



Inspection Report

Ruby Fur Farm Inc
2564 200th Street
New Sharon, IA 50207

Customer ID: 5177
Certificate: 42-B-0052
Site: 001
RUBY FUR FARM, I N C

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 17-FEB-2016

2.40(b)(2) DIRECT REPEAT

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

27 animals were found in need of veterinary care at the time of inspection. This includes:

1. One male, albino skunk is observed holding up the right front foot. This animal is non-weight bearing at a walk and only occasionally puts weight on the foot when standing still. When removed from the cage, the outer two digits of the right front foot are very swollen and there is a rough scab on the edge of the foot above the last digit. This skunk's ration of food remains un-eaten on top of its enclosure. Swelling of limbs such as this can result from trauma, infection and a variety of medical problems and can be painful. The lack of appetite supports the likely possibility of pain and can also be present with infection and other medical problems.
2. One female, black and white skunk has a significant swelling on the bottom of the right hind foot extending just above the toes. There is a firm swollen area on the bottom of the foot that is approximately 2cm x 3 cm and is warm to the touch. The skin on the bottom of the foot has broken open exposing red tissue and a thick, yellow discharge. Problems such as this can result from trauma, infection and other medical problems and can be significantly painful.
3. One female, light sable ferret is observed squinting her right eye. There is a clear discharge in the fur around her eyelids and a small cloudy area with a red outline on the surface of the eye (cornea). Eye problems can be a result of trauma, infection, and other medical problems and can be painful.
4. One dark sable, male ferret is observed to be sneezing. This ferret has yellow discharge around his nostrils. Respiratory problems can result from infections, environmental conditions, and other medical problems. Without treatment these may progress and lead to unnecessary suffering.
5. One cinnamon colored raccoon in cage 204 has a pile of partially formed feces mixed with bright red bloody fluid under its enclosure. This animal's ration of food remains un-eaten on top of its enclosure. Diarrhea and loss of appetite can result from a variety of medical problems.
6. One dark sable ferret has a firm swelling under the right side of its jaw and extends into the neck approximately

Prepared By: CORBIN RANSLEM, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
18-FEB-2016

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

Received by Title: LICENSEE

Date:
18-FEB-2016



Inspection Report

3cm x 3cm. Swelling such as this in a ferret can result from problems such as infection, trauma, dental disease, cancer and other medical problems and can be painful.

7. One sable, male ferret has a large area of moist, red skin over the shoulders and center of the back approximately 2in x 1 in. Dark crusts and hair loss are also present. Skin problems can result from trauma, infection, and a variety of other medical problems and can be painful.

8. One silver, white ferret has hair loss on the margins of his ears. The exposed skin is dark in color and thickened along the entire edge of both ears. Skin problems and hair loss can result from parasites, trauma, infection, and other medical problems.

9. One sable, female ferret has an abnormality with her right eye. The eyeball is not visible and there is a small amount of brown staining around the uneven eyelids. One of the eyelids has a fleshy mass that gives the appearance of a furry growth in place of the eye. The causes of this could range from simply not having an eyeball to having the eyeball obscured by infection, trauma, etc. Veterinary examination and diagnosis are necessary to determine the appropriate treatment plan.

10. One sable, female ferret has an irregular edge where the pinnae (ear flap) appears to be missing. There is a dark discharge in the ear canal. Ear problems such as this can be caused from trauma, infection, and other problems and can be painful.

11-17. There are 7 ferrets with a white opacity or color visible in one or both eyes. It is possible that this could be chronic condition such as cataract formation but other medical problems cannot be ruled out without a veterinary exam. The licensee stated that the attending veterinarian has examined some of the ferrets for eye problems but was unable to provide documentation and could not identify which animals had been evaluated. The licensee must provide documentation regarding medical conditions including the diagnosis, treatment and resolution. In the case of chronic, ongoing conditions, documentation should include symptoms or changes that indication re-evaluation of the condition is required.

18-27. There are at least 10 ferrets that have a clear discharge or dried discharge around the eyes. All of these animals were housed in the indoor buildings. Ocular discharge can be caused by both environmental factors and medical problems, and can indicate discomfort.

The animals listed above must be examined by a licensed veterinarian in order to ensure that an accurate diagnosis is obtained and an appropriate treatment plan is developed and followed. This information, including the diagnosis, treatment and resolution of the condition, must be documented and made available to the inspector upon request.

*** At least 50 percent of the raccoons are exhibiting abnormal repetitive (stereotypic) behaviors at the time of

Prepared By: CORBIN RANSLEM, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
18-FEB-2016

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

Received by Title: LICENSEE

Date:
18-FEB-2016



Inspection Report

inspection. These animals were each moving with varying patterns, but the pattern shown is consistent for each affected animals. The patterns expressed included:

- Several raccoons were observed pacing. These animals were consistently quickly walking several steps, turning, and returning to the starting location. Generally, effected animals were consistently pacing along one enclosure wall although a few did turn and begin pacing at the opposite end of the enclosure when approached. This pacing behavior was exhibited consistently when observed for several minutes, and the path was generally only altered when another animal interfered or it was otherwise interrupted by noise or approaching.
- Several raccoons were observed weaving / bobbing. These animals were observed quickly shifting weight from one hind foot to the other while reaching with the forelimbs from one side to the other. Occasionally this was also seen in combination with movement of the head up and down. Generally this motion was facing outwards from the enclosure and several animals were observed rubbing their heads on the enclosure wires while preforming this motion. A few animals had areas of hair loss on the head which corresponded to the areas that they were rubbing on the wires as they repeated this behavior. This includes a dark color male raccoon in enclosure number 285 that has hair loss on the head over the right eye. The skin central to this hair loss has a central area that appears red-brown consistent with an abrasion. A male raccoon in enclosure 288 was observed weaving and also has areas of hair loss over both eyes, though the underlying skin appears normal on this animal.
- Several raccoons were observed wall walking. This behavior was often observed in conjunction with pacing, and animals were observed quickly walking along the kennel and then turning by partially extending their hind legs and walking their front end up the wall of the enclosure. The extension of the hind limbs is limited by the enclosure height (18in per the licensee).

Several individual animals were observed for 5-10 minutes each and the behavior continued generally without significant variation, though some animals shortened strides moving from pacing into weaving as time progressed. Animals continued these behaviors until interrupted such as by another animal entering their path or by noise. Raccoons were observed both cage-side and from a distance and were seen exhibiting these behaviors well before approached by inspectors or the licensee. These abnormal behaviors also continued for the entire duration that inspectors were in the building, even once they had left the immediate area of the particular enclosure. When asked about the behaviors, the licensee stated that is what raccoons do . Abnormal repetitive behaviors, often called stereotypies, can develop in response to many stressors including: lack of total space, lack of the ability to hide from other individuals or humans, overcrowding, incompatibility of animals, and over or under stimulation in their environment. Because these behaviors often develop in response to distress, they are important indicators of behavioral ill-health and require veterinary intervention to properly diagnosis the most likely causes and prevent farther deterioration by providing an appropriate treatment plan to address the stressor as well as the abnormal behavior. Correct by having the raccoons evaluated by the attending veterinarian for diagnosis of the cause of these behaviors and development of an appropriate treatment plan to address this issue. Written documentation the Attending Veterinarian s recommendations regarding alterations to cage space, provisions of hide areas, enrichment, and any other steps necessary to address this abnormality shall be maintained by the licensee for review by APHIS Officials. Additionally, the licensee shall maintain documentation of the implementation of these

Prepared By: CORBIN RANSLEM, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
18-FEB-2016

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

Received by Title: LICENSEE

Date:
18-FEB-2016



Inspection Report

recommendations for review.

3.125(a) REPEAT

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

Several enclosures are in disrepair. There are at least 15 ferret enclosures with broken wires and nails that protrude into the enclosures. Sharp, protruding metal points can cause injury to the animals. Two wooden nesting boxes being used by ferrets are in disrepair. There are chewed and worn areas along the bottom half of the boxes that are creating openings large enough the ferrets could escape. The licensee must ensure that all housing facilities be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals.

3.125(d)

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

There is an excessive accumulation of fresh and old excreta beneath the enclosures located in both ferret buildings (worst in the east shed). Under the enclosures along the wall there are numerous live maggots, fly pupa, and hatched pupa casing present in the piles of excreta. Pupa casings are also present under the cages not currently in use and there are a large number of flies in the facility. There is a significant accumulation of hair, organic matter, and other debris along the cage supports in both ferret buildings. There is also an accumulation of dried raccoon and cat feces on the floor along the southeast corner of the building. The dirt flooring in the raccoon building has an excessive buildup of fresh and old excreta that has a white moldy appearance beneath and around the enclosures being used.

Excessive accumulations of animal waste in the housing area can lead to poor air quality, disease hazards and pest infestations. Poor air quality is linked to the development of health problems and many fumes, such as ammonia, can cause discomfort to animals and can lead to conditions such as respiratory and eye abnormalities. The licensee must remove animal and food wastes as often as necessary to minimize the odors, vermin, and disease hazards for the health and well being of the animals.

To be corrected by: March 1, 2016.

3.127(b) DIRECT

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

Prepared By: CORBIN RANSLEM, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
18-FEB-2016

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

Received by Title: LICENSEE

Date:
18-FEB-2016



Inspection Report

There are two ferrets located in two separate enclosures of the outdoor housing facility that are consistently shivering. The wooden nesting boxes contain little to no bedding material. The ambient temperature recorded at the time of inspection was 40 degrees F using a Kestrel. The temperature inside the nesting box was 46 degrees F using a Raytek MiniTemp MT6 . According to the National Weather Service, the forecast for the low temperature tonight is 31 degrees F. Not having adequate shelter does not ensure the ferrets can maintain a safe body temperature and conserve body heat. The licensee must ensure that adequate shelter appropriate for the local climactic conditions for the species is provided by natural or artificial means. Correct by providing an appropriate shelter by moving the affected animals, adding supplemental heat source, and / or adding a sufficient amount of bedding to prevent discomfort to the animals during inclement weather.

To be corrected by: February 18, 2016.

3.128 DIRECT

SPACE REQUIREMENTS.

The enclosures for the raccoons do not provide adequate space. According to the licensee, the largest raccoon enclosures are 30in x 57in and 18in tall. These enclosures housed an average of 3-4 adult raccoons in breeding groups. Smaller enclosures were 24in x 57in and 18in tall typically housing 2-3 adults and approximately 30in x 30 in and 18in tall housing 1 adult raccoon. These enclosures are not tall enough to allow a raccoon to sit up on its haunches or stand on its hind legs both of which are normal postural adjustments for raccoons. Additionally, these enclosures are all one level which does not allow for climbing or other species-typic behaviors. During the inspection raccoons were observed sniffing at the enclosure tops and turning partially on their hind legs brushing their head or nose on the enclosure tops. Several individual raccoons have partial or complete hair loss on the tail and abnormal, irregular chewed appearance to the hair on their sides and flanks. Additionally, approximately 50% of the raccoons are exhibiting abnormal repetitive (stereotypic) behaviors farther supporting the inadequacy of space for these animals. Enclosures must be constructed and maintained to provide sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. Correct by enlarging or modifying these enclosures to meet these needs.

To be corrected by: March 1, 2016

3.131 REPEAT

SANITATION.

There is a wooden nesting box being used by a striped skunk that has a buildup of wet excreta covering the entire floor surface located in the outdoor housing area. Two wooden shelters being used by four foxes have an excessive accumulation of excreta and soiled bedding covering most of the floor surface.

Prepared By: CORBIN RANSLEM, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
18-FEB-2016

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

Received by Title: LICENSEE

Date:
18-FEB-2016



Inspection Report

Excessive excreta in primary enclosures can contribute to odors, insects and other pests, and can play a role in disease transmission. Additionally, the presence of wet bedding and excreta decreases the effectiveness at providing shelter from the elements and may make animals less likely to use these when needed. No other shelter is provided to these animals in this area. The licensee must ensure that excreta be removed as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors.

Exit briefing conducted with licensee, Corbin Ranslem, ACI, Dana Miller, SACS and Margaret A Shaver, VMO.

Additional Inspectors

Miller Dana, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist

Shaver Margaret, Veterinary Medical Officer

Prepared By: CORBIN RANSLEM, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
18-FEB-2016

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

Received by Title: LICENSEE

Date:
18-FEB-2016



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
5177	42-B-0052	001	RUBY FUR FARM, I N C	17-FEB-16

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000637	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	STRIPED SKUNK
001085	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	HAZEL DORMOUSE
000211	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	RACCOON
000002	<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	SPOTTED SKUNK
000009	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	GRAY FOX / GREY FOX
000002	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>	ARCTIC FOX
000020	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
001966	Total	