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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT

Complaint No. E10-022	Date Entered 30 Oct 09	Received By [Redacted]
Referred To [Redacted]	Reply Due 39 Nov 09	

Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against

Name Baystate Medical Center		Customer/License/Registration No. 14-R-0154	
Address 759 Chestnut Street			
City Springfield	State MA	Zip 01199	Phone No 413-794-5588

Complainant

Name John Pippin		Organization PCRM	
Address			
City	State	Zip	Phone No./Email address jpippin@pcrm.org

How was complaint received? email

Forward response to FOIA: Yes No

Details of Complaint: Complainant states that pigs are being unlawfully used in Advanced Trauma Life Support courses at the facility. It is believed by the complainant that the animal use is in violation of the AWA because there are nonanimal training methods available that are educationally equivalent or superior.

Results:

The allegations outlined in the complainant's letter were as follows:

1. Baystate Medical Center continues to use live animals as part of their ATLS training course. Complainant feels that there is no valid justification for continuing to use live animals when other non-animal alternatives are available.
2. The animals used for the training are subjected to trauma from continued confinement, shipping, preparation, and experimentation before death in the laboratory.

I began investigating the complaint by going to Baystate on 11/5/09 to conduct both a full facility inspection and a paperwork review based on the allegations in the complaint. I met with the Animal Facility Manager, the IACUC Administrator, and the Director of Surgery who oversees Baystate Medical Center's Simulation Center. Specifically, I reviewed the ATLS protocol, #06-023, and the medical records for the 12 Pigs which were used in 2009 during the 3 times the course was held by Baystate.

In summary, I concluded that both allegations were not valid. Specifically:

1. Re: consideration of alternatives to live animal use by the ATLS course:

I thoroughly reviewed the ATLS Protocol @Baystate: Protocol #06-023. The protocol had just undergone a 3 year review by the IACUC and was approved on 4/15/09. The AWA Regulations require that a proposal for animal use contain a rationale for involving animals and the appropriateness of the animal species to be used. The PI did include in several sections of the protocol's narrative a discussion pertaining to the rationale for the use of live animals and the appropriateness of the animal species chosen for this training protocol. The PI also included in the narrative a discussion of the use of non-animal alternative teaching methods including: human cadavers, human-like manikins/models, and videotapes of surgeons performing the procedures included in the ATLS course. The availability of alternatives was determined through database literature search and direct communications with the American College of Surgeons and other experts involved in trauma management training programs.

It is true as alleged by the complainant that Baystate does have a Simulation Surgical Center at the main hospital and that Baystate does own one Trauma Man. The Trauma Man is used as a part of the ATLS course. However, Baystate Medical Center is not a medical school and it does not have access to human cadavers.

The AWA Regulations require that a PI consider alternatives to procedures that are more than momentarily painful and distressful in the animals and that a PI provide a written narrative description of the methods and sources used to determine that alternatives were not available. After reviewing the narrative of this proposal, it is my opinion that the ATLS proposal for animal use has met all of the requirements that are outlined in Section 2.31 (d) (1) of the Regulations.

The allegation regarding failure of the protocol to consider alternatives to the use of animals was not valid.

2. Re: the complainant's allegation that the animals used for this training course are subjected to trauma from continued confinement, shipping, preparation, and experimentation before death in the laboratory:

I reviewed the medical records for the 12 Pigs that were used in 2009 during the 3 times that the ATLS course was offered: 4/16/08, 6/18/09, and 10/29/09. The review included records and room logs for the time periods the 12 Pigs were housed at Baystate following their arrival from the supplier and procedure records for the 12 Pigs that were made by Baystate personnel during the anesthesia, surgery, and euthanasia of the animals for the 3 training courses.

There were no entries in any of the documents reviewed that were indicative of any trauma or stress-associated behavior in the animals. All aspects of pre-anesthesia, anesthesia, intra-operative monitoring, and conduction of surgical procedures were followed by Baystate personnel as were described in the proposal for animal use. The physiological parameters monitored in the 12 Pigs during anesthesia/surgical procedures included in the ATLS course indicate that the animals were under effective general anesthesia at all

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times during the procedures.

There is no evidence in any of the available documents and records of the 12 Pigs that the animals experienced any trauma or stress-associated behavior before euthanasia in the training laboratory. In my opinion, this allegation made by the complainant is not valid.

Application packet provided? Yes No

INSPECTOR
[Redacted]

DATE
11/10/09

REVIEWED BY
[Redacted]

DATE
10-Nov-09



NOV 17 2009

Inspection Report

BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

Customer ID: 148

Certificate: 14-R-0154

Site: 001

759 CHESTNUT STREET

BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

SPRINGFIELD, MA 01199

Date: Nov-05-2009

2.31 (c) (3)

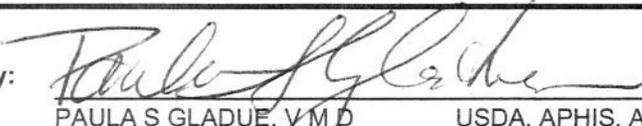
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC).

2.31 (c) - "IACUC functions. With respect to activities involving animals, the IACUC, as an agent of the research facility, shall: (3) Prepare reports of its evaluations conducted as required by paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section, and submit the reports to the Institutional Official of the research facility.....The reports shall be updated at least once every six months upon completion of the required semiannual evaluations."

1. The Semi-annual Reports to the Institutional Official (IO) from the IACUC were reviewed during the inspection beginning with the 12/12/07 report for the evaluations conducted by the IACUC on 11/14/07. The next Semi-annual Report from the IACUC to the IO was submitted 8 months later on 8/13/08 for the evaluations conducted on 5/14/08.

The IACUC is required to submit a Report to the IO at least once every six months upon completion of the required semi-annual evaluations of the Animal Facility Inspection and the Program for the Humane Care and Use of Animals.

The Registrant has corrected this item by the IACUC submitting the Semi-annual Reports to the IO on 2/18/09 and 6/17/09 for the evaluations conducted by the IACUC on 11/19/08 and 5/20/09 respectively.

Prepared By: 
PAULA S GLADUE, V M D USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
Nov-05-2009

Title:

Received By:


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

Date:
Nov-05-2009

Title: