



Inspection Report

University of Southern California
3720 SOUTH FLOWER STREET, ROOM 325
LOS ANGELES, CA 90089

Customer ID: 1185

Certificate: 93-R-0020

Site: 001

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 11-SEP-2024

2.31(d)(1)(i) Critical

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

A protocol involving eye surgery on 03/11/2024 for three rabbits, #2327, #2326, and #2324 was not followed as approved as the rabbits experienced unrelieved post-surgical complications that caused discomfort, distress, and pain to the rabbits. Post-surgical treatments and daily observations were conducted by research team members under the guidance of the Primary investigator (PI) of the protocol, however these rabbits were later identified by a Department of Animal Resources staff member on 4/4/2024 as having ongoing, unreported medical complications including:

-Rabbit #2327 was found with severe ocular discharge, crusting, matted fur, and debris stuck around the experimental (right) eye." On closer inspection "the skin around the eye felt hard to touch and was beginning to crack/ ulcerate on the cheek." The rabbit was "observed in the early stages of skin sloughing."

-Rabbit #2326 was found with " decreased appetite and lower cecotrope production." On examination an "approximately 6-7 cm malodorous purulent skin wound on the right side of the face, below the experimental eye" was observed. It is noted rabbit #2326 was provided "with a rescue dose of meloxicam (1mg/kg) for pain" until the rabbit was euthanized on 4/5/2024.

-Rabbit #2324 was "observed in the early stages of skin sloughing."

These three rabbits were subsequently humanely euthanized.

Failure to identify and report post-surgical complications may lead to unrelieved discomfort, distress, and pain for the animals.

In order to approve proposed activities or proposed significant changes in ongoing activities, the IACUC shall conduct a review of those components of the activities related to the care and use of animals and determine that the proposed activities are in accordance with this subchapter unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented in writing. Procedures involving animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals.

To be corrected from this day forward 9/20/2024

2.32(c)(1)(iii) Critical

Personnel qualifications.

Research team members conducting post-surgical treatments and observation of three rabbits, #2327, #2326, and #2324, which underwent corneal laceration surgery on 3/11/2024, did not identify, document, or report abnormal findings concerning their health status. According to facility records, "although the lab had been applying eye drops and seeing the animals daily, the skin, the around the experimental eye was not being sufficiently cleaned, leading to complications, and

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necessitating euthanasia prior to the planned experimental endpoint. The Department of Animal Resources (DAR) veterinary staff was not consulted regarding the animals' poor condition. Furthermore, the lab's written records did not reflect the true condition of the animals." The associated protocol states "all laboratory personnel will take the appropriate handling courses required to work on this protocol. In addition, we will ask the DAR to train the graduate students and faculty who will be responsible for monitoring the animals." Although the staff working on this protocol receive training, additional training is needed to prevent recurrence of these adverse events.

Failure to adequately train and instruct personnel conducting post-surgical care of rabbits, including identifying and reporting abnormal findings to the veterinary staff, may negatively impact the health and well-being of the animals. Training and instruction of personnel must include guidance in proper post-procedural care of animals.

To be corrected from this day forward 9/20/2024

2.33(b)(3) Critical

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

Although research team members completed daily observations and post-surgical treatments for three rabbits, #2327, #2326, and #2324, that underwent corneal laceration surgery on 3/11/2024, there was not direct and frequent communication, accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being conveyed to the attending veterinarian in a timely manner. Due to post-surgical complications observed on 4/4/2024 by a Department of Animal Resources (DAR) staff member and reported to a clinical veterinarian, these rabbits were humanely euthanized by the Department of Animal Resources (DAR) on 4/5/2024.

Facility records show these rabbits experienced post-surgical complications and the progression of these issues were not documented or reported to the veterinary staff. According to facility records, "a graduate student in the lab noticed the facial abnormality and mentioned it verbally, but it was not written on the Animal Care Sheet or documented anywhere." These rabbits underwent follow-up imaging that day... and their poor condition was not documented at that time either." Failure to have direct and frequent communication so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian, may negatively impact the health and well-being of the animals.

Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that includes daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian. To be corrected from this day forward 9/20/2024

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the facility representatives.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
1185	93-R-0020	001	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	11-SEP-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000008	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000023	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000029	<i>Acomys cahirinus</i>	CAIRO SPINY MOUSE
000002	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000016	<i>Dipodomys deserti</i>	DESERT KANGAROO RAT
000005	<i>Tupaia glis</i>	COMMON TREE SHREW
000006	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>	MONGOLIAN GERBIL
000089	Total	