



Inspection Report

Northern Virginia Community College
21200 Campus Drive, LA Building
STERLING, VA 20164

Customer ID: **483**

Certificate: **21-R-0255**

Site: 001

NORTHERN VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 20-FEB-2025

2.31(a)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

2.31 (a) Northern Virginia Community College Veterinary Technician Program has not identified a new Institutional Official (IO). The prior IO left the facility in April 2023.

The IO is authorized to legally commit on behalf of the College that the standards and regulations of the Animal Welfare Act (9 CFR) are met. An IO must be identified to officially appoint Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members who will be responsible for instituting the animal care and use program in accordance with subpart 2.31 and the standards outlined in the Animal Welfare Act. Correct by March 31, 2025.

2.31(b)(1)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The nonaffiliated member, veterinarian, and several other members of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) were not appointed by an Institutional Official (IO) of the teaching facility.

In accordance with Animal Welfare Regulations, the members of the IACUC shall be appointed by the IO of the teaching facility. IACUC members must be appointed by the IO to ensure that members are aware of their role in overseeing the animal care and use program at the facility. This appointment must be documented to show that the IO has ensured qualified members are a part of the IACUC tasked with assessing the animal program, facilities, and procedures. Correct by March 31, 2025.

2.31(b)(2)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

2.31(b)(2) A non-voting member of the committee was asked to lead the March and October 2024 meetings. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Committee does not have an appointed Chair. The prior Chair of the IACUC left facility April 2023.

An established IACUC consists of at least three persons, one of which is a chairperson. A chairperson must be a part of

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the IACUC to ensure properly convened meetings, effective review and implementation of protocols and the animal program. An IACUC chair must be appointed per Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards. Correct by March 31, 2025.

2.31(c)(1)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

In 2024, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) did not review the research facility's Program for Humane Care and Use of Animals at least once every six months as required per this Section of the Regulations. The program reviews were conducted on March 12, 2024, and December 19, 2024. There were 9 months between the program reviews. Also, records reviewed did not identify significant program deficiencies such as,

1. No Institutional Official
2. No IACUC Chairperson
3. IACUC members that have not been appointed by the Institutional Official
4. Animals used for teaching under 3 expired protocols

A facility's animal care program shall be evaluated by the IACUC at least once every 6 months to ensure that all aspects of the animal care program are being conducted appropriately for the welfare of the animals being used at the teaching facility. The IACUC must conduct a thorough review of the facility's Program for Humane Care and Use of Animals and note all deficiencies. Correct by March 31, 2025.

2.31(c)(3)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

2.31(c)(3). Semi-annual program and facility reviews were conducted but the prepared reports of the evaluations were incomplete. Deficiencies noted were not distinguished as significant or minor. Also, a reasonable and specific plan and schedule with correction dates for the deficiencies was not established. Additionally, the reports of the evaluations were not signed by the majority of the members. Finally, these reports were not submitted to the Institutional Official (IO).

NOTE: The facility did not have a designated IO from April 2023 thru March 2025.

Reports documenting semi-annual of the program and facility reviews must be prepared in accordance with the regulations of the Animal Welfare Act, including submission of these reports to the IO at least once every six months to ensure the humane care and use of the animals. The report must be signed by a majority of the Committee members and include a statement pertaining to minority views, identify any deficiency as a minor or significant deficiency, and include details of a plan for correction. Correct By March 31, 2025, and with each subsequent review.

2.31(d)(5)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

During the October 2024 meeting, new principal investigators were assigned to the existing teaching protocols. The following protocols were due for the 3-year review but were not reviewed and approved by the IACUC: CVTEA Essential Horse Skills Lab (exp 11/10/23), VET 217 Rabbit Skills (exp 10/24/24), VET 221(10/24/24).

All animal activities must be completely reviewed and approved by the IACUC no less than every 3 years, to ensure that

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the animal activities at the facility are conducted in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards. The IACUC must review and approve all expired protocols. Correct by April 18, 2025.

2.31(d)(8)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The facility houses cats, rabbits, and dogs. These species were used in teaching labs from October 2024 to March 2025, after the protocols expired on 10/24/24. Animals must not be used for teaching when a protocol is expired. Principle investigators must ensure proposed activities have been reviewed and approved by the IACUC at appropriate intervals before using animals for teaching purposes.

Proposed activities and proposed significant changes in ongoing activities that have been approved by the IACUC may be subject to further appropriate review and approval by officials of the research facility. However, those officials may not approve an activity involving the care and use of animals if it has not been approved by the IACUC. Correct by March 31, 2025.

2.32(a)

Personnel qualifications.

Current members of the IACUC do not fully understand their role and responsibilities and have not received adequate IACUC training. In 2024, the IACUC conducted two meetings that included semi-annual inspections. However, they failed to address the identified key deficiencies. The IACUC did not discuss or seek a replacement Institutional Official or chairperson. They did not officially appoint an IACUC chair. Expiring protocols were not reviewed, approved, and signed by committee members. Semi-annual reports were not properly prepared.

It shall be the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all 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. Training and instruction shall be made available, and the qualifications of personnel reviewed, with sufficient frequency to fulfill the teaching facility's responsibilities under this section and Sec. 2.31. Trained IACUC members ensure the animal care and use program at the facility is in compliance with the regulations and standards of the Animal Welfare Act. All IACUC members must be provided training and continuing education so that the Committee members can effectively serve in their roles and perform the IACUC responsibilities. Correct April 18, 2025.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the facility representative.

NOTE: The inspection of facilities and a partial records review was conducted on February 20, 2025. A final records review was conducted on March 10, 2025 after key personnel were identified for the review and discussion.

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Species Inspected

| Cust No | Cert No | Site | Site Name | Inspection |
|---------|-----------|------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 483 | 21-R-0255 | 001 | NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE | 20-FEB-2025 |

| Count | Scientific Name | Common Name |
|--------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 000004 | <i>Felis catus</i> | CAT ADULT |
| 000004 | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT |
| 000004 | <i>Canis familiaris</i> | DOG ADULT |
| 000012 | Total | |