



Sun Pet, LTD
3765 Zip Industrial Blvd. SE
Atlanta, GA 30354

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 Alleged Violation: April 17, 2019

9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b)(2) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors). Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

You failed ensure the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care as required.

At the time of this inspection, ten (10) male "Robo" hamsters were found to have large open wounds located behind their heads on the back of their necks. The attending veterinarian was not informed or called and no treatment documentation or medications were presented when asked for during inspection.

Date of Alleged Violation: July 29, 2021

9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b)(3) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors). Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; and include a mechanism of direct and frequent communication so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

You failed to observe animals and report information on problems to the attending veterinarian. APHIS officials observed the following:

- 1) One hamster with an excessively swollen red right eye that it could not open. The right side of the animal's face was swollen.
- 2) In two separate enclosures, two hamsters appeared unthrifty and underweight. Both hamsters had a wet belly and tail trying to clean

themselves of the wetness/discharge.

3) A thin unthrifty robo dwarf female hamster lying on its side not moving in the back of the enclosure. Once roused, she stood unmoving with her eyes closed appearing dull and lethargic.

4) One unthrifty dwarf hamster was found in a corner at the back of an enclosure with a mostly hairless face and reddened/crusty skin underneath.

5) One teddy bear hamster with approximately fifty percent of its hair missing appeared thin and unkempt.

6) One black and white female rabbit housed singly in an enclosure with an increased respiratory effort, yellow nasal discharge and yellow crust present around her right eye.

7) Twenty-two hamster enclosures with hamsters who had been cannibalized, specifically, one enclosure with a hamster that was actively being cannibalized while it was still alive and another enclosure with active cannibalism of a recently deceased hamster.

8) Two enclosures with approximately eight pieces of deceased hamster with seven alive hamsters remaining.

9) One enclosure with a recently deceased hamster located under the feed bin.

10) An enclosure with deceased hamster pieces in the feed bin on top of the pellets for consumption and in the bedding material.

11) The remaining enclosures with varying amounts of deceased hamster pieces in the enclosures with the live hamsters.

Date of Alleged Violation: July 29, 2021

9 C.F.R. § 3.130 Watering. If potable water is not accessible to the animals at all times, it must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal. Frequency of watering shall consider age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary.

You failed to provide potable water to the animals at all times or as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animals.

APHIS officials observed ten female gerbils that appeared thin, unthrifty, and unable to reach their water lixit due to its height in the enclosure. The gerbils had no other access to water other than the one lixit that was too high for them to reach. Upon placing a stainless steel step in the enclosure below the waterer to allow access, all the gerbils ran to the corner with the waterer and drank voraciously.

The penalty for the alleged violation(s) described above is \$4,500.