



University of Georgia
212 Tucker Hall
310 Campus Road
Athens, GA 30602

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: November 25, 2020 and December 7, 2020

9 C.F.R. § 2.31(c)(7) IACUC functions.

With respect to activities involving animals, the IACUC, as an agent of the research facility, shall:

Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the care and use of animals in ongoing activities.

University of Georgia (UG) made an unapproved deviation from an active research protocol without IACUC approval.

The IACUC approved protocol specified blood collection from the saphenous vein. (No. A2020 04-024-Y1-A7) On November 25, 2020 and December 7, 2020, blood draws on multiple hamsters were done from the vena cava. Two hamsters, one after each day of collections, were found dead. The blood collection technique used was not approved by the IACUC and contributed to the death of the hamsters.

Date of Alleged Violation: September 9, 2020

9 C.F.R. § 2.38(f)(1) Handling.

Handling of 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.

UG failed to handle animals as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

On September 9, 2020, a two-year-old female fitch ferret (#E6640) was unable to recover from inhalation anesthesia and died

unexpectedly. An internal investigation identified anesthesia techniques that contributed to the ferret's death.

Date of Alleged Violation: On or about May 2021

9 C.F.R. § 3.1(a) Housing facilities, general.

Structure; construction. Housing facilities for dogs and cats must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound. They must be kept in good repair, and they must protect the animals from injury, contain the animals securely, and restrict other animals from entering.

UG failed to ensure that housing facilities protect the animals from injury. In a cat room in the Central Animal Facility, there is a buffer rail that ran a couple of inches from the wall leaving a small gap. In May 2021, a young, male orange tabby cat injured his left, rear leg when he slipped off the railing and his leg slipped through the gap as he fell. The injury required surgical repair.

Date of Alleged Violation: On or about July 3, 2021

9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b)(3) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

UG failed to establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that includes a mechanism of direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian to convey timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being.

On the afternoon of July 2, 2021, gerbils located at the Central Animal Facility were regrouped for experimental purposes which led to fighting. The fighting resulted in the death of one gerbil and injuries to another gerbil that were discovered the morning of July 3, 2021. The injured gerbil was euthanized July 3, 2021, without consultation of the attending veterinarian or designee.

The attending veterinarian's designee received notification of the incident on July 6, 2021, the first business day after the holiday weekend. The attending veterinarian received notification five days after the fighting was discovered, on July 8, 2021.



Date of Alleged Violation: August 25, 2021

9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b)(3) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care. Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

UG failed to establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that includes a mechanism of direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian to convey timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being. APHIS officials observed the following at the Whitehall Forest Deer Facility:

- a slightly underweight female deer (Y44) with intermittent diarrhea ongoing for over a month; and,
- a female deer (Y25) with a deformity at her lower right jaw that had previously led to swelling resulting from food impactions with occasional abscess formation.

Although both deer had been medically treated, the attending veterinarian had not been consulted.

Date of Alleged Violation: December 10, 2021

9 C.F.R. § 2.38(f)(1) Handling.

Handling of 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.

UG failed to handle animals as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

On December 10, 2021, a female white-tailed deer (W130) at a deer research facility was sedated for a study, but temporarily stopped breathing upon administration of the reversal agent. The deer received CPR, had difficulty recuperating, and died shortly thereafter. An internal investigation determined an overdose of the reversal agent was mostly likely the cause of death. Additionally, the amount



of reversal agent used was not determined by the specific body weight of the animal as required in the protocol.

Date of Alleged Violation: November 8, 2021

9 C.F.R. § 2.32(a) Personnel qualifications.

It shall be the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties. This responsibility shall be fulfilled in part through the provision of training and instruction to those personnel.

UG failed to ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties.

Out of seven rabbits used for a study, two died from inappropriate placement of central venous line catheters. The cause of death was linked to an inexperienced study member who had prior experience placing central lines in other animal species, but no experience placing central lines in rabbits who were under anesthesia.

Date of Alleged Violation: October 25, 2022

9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b)(3) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, that a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

UG failed to maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that includes daily observations of all animals to assess their health and well-being and a mechanism of direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian to convey timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being.

On October 25, 2022, a female deer (W196) was found salivating excessively and stumbling into a fence. The deer was euthanized and necropsied. The necropsy report noted the deer as emaciated, likely secondary to pneumonia.

Prior to the euthanasia, based on the premise that ID reading is challenging and can stress the animals, the IACUC approved an

exemption regarding how daily observations were performed. The exemption was not scientifically required for a study. The absence of a daily assessment of the deer led to potential treatment delays which negatively impacted the health and well-being of the animal.

Date of Alleged Violation: November 7, 2022

9 C.F.R. § 2.38(f)(1) Handling.

Handling of 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.

UG failed to handle animals as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

On November 7, 2022, while under anesthesia for a study, a dog was injured. (ID CLICSH) The electrical current that should have been paused during the study was given continuously. The following day, the dog was limping and had third-degree burns below the elbow on the front forelimb that measured approximately 2 x 2 centimeters in diameter. The injuries required surgical debridement and further treatment.

Date of Alleged Violation: March 14, 2023

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

Structural strength. The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The indoor and outdoor housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals.

UG failed to ensure that housing facilities were structurally sound and in maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and to contain the animals. APHIS officials observed the following:

- At the Oconee County Farm, a pasture containing two horses with multiple sharp points protruding 1-2” in length and pointed in towards the enclosure approximately every 6-12 inches for a total of about 4 feet of height. The post was to the right of the main walkway adjacent to a gate where horses could be led out.
- A pasture at Oconee County Farm containing two horses, located adjacent to the beef production unit and closest to the road, with a very large opening where half of a section of wire paneling was missing in a triangular shape approximately 24 inches tall by 48



inches wide.

- In Pen E, the primary enclosure for deer with multiple sharp points located on a wooden post where remnants of a previous fence was previously located. The sharp points of the remnant metal fencing varied from approximately 1-2½ inches in length and pointed into the enclosure approximately every 6 inches for about 6 feet of height.

The penalty for the alleged violation(s) described above is \$12,150.

By paying the civil penalty, you are entering into this Settlement Agreement and:

1. Neither admitting nor denying the alleged violation(s) described above,
2. Agreeing to waive your right to a hearing, and
3. Agreeing to waive any action against USDA under the Equal Access to Justice Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. § 504 et seq.) for fees and other expenses incurred in connection with this/these alleged violation(s) or any action against any USDA employee in their individual capacity.