



Inspection Report

Oakwood Research Facility Inc
P.O. Box 455
Oxford, MI 48371

Customer ID: 7588

Certificate: 34-A-0119

Site: 001

OAKWOOD RESEARCH FACILITY INC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 03-FEB-2015

2.40(a)(1)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

The facility has a new part-time attending veterinarian. A written program of veterinary care has not yet been completed. It is essential that this be done. Veterinary recommendations for the care of the rabbits should be included in the program. APHIS inspectors then use this information when inspecting the animals in order to determine if veterinary recommendations are being followed by the facility. This program is a valuable tool in order to ensure the continuing health and comfort of these animals. Complete a written program of veterinary care.

Correct by: 2-18-15.

2.40(b)(2)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

The inspector observed three rabbits in the euthanasia chamber. These rabbits had been euthanized that day. The facility employee stated that one of the rabbits had appeared to have a seizure and he thought it was dead. He stated that he had placed it in the chamber with the other two rabbits to be sure. The rabbits appeared to be a rather tight fit in the box and so I directed that they be weighed. The rabbits weighed 6.4 pounds, 6.0 pounds and 6.6 pounds. The facility SOP states that only two rabbits over 5.5 pounds should be euthanized at one time. Failure to follow the euthanasia SOP can lead to unnecessary distress and suffering by the rabbits during the euthanasia procedure. Facility employees should be trained and should follow the euthanasia SOP.

Correct by: 2-5-15.

2.40(b)(3)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

The inspector observed a rabbit which was about 50 days old in a hunched posture with its nose pressed up against the front of the cage. The rabbit appeared non-responsive. It was removed from the cage by the facility employee for closer inspection. The rabbit was cold to the touch and its hindquarters were covered with diarrhea. It was determined by the facility employee that the animal met the criteria for euthanasia. It was euthanized. All animals must be observed daily to assess their health status. The time this rabbit was observed was between 11:30 AM

Prepared By: KURT HAMMEL, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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and 12:00 PM. Facility employees arrive at about 7:00 AM. It is critical that animals in need of veterinary care be identified in a timely manner in order to not subject these animals to unnecessary pain and distress. The condition of animals in need of care must be relayed to the attending veterinarian for treatment or pre-determined treatment must be done as dictated by the written program of veterinary care.

Correct by: 2-4-15.

2.40(b)(4)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

It is evident that due to the nature and severity of the animal husbandry issues at the facility that there is a lack of adequately trained employees. A lack of properly trained employees can result in facility and animal conditions that result in unnecessary animal suffering. At a minimum workers need to be trained in the following areas: cleaning and sanitization methods, observation of rabbits for abnormal conditions or behaviors and proper euthanasia procedures. This training should be developed in conjunction with the facility attending veterinarian. A list of topics covered and attendees must be documented for review by APHIS.

Correct by: 3-4-15.

3.50(a)

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

Almost every cage rack in use at the facility has casters which are heavily rusted. Multiple casters were bent at odd angles and appeared to be broken. Broken heavily rusted casters must be replaced. Enclosure systems for these rabbits must be maintained in good repair to prevent possible injury to the rabbits. These racks could unexpectedly tip or even fall, causing animal distress or injury. Repair and replace these casters.

Correct by: 3-18-15

3.53(a)(1)

PRIMARY ENCLOSURES.

Multiple primary enclosure cages had areas of wire flooring in the corners that was sagging and becoming deteriorated. This is very likely because of the excessive buildup of urine and feces that is allowed to accumulate in the corners of the enclosures. This wire must be evaluated and repaired or replaced if needed in order to prevent possible injury to the rabbits caused by failure of this wire. Urine guards were noticed loose on the floor of several primary enclosures. These urine guards do not function properly to protect the rabbits when not in place. Two rabbits were noticed loose on the floor of the facility. The facility employee stated that he was not sure how the rabbits had escaped as they were larger than typical escapes. He also stated that smaller rabbits did escape at the back of the cages where the water fixtures entered the cages. He stated that all escaped rabbits were euthanized.

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This caging must be repaired or replaced in order to prevent possible animal injury leading to unnecessary suffering or escape leading to unnecessary euthanasia of rabbits.

Correct by: 3-4-15

3.53(a)(2)

PRIMARY ENCLOSURES.

The lixits for the animal watering system were running continuously in many of the rabbit enclosures. The pans beneath these enclosures were full with a mixture of water and feces. Some of the pans were so full that they were overflowing and splashing down on the sides of the cages of the rabbits housed beneath them. These rabbits were becoming contaminated with a mixture of water and feces from the rabbits above them. These rabbits are not able to stay clean and dry. These rabbits must be able to stay clean and dry for their comfort and to limit possible disease transmission by the contaminated fecal water. The lixit watering system for this facility needs to be repaired.

Correct by: 4-4-15.

3.54(a)

FEEDING.

At least 25 rabbit enclosures had empty feed containers. I noticed that these rabbits came forward in their enclosures as we approached. This is typical behavior for hungry rabbits. The facility employee indicated to me that the rabbits are fed two times per day and that the first feeding is usually at 9:00 AM and the last at about 2:30 PM to 3:00 PM. It was about 11:30 AM and the rabbits had not been fed. Employees arrive at the facility at about 7:00 AM and had already taken their lunch break. They were in the process of cleaning at the time of my inspection. Daily feeding and health checks of the rabbits should be a priority for the employees. Ensure that daily feeding and health checks occur in a timely manner each day in order to prevent unnecessary discomfort or distress to these rabbits.

A water lixit that was continuously running had flooded the cage pan below the cage in which it was located. A mixture of feces and water was draining down on the food for the rabbits housed in the enclosure below. This presents a disease hazard for the animals ingesting this feed. This lixit needs to be repaired to prevent the rabbits from consuming feed contaminated with fecal material.

Correct by: 2-5-15.

3.56(a)(1)

SANITATION.

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Numerous primary rabbit enclosures contained an excessive buildup of feces and urine on the wire flooring in the corners. This buildup needs to be removed more frequently to control disease and odors in the facility. Waste material can harbor infections agents capable of causing disease. When the enclosures are not clean, animals can contaminate themselves by lying in this material. Clean these enclosures. Clean them as often as needed to prevent this buildup of urine and feces.

Correct by: 2-11-15.

3.56(b)(3)

SANITATION.

The nest boxes used in primary enclosures are washed with a solution of bleach and water. The facility employee stated that he uses a capful of bleach to a gallon of water. The bleach label states that 1/2 to 3/4 cups of bleach per gallon should be used depending on the purpose. At a minimum, these nest boxes must be cleaned with a detergent followed by a disinfectant. No detergent is being used and the bleach is not being used at an effective concentration. The primary enclosure cages are being sanitized every 30 days according to a facility employee. The cages, cage racks and cage pans are power washed using cold water. This is not an effective cleaning and disinfection process. At a minimum, these items need to be cleaned with a detergent followed by a disinfectant. In addition to this, nearly all the cage racks and cage pans are covered with a heavy urine scale. The cage rack casters are covered with very heavy rust and multiple urine guards are rusting below where the cage licks are located. The condition of these items makes it impossible to properly clean and sanitize them. Improper cleaning and sanitization can cause disease problems as many viruses, bacteria and internal parasites are not removed or destroyed by using only cold water or water containing improperly diluted bleach. These items must be cleaned and repaired or replaced. A safe and effective cleaning and sanitization procedure must be developed and followed. Employees must be trained in this procedure.

Correct by: 3-4-15

This amended inspection report replaces the report of 2-3-15. It was done to correct a citation placed under a wrong section number. (Changes 3.132 to 2.40(b)(4)) It also clarifies language used under section 2.40(a)(1).

Inspection conducted at the Attica facility.

Inspection conducted with the site supervisor and a facility employee on 2-3-15. Exit interview conducted with the site supervisor and the facility president on 2-4-15.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
7588	34-A-0119	001	OAKWOOD RESEARCH FACILITY INC	03-FEB-15

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
001189	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	EUROPEAN RABBIT
001189	Total	