



Inspection Report

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF VICE PRES FOR RESEARCH
202 SAMFORD HALL
AUBURN, AL 36849

Customer ID: 833
Certificate: 64-R-0005
Site: 001
BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
FACILITY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 29-AUG-2023

2.31(c)(7)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

Multiple incidents were identified where changes were made regarding the care and use of animals in ongoing activities for which the IACUC approved protocol was not appropriately modified and reviewed prior to the start of the changes.

*Protocol 2023-5246/2023-5245 states that wild-caught cardinals would be fed a pelleted bird feed on the sides of the cages. The cardinals inspected were fed in small blue bowls on the ground and the only feed identified was bird seed.

*An IACUC complaint investigation about rabbits used on protocol 2021-3843 identified "multiple discrepancies/deviations from the approved protocol". These included the following: the teaching assistants performing euthanasia did not perform the confirmation of death thoracotomy, the urethane anesthetic was not being administered at the approved dose/interval and epinephrine was not being administered at the approved dose/interval.

The IACUC is responsible for approving all proposed activities or proposed significant changes to ensure that the activities related to the care and use of animals are in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act. The IACUC shall review and approve, require modifications in, or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the care and use of animals in ongoing activities. Corrected for the rabbit protocol. Correct by 12/1/23.

2.31(d)(1)(ii)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

For several IACUC approved protocols the principal investigator did not provide a written narrative description of the methods and sources used to consider alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals.

*Two approved protocols involving wild caught birds (2022-4063 and 2023-5246) and their response to research related induced stress did not include any written narrative related to any alternative search.

*One approved protocol 2021-3843 involving teaching physiology using anesthetized rabbits did include a narrative for an alternative search related to the teaching (keywords rabbit, blood pressure, cardiovascular physiology, respiration and teaching lab) but did not include in the alternative search the procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress such as surgery to isolate and cannulate the trachea, carotid arteries and iliac vein.

The searches were therefore not adequate to determine that alternatives to the painful and/or distressful procedures were not available. In order to approve proposed activities, the IACUC shall determine that the principal investigator has considered alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals and

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has provided a written narrative description of the methods and sources used to determine that alternatives were not available. Corrected for the rabbit protocol (modification). Correct by 12/1/23.

2.32(a)

Personnel qualifications.

The IACUC investigated an anonymous complaint in the fall 2022 semester related to the use of rabbits in a teaching physiology laboratory. The protocol stated that trained teaching assistants running the laboratory sessions would euthanize anesthetized rabbits by cardiac injection of the euthanasia drug. During the investigation it was determined that the teaching assistants were not appropriately trained and were unable to successfully accomplish this procedure. In addition, it was determined that the teaching assistants were not performing monitoring of anesthesia levels to ensure an adequate plane of anesthesia during the procedures as stated in the protocol. The IACUC stated these findings in a letter to the Principal Investigator along with corrections to be made. Adequate training of all personnel involved in animal care, treatment and use is necessary to ensure the health and well-being of the animals and to ensure that research proceeds as the IACUC has approved. The facility shall ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties. Corrected prior to inspection.

3.1(f)

Housing facilities, general.

In two rooms housing dogs in the canine research building, the kennel waste drainage gutters contained an excessive amount of buildup with opaque to brown discoloration of the flooring. Additionally, some gutters contained residual hair and food waste after the morning cleaning. The drainage gutters are located behind the dog kennels with no direct access for staff to clean and examine the drains.

Drains and drainage areas that are not properly maintained could result in a buildup of waste that could attract pests, create odors, soil animals, and increase the risk of disease hazards. All drains must be properly constructed, installed, and maintained. Correct by ensuring cleaning staff have appropriate access to clean and maintain waste gutters and drains. Correct by 12/1/23.

3.11(b)(2)

Cleaning, sanitization, housekeeping, and pest control.

Used primary enclosures for both dogs and cats are not currently being sanitized at least once every 2 weeks using one of the methods prescribed in 3.11(b)(3).

*The August 2023 log for dog runs housing 5 teaching beagles shows that the runs were sanitized with bleach (B) on 8/7/23 and sanitized with Quat cleaner/disinfectant combo (Q) on 8/22/23. The two week interval is being followed but bleach is being used as a disinfectant without first using a detergent. The prescribed method in paragraph (b)(3) requires the use of a detergent followed by a disinfectant or the use of a detergent/disinfectant combination product.

*The June through August 2023 sanitation log for the cat wards shows sanitation of the cat enclosures being completed using Quat (cleaner/disinfectant product) every six weeks. In-between each six week interval the enclosures are 'hosed' with warm water to clean them but no detergents or disinfectants are used according to the procedures reviewed. Appropriate sanitization of enclosures at two week intervals, using live steam under pressure, washing with hot water over 180 degrees and a detergent (cage wash) or with detergent followed by a disinfectant or a combination product, helps to

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ensure that the enclosures are physically clean and to remove and destroy to the maximum degree practical agents injurious to health.

Used primary enclosures for dogs and cats must be sanitized at least once every 2 weeks using one of the methods prescribed in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, and more often if necessary to prevent an accumulation of dirt, debris, food waste, excreta, and other disease hazards. Correct by 9/12/23.

3.127(b)

Facilities, outdoor.

Several of the outdoor pastures housing horses at the north equine unit do not sufficiently provide shelter from the elements. Some of the pastures contain shade structures composed of shade cloth, but they lack either a natural or man-made shelter to protect from inclement weather. Lack of adequate protection from the elements can lead to discomfort and potential distress. Correct by ensuring adequate shelter to protect the horses from any adverse weather conditions. Correct by March 1, 2024.

3.129(a)

Feeding.

Multiple short-tail opossum (monodelphis) enclosures contained bedding shavings with a mixture of dry feed pellets and excreta on/in the shavings of the entire enclosure. The staff stated that the animals are fed on their shavings in a different part of the enclosure each day and that the animals then defecate on the feed (for marking) thus contaminating the feed. The animals did not have access to uncontaminated feed in these enclosures. The IACUC approved protocol did not include an IACUC approved exception for this feeding method. A Standard Operating Procedure reviewed stated that the animals would be fed in the left corner of the enclosure. Food should be free from contamination to ensure that it is wholesome and palatable. The facility shall ensure that the food is wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination. Correct by 9/15/23.

3.131(c)

Sanitation.

The outdoor pasture housing 8 alpacas and 1 llama, and the outdoor pasture housing 14 sheep have an overgrowth of large weeds. Additionally, several large ant mounds were present within the llama/alpaca pasture but were difficult to visualize given the height of the weeds. The excess weeds make it more difficult to do normal husbandry practices such as cleaning, limit usable space for the animals and act as breeding grounds for pests.

The grounds of all animal enclosures shall be kept clean and free of excess weeds. Correct by October 1, 2023

3.152(b)

Facilities, outdoor

The outdoor enclosures housing 6 cardinals and 3 house finches do not sufficiently provide protection from the elements. The only shelter structure present is a wooden board, approximately 3ft. x 3ft. placed on top of the outdoor enclosures. The single wooden board on top does not keep out wind and rain. Lack of adequate protection from the elements can lead to discomfort and potential distress. Correct by ensuring adequate shelter to protect the birds from any adverse weather conditions. Correct by October 1, 2023.

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3.158(c)

Cleaning, sanitization, housekeeping, and pest control.

Several housekeeping issues need to be addressed in the room housing 13 house finches:

*There is a trash can with no lid containing old food waste and trash.

*The window closest to the sink was covered in condensation and appears to be in disrepair.

*The two air registers in the room were covered in a thick layer of dust with brown staining surrounding the vent on all sides.

*There is excessive clutter of cleaning and husbandry items haphazardly present throughout the left side of the room. Stored items not currently being used in husbandry for these birds are stored in the room.

*The sink area and the floor beneath the sink are dirty.

Premises must be kept clean to protect the birds and to facilitate prescribed husbandry practices. Accumulations of trash shall be placed in designated areas and cleared as necessary. Correct by October 1, 2023.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the University Veterinarian and a second veterinarian along with other facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

SUSANNE BRUNKHORST, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
833	64-R-0005	001	BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITY	29-AUG-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000143	<i>Equus caballus</i>	DOMESTIC HORSE
000124	<i>Felis catus</i>	CAT ADULT
000027	<i>Felis catus</i>	CAT KITTEN
000001	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	GREAT HORNED OWL
000001	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	RED-TAILED HAWK
000001	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>	BLACK EAGLE
000031	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000002	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	GOLDEN EAGLE
000001	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	PEREGRINE FALCON
000070	<i>Monodelphis domestica</i>	GREY SHORT-TAILED OPOSSUM
000001	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	LANNER FALCON
000002	<i>Megascops asio</i>	EASTERN SCREECH-OWL
000003	<i>Strix varia</i>	BARRED OWL
000001	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	RED-SHOULDERED HAWK
000002	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BALD EAGLE
000001	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	AMERICAN KESTREL
000002	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	HARRIS'S HAWK
000001	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	EURASIAN EAGLE-OWL
000002	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	TURKEY VULTURE
000001	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	BLACK VULTURE / MEXICAN VULTURE
000001	<i>Falco femoralis</i>	APLOMADO FALCON
000116	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000035	<i>Ovis aries aries</i>	SHEEP INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000001	<i>Lama glama</i>	LLAMA
000008	<i>Lama pacos</i>	ALPACA
000007	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000006	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	NORTHERN CARDINAL
000016	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	HOUSE FINCH
000607	Total	



United States Department of Agriculture
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