



Inspection Report

Intervet Inc
Merck RY33-750 126 East Lincoln Avenue
Rahway, NJ 07065

Customer ID: **321189**
Certificate: **22-R-0144**
Site: 002
Intervet Inc

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 21-MAR-2024

2.33(b)(4) Critical

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

On January 9, 2024 a live rabbit (#1985) was discovered in a freezer used to store euthanized animals. The rabbit had chewed out of the bag it was in and was moving around the freezer. It was then euthanized by the Attending Veterinarian. The rabbit was one of 16 rabbits that has been euthanized the previous day and placed in the freezer. Prior to euthanasia, the rabbits received an injection of a ketamine/xylazine combination to provide anesthesia and were then euthanized together in a CO2 container. The facility Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) states that all animals must remain in the euthanasia container until "all signs of breathing have ceased. This may take up to 20 minutes..." and can then be placed in the freezer. The facility's investigation into this event points out that technicians must "inspect each animal for breathing prior to storing in the freezer. Since the animals are anesthetized prior to euthanasia, this can be difficult to see."

The facility's investigation of the event also states that the technician performing the euthanasia did not allow the rabbits enough exposure time to the CO2. The facility investigation says the technician only left the rabbits exposed to CO2 for 10 minutes. The AV says they are trained to leave them in for 20 minutes. The facility investigation also says that too many rabbits were in the chamber. The SOP does not specify a maximum number, but the AV states they are trained to only do a maximum of 8. The regulator that controls the flow of CO2 into the chamber had recently been replaced and that may have cut the flow to the chamber by 50% according to the facility investigation and it was noted that the technician only filled the chamber for 2 to 3 minutes, which may have inadequately filled the chamber. The SOP states that the chamber "must be filled with a slow flow of gas until full" but doesn't provide further guidance.

Failure to use appropriate euthanasia methods, including absolute confirmation of death, does not ensure that the procedure meets the regulatory definition of euthanasia requiring that each animal's death is rapid without evidence of pain and distress.

Research facilities must establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that provide clear guidance to personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia. The facility is in the process of revising euthanasia SOPs and improving training for the employees who administer it.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the attending veterinarian.

Prepared By: WILLIAM JANECKE
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:
21-MAR-2024

Received by Title: Attending Veterinarian

Date:
21-MAR-2024



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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
321189	22-R-0144	002	Intervet Inc	21-MAR-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000115	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000196	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	DOMESTIC GUINEA PIG
000137	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000031	<i>Felis catus</i>	CAT ADULT
000479	Total	