



VIA: USPS Certified Mail
Shipping Event: 1st

June 4, 2012

Triple F Farms, Inc.
3573 Vetter Road
Sayre, PA 18840

Triple F Farms, Inc.
c/o Registered Agent
RR 2 Box 432
Sayre, PA 18840

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Dear Sir or Madam:

Why You Are Receiving This Letter

We believe that you violated the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (AWA), as described in the attached Settlement Agreement. Our agency, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for enforcing the AWA, and other agriculture laws that help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases, and ensure the welfare of animals.

After providing you with an opportunity for a hearing, we may impose civil penalties of up to \$10,000, or other sanctions, for each violation described in this Settlement Agreement. We are offering you the opportunity to resolve this matter by paying an amount that is much lower than the maximum civil penalty.

What You Need To Do Immediately

You should review the information in this Settlement Agreement, including the citation and notification of penalty.

- If you agree to waive your right to a hearing and pay the penalty, then do the following:
 - Pay the amount due, \$16,679, by **July 19, 2012**. You can pay by check, money order, or credit card. For your convenience, we have included additional instructions for making payments.



- If you are unable to pay the full amount due by **July 19, 2012**, you may be eligible for a payment plan. To request a payment plan, you must use the enclosed form to submit a written response to this letter by **July 19, 2012**, that indicates you wish to pay the penalty and waive your right to a hearing. You must also submit a copy of your most recent federal tax return. As part of your response, please include a phone number and an email address so that we may contact you.
- If you do not agree with the terms of this Settlement Agreement, submit a written request for a hearing, with your Reference Number, to our office by **July 19, 2012**, at 4700 River Rd., Unit 85, Riverdale, MD, 20737.

If We Do Not Hear From You

If we do not receive a payment or hearing request from you by **July 19, 2012**, we will forward this matter to our Office of the General Counsel for litigation.

What To Do If You Need Help

If you have any questions concerning this letter, contact Deirdre Jarvis at (301) 851-2741, or call our main office at (301) 851-2948.

CITATION AND NOTIFICATION OF PENALTY

We believe that you violated the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (AWA), as described below.

Date of Violation: August 23, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b)(1) Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care.

Triple F Farms failed to make appropriate facilities and equipment available to provide adequate veterinary care to animals. Medical supplies were not stored properly, the floors in the surgery rooms were not sealed to allow appropriate cleaning and sanitizing, and the surgery rooms did not contain a sterile surgical environment (including tables) to perform surgery.

Date of Violation: August 23, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b) Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care.

Triple F Farms failed to have appropriate personnel, who had received adequate guidance in the care of animals, perform major survival surgery. Surgeries performed at the facility were not in accordance with the currently accepted veterinary medical



procedures and resulted in the improper closure of surgical incisions.

Date of Violation: August 23, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b)(3) Attending Veterinarian and Veterinary Care.

Triple F Farms failed to communicate with its attending veterinarian regarding, and seek medical care for, animals at the facility, including a ferret that was suffering with abdominal muscle contractions; an adult male ferret that was thin, lethargic, had sunken eyes, and had poor responses; a ferret that facility personnel had identified as “skinny” for more than a week without communicating this observation to the attending veterinarian; and several ferrets with thick, white discharge from their eyes.

Date of Violation: August 23, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a) Facilities, General.

Triple F Farms failed to maintain structurally sound enclosures that were maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and contain animals. Triple F Farms failed to provide flooring in enclosures that adequately contained ferrets. APHIS officials observed no fewer than thirty newborn ferrets that had fallen from suspended enclosures onto the ground below, which facility personnel collected and placed in warming a bin. APHIS officials also observed feet and/or legs of juvenile and adult ferrets falling through the wire mesh flooring.

Date of Violation: August 23, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 3.129(b) Feeding.

Triple F Farms failed to provide food that was free from contamination and of sufficient quantity to maintain all animals in good health. Triple F Farms placed “special weaning diet” for young ferrets in a manner that allowed the food to become contaminated with wood chips. APHIS officials also observed two feeding tubes that were in disrepair and, as a result, allowed the food to empty into the enclosure, through the wire flooring, and onto the ground below, leaving the ferrets without access to food.

Date of Violation: August 23, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 3.130 Watering.

Triple F Farms failed to make potable water accessible to young ferrets that were learning how to use the facilities’ watering system.

Date of Violation: August 23, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 3.131(c) Housekeeping.

Triple F Farms failed to keep premises clean to facilitate animal husbandry by failing to remove accumulations of dust, fur, and wood shavings used to absorb urine and



feces from under and around the enclosures.

Date of Violation: August 23, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 3.132 Employees.

Triple F Farms failed to have a sufficient number of adequately-trained employees to care for the large amount of animals at the facility to maintain an acceptable level of husbandry and animal care as evidenced by the veterinary care, sanitation, housing, and husbandry issued identified during the inspection.

Date of Violation: September 27, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b)(1) Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care.

Triple F Farms failed to make appropriate facilities available to provide adequate veterinary care to animals. The floors in the surgery rooms were not sealed to allow appropriate cleaning and sanitizing, and the surgery room did not contain a sterile surgical environment (including chairs) to perform surgery.

Date of Violation: September 27, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 3.125(a) Facilities, General.

Triple F Farms failed to maintain structurally sound enclosures that were maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and contain animals. APHIS officials observed a ferret sticking its head out of an opening in the wire enclosure, and numerous enclosures with broken wires that protruded into the enclosures and risked injury to animals.

Date of Violation: September 27, 2011

9 C.F.R. § 3.131(c) Housekeeping.

Triple F Farms failed to keep premises clean and to facilitate animal husbandry by failing to remove oily residue from enclosure walls and remove debris from the enclosures.