



Inspection Report

Equitech-Bio Inc.
3650 Harris Rd
Hamilton, OH 45013

Customer ID: 1752
Certificate: 74-R-0161
Site: 004
EQUITECH-BIO INC.

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 07-JAN-2015

2.31(a) REPEAT

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC).

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has not appointed an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). An IACUC is necessary to review and approve the proposed activities for the care and use of animals and to provide the proper oversight of the use of animals by the research facility. The CEO shall appoint an IACUC which shall be composed of a Chairman and at least two additional members. Of these members, one shall be a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and one shall not be affiliated in any way with the facility. The owner stated a IACUC will be formed and meet in one week.

2.31(c) REPEAT

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC).

An IACUC has not reviewed the research facility's program for humane care and use of animals, inspected all of the animal facilities, or prepared and submitted reports of these evaluations to the Institutional Official (I.O.) at least once every six months. An evaluation of the research facility's animal use program and an inspection of all the animal facilities is necessary to ensure adherence to the Act. The results of these evaluations must be reported to the I.O. to keep them informed of the nature and extent of the facility's adherence to the Act. The IACUC shall review the facility's program for humane care and use of animals, inspect all the animal facilities, and prepare and submit reports of these evaluations to the I.O. at least once every six months.

2.31(d)(1) REPEAT

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC).

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has not reviewed proposed animal use activities in order to determine if those activities are in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations. Currently, all animal use activities have no protocols assign to them, only SOPs; however, there is no SOP or any written instructions for injecting adjuvants in goats. Some of these adjuvants can cause severe inflammatory reactions and acute pain such as the Freund s complete adjuvant used by the facility. Because of the potential for pain and/or distress, a search for alternatives for animal use is also required. The protocol for blood collection from goats are missing the approximate number of animals to be used, the rationale for involving animals, the rationale for species, the rationale for the number of animals to be used, and the provision for the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and

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tranquilizing drugs where indicated to minimize discomfort and pain to the animals. It is necessary for an IACUC to review and approve the proposed activities for the care and use of animals and to provide the proper oversight of the use of animals by the research facility. Lack of supervision by an IACUC often leads to non-compliances with the Animal Welfare Act and this decreases animal welfare. Correct by ensuring all animal use activities have been approved by the IACUC before any animal procedures are begun, and ensure all required information listed in 2.31 (d) is made available to the IACUC.

2.33(a)(1) REPEAT

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

The facility has no written program of veterinary care approved by the attending veterinarian on the premises. A part-time attending veterinarian is employed by the facility and visits the site monthly. A program of veterinary care was obtained from the attending veterinarian at the time of the exit, but the staff did not know what was included in the program of veterinary care at the time of inspection. A written program of veterinary care is necessary to ensure that the facility staff understands the expectations of the attending veterinarian in regards to the care and use of the animals. A program of veterinary care must be written, approved by the attending veterinarian as part of the formal arrangement between the facility and the attending veterinarian, and the facility must have a copy of the program in order to ensure adherence to the program of veterinary care.

2.33(b)(2) REPEAT

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

Numerous goats were observed with nasal discharge and several were observed with diarrhea and areas of hair loss (described in detail below). The attending veterinarian had not been contacted prior to the inspection regarding any of these animals. None of the goats with nasal discharge or hair loss were receiving any veterinary treatment at the time of inspection. Three goats were receiving Nuflor without the knowledge of the veterinarian or being listed in the Program of Veterinary Care.

******About 12-15 goats were observed with nasal discharge in both pastures. The nasal discharge was slimy in appearance and mostly white to clear with a few having a greenish color. There was also dry white crusty material inside and around the nose in some goats. Coughing was occasionally heard. None of these goats were receiving any treatments and had not been identified by staff.

******Four of the goats were pulled from the main two herds and put inside a sick pen. One of the four goats was pulled the night before and hadn't been treated with any medication, but the three other goats were receiving Nuflor. Another goat with ear tag Y-26 located in pasture 2 was identified of having diarrhea. The goat had a large amount of brown greenish wet material on the tail, around the base of the tail, under the tail, on the upper portion of the back legs that was consistent with diarrhea. Y-26 was not receiving any treatments and the staff was unaware of the goat's condition.

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**Two goats(R-24 and W-119) had a circular area of hair loss on the upper portion of the bridge of the nose. The areas of hair loss showed pink skin with white flaky material on the surface of the skin.

**For the months of October, November, and December at total of 18 goats have naturally died. This is roughly a 10% mortality loss for the goat herd over the past 3 months. No necropsies were performed and no diagnostic testing was conducted to determine the cause of death. Fecal testing was performed on some of the goats before death that determined there was a parasite infection, but the cause of death was never determined. The owner reported that some of the goats were older but other goats simply died without showing any signs.

Animals not provided appropriate veterinary care will often not improve and will lead to the worsening of the original condition along with secondary infections. Medications not approved by the attending veterinarian may have no impact on the disease or may cause further harm to the animal. Mortality in goats is an important sign a serious disease is present in a herd. A veterinarian needs to be contacted when there is an unexpected death, so the disease can be properly diagnosed and the other animals be treated or given a preventive. Because of the recent high mortality loss, all animal deaths must have a necropsy conducted by a license veterinarian. All animals must be provided appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries in a timely manner and all treatments must be approved by the veterinarian either by the Program of Veterinarian Care or by direct communication. At the time of the exit interview the attending veterinarian had treated the animals identified in need of veterinary care.

2.33(b)(3)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

On inspection multiple goats, mentioned above, were not provided proper daily observation, and illnesses were not communicated to a veterinarian. Daily observation is needed to assess an animal s health and well-being. Failure to daily assess animals and report illnesses to a veterinarian can result in injuries and diseases not being diagnosed and treated in a timely manner and results in the further progression of the illness or injury. Provide daily observation for all animals to evaluate their health and well-being, and provide an accurate and timely means of communication so that all problems for all animals are reported to a veterinarian. Correct this day forward.

2.36(b)

ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report signed on 10/16/2014 by the Vice-President for the 2014 fiscal year is incorrect. No animals are recorded in the annual report; however, the facility acknowledges using both goats and rabbits in the 2014 fiscal year. Additionally, not all facility locations are listed in the annual report. Accurate reporting of animal species and numbers is necessary to maintain communication with the USDA regarding animal use and animal welfare in

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research. Correct by sending an accurate annual report to the regional office.

Correct by 1/19/2015

3.56(b)(3)

SANITATION.

The staff stated that the 16 black wire rabbit enclosures housing one rabbit in each cage are cleaned with a detergent like dawn dish soap once a week, but no disinfectant is being used. No sanitization protocol is followed currently. There is excessive hair and white mineral-like staining, often seen from the build-up of rabbit urine, around the bottom of the cages. Failure to properly clean and sanitize primary enclosures can allow bacteria to proliferate and therefore poses a risk of both disease and contamination to the animals contained therein. Correct by ensuring that primary enclosures for rabbits are cleaned and sanitized at least once every 30 days through one of the methods prescribed in section 3.56(b)(3) such as cleaning with an appropriate detergent followed by the application of a safe, effective disinfectant solution. All rabbits have been removed from the facilities. If rabbits are ever housed at the facilities in the future, continue to follow proper cleaning and sanitization from this day forward.

3.125(a)

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

There were numerous sharp wires pointing inside the goat enclosures. Some examples of sharp wires observed at the facilities inside the goat enclosures include: small loose wires tying fencing together, metal cattle fencing used as containment for outdoors was broken in several areas, and multiple wooden posts wrapped in old broken fencing. The ends of the wires were sharp to the touch. No cuts or injuries were observed on any of the animals. Sharp points or jagged edges could cause injury and pain to an animal. Loose wires are also more likely to break off and be eaten or stepped on. All housing facilities must protect the animals from injury. Monitor all wire fences and enclosures to ensure loose wires are removed and could not harm any animals. Correct by 1/12/2015.

The inspection and exit interview were conducted with the owner and multiple representatives of the facility.

This is a focused inspection on the indirect non-compliances.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
1752	74-R-0161	004	EQUITECH-BIO INC.	07-JAN-15

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000180	<i>Capra hircus</i>	DOMESTIC GOAT
000016	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	EUROPEAN RABBIT
000196	Total	