



## Inspection Report

Jaybird Noel LLC  
9799 highway 80  
Morton, MS 39117

Customer ID: **6002907**  
Certificate: **65-R-0508**  
Site: 001  
Jaybird Noel LLC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 28-MAY-2024

### 2.31(a)

#### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

During this inspection, while reviewing IACUC records and speaking with the IACUC chairperson, it became apparent many IACUC members are not adequately trained on the AWA regulations. For example:

\*\*\*According to the IACUC chair, the whole IACUC committee met twice in May 2024 to review and approve proposed animal use activities, but records from these meetings were not documented as required by the AWA regulations because the chairperson did not know that documentation of IACUC activities occurring outside of the biannual facility reviews was required.

\*\*\*Due to lack of training, the IACUC chair did not correctly identify and report the number of animals used in research in FY 2023 on the facility's annual report to USDA.

Lack of knowledge of the regulations regarding the functions of the IACUC can lead to inadequate oversight of the research facility's animal program, facilities, and procedures. The CEO of the research facility shall appoint an IACUC qualified through the experience and expertise of its members to assess the research facility's animal program, facilities, and procedures. Correct by 7/1/2024.

### 2.33(b)(3)

#### Direct

#### Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

An approximately 5-year-old spayed female grey domestic medium haired cat ("Squid", microchip #933000320445428, protocol #SB007F2103,) has medical issues that are not being communicated to the Attending Veterinarian (AV) in a timely manner.

The cat has greenish yellow and brown crusts around both of her eyes, her nose, and her mouth. When she breathes, there are sounds of nasal congestion. The cat has a rough coat and a quiet demeanor, but was easily stressed/fractious when handled. There is an approximately 1-centimeter wide patch of reddish crust on the surface of the left eyeball, around which the surface of the eye is grey and cloudy. There are crusts and some drool around the cat's mouth, but the cat's mouth was unable to be opened during the inspection because the cat resisted handling and was very reactive when its face was touched; the Principle Investigator (who is also the IACUC chairperson) stated that the cat has stomatitis (inflammation in the mouth). The cat's medical records show that the clinical veterinarian treated the cat with long-acting medications for stomatitis on May 6, 2024 but the cat has not received any follow up evaluations or treatments since that time.

Upon the USDA inspector's recommendation, the cat was examined by the AV the evening of May 28, 2024 and the AV

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noted that the cat did not appear to be improving much in response to the May 6 stomatitis treatment. The AV also stated that the growth on surface of the eye had not been noted in the weeks prior and had likely taken at least 3-5 days to form. When asked about the hydration status of the cat, the AV stated that the hydration status was not optimal. Neither the AV nor the clinical veterinarian (who was out of town) had not been informed about the cat's current poor state or its eye condition prior to the USDA inspection. The cat received treatment on 5/28/24.

Daily observation of animals and communication with the AV regarding animal health and behavior issues is important for the prompt identification and treatment of injuries, illnesses, and other problems in animals. Without adequate daily observation by appropriately trained staff, and prompt communication with the AV, animals may suffer unnecessarily from pain, stress, or worsening of their condition. Cats with stomatitis and conditions affecting the surface of the eye may experience significant pain and may be reluctant to eat or drink, resulting in dehydration or other systemic problems. Correct by 5/29/24 by ensuring that all animals are observed on a daily basis to assess their health and well-being, and that a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is in place so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the AV.

### 2.35(a)(1)

#### Recordkeeping requirements.

According to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) chairperson (who is also the PI), the IACUC met on two recent occasions to review and approve research protocols: On May 2, 2024 the committee approved protocol #JN-AUP2024-001; on May 23, 2024 the committee approved protocol #XPL-12. However, no documentation was created during these meetings showing who attended, the activities of the committee, and committee deliberations. The only documentation available during the USDA inspection is a letter from an IACUC member to the PI stating that each protocol was "reviewed and approved" by the IACUC committee. One of these protocols contained animals with unalleviated pain (Category E).

IACUC records are important because they demonstrate that the IACUC is functioning as required, and is ensuring animal welfare as required by the AWA.

Correct by 5/29/2024 by ensuring that all future IACUC records are created and maintained in accordance with the AWA including but not limited to records pertaining to IACUC meetings and IACUC approval or disapproval of proposed animal use activities.

### 2.35(b)

#### Recordkeeping requirements.

The facility lacks complete acquisition records for approximately 20 adult cats that were acquired by the research facility in May 2024. While the facility has created individual medical records for many of the cats, these records do not contain all of the information required by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations such as the name and address of the person from whom the animal was acquired, the date of acquisition, the individual animal identification number, and a complete description of the animal.

Complete and accurate recordkeeping is important for accurately tracking animals in the event of missing or lost animals, and for ensuring compliance with the AWA.

Correct by 6/15/2024 by ensuring that all animals acquisition and disposition records are accurate and complete in accordance with the AWA.

### 2.36(b)(5)

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### Annual report.

The 2023 Annual Report submitted to USDA by the research institution did not accurately report the number of cats used in research during the reporting time period. The annual report lists only 16 cats (all in Column C), but review of facility records show that at least 25 cats were used in research during the reporting period.

Correct reporting of all required information on the annual report is required so that the public, USDA APHIS Animal Care, and Congress can have knowledge of the number, type, and pain category of animals used- or held for use in research. Correct by July 1st, 2024, by submitting a corrected FY 2023 annual report to USDA APHIS Animal Care.

### 2.38(g)

#### Miscellaneous.

Approximately 34 adult cats, acquired by the research facility on May 3, 2024 and May 8, 2024, do not have individual identification. Although the facility has acquired microchips for these cats, the microchips are not yet in use. No other type of official identification that is compliant with the Animal Welfare Act regulations is in use for these animals.

Individual animal identification is important for accurately tracking animals in the event of missing or lost animals.

Correct by 6/15/2024 by ensuring that all animals are identified in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act regulations.

The facility properly identified 30 adult cats prior to the end of the inspection.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the IACUC chairperson.

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**Species Inspected**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
6002907	65-R-0508	001	Jaybird Noel LLC	28-MAY-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000064	<i>Felis catus</i>	CAT ADULT
000064	<b>Total</b>	