



Inspection Report

University of Alabama at Birmingham
720 ADMINISTRATION BLDG
1530 3RD AVENUE SOUTH
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35294

Customer ID: **832**

Certificate: **64-R-0004**

Site: 001

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 04-JUN-2025

2.32(a)

Personnel qualifications.

As reported in the October 2024 OLAW noncompliance report, two piglets died after they underwent an approved procedure. During an adverse event IACUC investigation, it was found that the personnel monitoring the animals did not receive sufficient training. While personnel underwent the required IACUC training, they did not receive sufficient training in record keeping and required actions when animals become ill. It is the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all personnel involved in animal care and use are adequately trained to perform their duties. Inadequate or incomplete staff training can have a significant impact on the health and welfare of the research animals. The facility shall ensure that all personnel are sufficiently trained to conduct their duties. Corrections were made prior to the time of inspection.

2.33(b)(3)

Critical

Repeat

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

As reported in the October 2024 OLAW noncompliance report, a myocardial infarction procedure was performed on a cohort of four 1-2 day old piglets at the end of July, 2024. The piglets were housed in an incubator in the laboratory space where they received monitoring every 4 hours by the laboratory staff. Over the following two weeks, two of the piglets died (8541-1 and 8541-2). The deaths appeared to be experimentally related, however, during the investigation it was found that no communication with the attending veterinarian or veterinary staff regarding abnormal behavior of the piglets such as hot to the touch (as indicated in the necropsy report) decreased appetite, diarrhea, weakness and anorexia (as noted in the medical record). The diagnostic necropsy report from one of the piglets indicate disseminated bacterial infection (sepsis) due to the gross appearance of the incision site and pericardial sac and presence of gram negative bacteria. Failure to report unexpected signs of illness does not ensure timely delivery of veterinary medical care and can directly impact animal welfare. While the laboratory staff conducted daily observations of all animals to assess their health and well-being, there was a failure of the required direct and frequent communication from the laboratory staff to the veterinary team to ensure that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior and well-being are conveyed to the attending veterinarian. Corrections were made prior to the time of inspection.

3.131(a)

Repeat

Sanitation.

Prepared By: BRITTANY KESSLER

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

13-JUN-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Attending Veterinarian

Date:

13-JUN-2025



Inspection Report

Multiple enclosures housing tree shrews that are managed (husbandry) by the investigator staff are dirty and in need of cleaning. Excreta both fresh and old has built up on the perches, shelves, and the floor of the enclosures. Excreta on the cage floor was mixed with feed pellets. Excreta buildup in enclosures can lead to soiling of the animals, spread of disease and odors. All enclosures housing animals shall be cleaned as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors.

3.131(d)

Sanitation.

Insects were located in enclosures housing tree shrews that are managed (husbandry) by the investigator staff.

- In cage 42A that contained tree shrew ID 2033 and 2045, insects were located in a wet mound of old food and excreta under an enrichment tube.

- In cage 76 that contained tree shrew ID 19120, insects were located crawling amongst pelleted food and fecal material on the enclosure floor.

Insects and other pests can harbor and transmit diseases which might impact the health and well-being of the animals.

The facility must establish and maintain an effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests. Correct by establishing and maintaining a safe and effective program for the control of insects , ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests. Correct by June 19, 2025.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the Executive Director ARP, the Attending Veterinarian, the IACUC Director and other facility representatives.

Prepared By: BRITTANY KESSLER

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Date:
13-JUN-2025

Received by Title: Attending Veterinarian

Date:
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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
832	64-R-0004	001	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM	04-JUN-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000009	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	RHESUS MACAQUE
000002	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	PIG-TAILED MACAQUE
000091	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	DOMESTIC FERRET
000012	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	CRAB-EATING MACAQUE / CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY
000136	<i>Tupaia belangeri</i>	NORTHERN TREE SHREW
000071	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>	SYRIAN / GOLDEN HAMSTER
000002	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000000	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000323	Total	