



Inspection Report

University Of California Merced
5200 N. Lake Road
MERCED, CA 95343

Customer ID: **333052**

Certificate: **93-R-0567**

Site: 001

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
MERCED

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 09-MAY-2024

2.31(d)(1)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The protocol 2023-1146 was designated as a field study. As defined in the animal welfare regulations, the term "field study" "excludes any study that involves an invasive procedure, harms or materially alters the behavior of an animal under study." Potential adverse effects described in the study mention potential trap-related injuries including "injured tails due to being caught in the trap door as it's closing, or injured animals that have been disturbed or attacked by larger animals outside of traps (such as raccoons or bears). Finally, shrews are known to be at higher risk of death due to being captured - due to their high metabolic rates, they need to eat constantly". The capture and sampling procedures described in this protocol do not meet the definition of field study and are therefore required to be reviewed by the IACUC. In order to approve proposed activities or proposed significant changes in ongoing activities, the IACUC shall conduct a review of those components of the activities related to the care and use of animals and determine that the proposed activities are in accordance with the regulations.

Correct by: 06/14/2024

2.31(e)(3)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The IACUC approved protocol 2023-1146 did not provide a complete description of animal use. According to the protocol, tissue samples are to be taken from the ears or tails of a variety of small mammals. The protocol states that they would "remove a small amount from the tail", however no sample size was specified and no location was provided regarding tissue removed from tails.

Inadequate descriptions of activities using animals may prevent the IACUC from identifying deficiencies in activities and ensuring that animal activities are in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act. Knowing the size of tissue samples in this case is important for determining the protocol's pain category as well as determining that pre-procedural and post-procedural animal care is adequate. It is the responsibility of the IACUC to ensure that the investigator provides a complete description of proposed activities that involve the use of animals in order that those activities may be adequately reviewed and determined to be in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act.

Prepared By: GEOFFREY OLSEN

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

06-JUN-2024

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

06-JUN-2024



Inspection Report

Correct by: 06/14/2024

2.33(b)(3) Critical

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

The facility self-reported noncompliance with protocol 2023-1146 to the USDA on 26 April 2024. In the aforementioned report, it was stated that a higher than expected mortality rate was not reported to the IACUC by the Primary Investigator in a timely manner. The IACUC was notified 15 April 2024, as part of a submitted continuing review, not a separate adverse event report, of the of animal losses that occurred between June 2023 and August 2023. Of those animal losses, 4 required euthanasia, and 19 were found deceased within the trap. USDA inspectors spoke with the Attending Veterinarian (AV) and confirmed that the AV had not been notified nor consulted about the animal deaths or the circumstances requiring euthanasia. Each research facility shall establish and maintain 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. This would include care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization and euthanasia.

Correct by: 06/14/2024

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with Facility Representative.

Additional Inspectors:

William Campbell, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Prepared By: GEOFFREY OLSEN
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
333052	93-R-0567	001	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED	09-MAY-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000000	NONE	NONE
000000	Total	