guidance for facility personnel regarding incidents that must be reported to the IACUC. This was issued to all facility investigators, and posted in the animal facility and on the website for the IACUC. There have been no further incidents of unreported deficiencies in animal care to the facility IACUC.

Training and instructions of personnel must include methods whereby deficiencies in animal care and treatment are reported, including deficiencies in animal care and treatment reported by any employee of the facility. Corrected by the facility prior to this inspection.

2.33 (b) (5)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

Section 2.33(b)(5) Veterinary care: There were no completed surgical records, including administration of the anesthesia dosages given to gerbils on a terminal procedure for protocol 194. Current established veterinary medical and nursing procedures include documentation of the drugs given and procedures performed on animals. This information is also necessary for the attending veterinarian to provide adequate veterinary oversight and to ensure protocols are being followed as approved by the IACUC. Correct by documenting the procedures performed on animals and the administration of drugs to animals. Correct from this day forward.

2.38 (f) (1)

MISCELLANEOUS.

Section 2.38(f)(1) Handling: There were two handling incidents each involving one hamster.

Prepared By:

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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Feb-04-2016

Received By:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

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Feb-04-2016



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1) One hamster was improperly euthanized using CO₂. On April 23, 2015 the hamster was exposed to CO₂ for euthanasia and then placed inside a plastic bag and into the facility freezer. The hamster was later found dead outside the bag and the bag had evidence that the hamster had escaped the bag suggesting that the hamster was alive when it was placed into the freezer. Freezing is not considered an appropriate method for euthanasia and causes unnecessary discomfort. The facility identified this incident and the person involved was retrained in the procedure of CO₂ euthanasia and determination of death. The facility also purchased a commercial euthanasia chamber, wrote a new standard operating procedure for its use and trained the applicable personnel in its use. There have been no further incidents in the failure of CO₂ to euthanize the animal.

2) One hamster was left without food or water for approximately 36 hours. A student investigator removed this animal from its enclosure for use on a protocol. The hamster was subsequently left in its testing enclosure instead of being returned to its home enclosure after the test was completed. This resulted in the hamster being without food or water for about 36 hours which would have caused the animal unnecessary discomfort. The hamster was discovered by facility personnel on March 2, 2015; was immediately given water and food; and survived. The person involved was retrained and is not currently working with animals. There have been no further incidents of animals left in enclosures without food and water.

Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavior stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Corrected by the facility prior to this inspection.

This inspection was conducted on February 3-4, 2016. An exit briefing was conducted with the facility manager of research integrity.

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