



## Inspection Report

V A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE & STATE UNIVERSITY  
300 TURNER STREET N.W., SUITE 4120  
BLACKSBURG, VA 24061

Customer ID: **492**  
Certificate: **52-R-0012**  
Site: 001  
VIRGINIA TECH

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 05-JUL-2023

### 2.32(b) Critical

#### Personnel qualifications.

Inadequate training of animal husbandry staff regarding monitoring the health of gerbils led to three gerbils dying and two gerbils becoming ill and requiring supportive care. A total of 28 gerbils arrived on site March 28, 2023 and were weighed and evaluated by a clinical veterinarian. All gerbils appeared healthy upon arrival. During their acclimation period, husbandry staff were responsible for daily observations of each animal to ensure they were healthy. On April 4, 2023, research staff came in to perform initial weights for the study and found one female and one male gerbil dead in their cages. One male gerbil was severely ill and immediately euthanized, and two female gerbils required immediate supportive care and ultimately recovered. The following day, all husbandry staff underwent extensive training on April 5, 2023 which addressed daily monitoring and clinical signs of disease to look for in gerbils. The IACUC investigation into this adverse event concluded that prior to the adverse event, the husbandry staff were inadequately trained to recognize abnormal behaviors and health in gerbils. Additionally, not all husbandry staff that provided care during this time frame had received hands-on training for this species.

Appropriate training of all personnel responsible for the husbandry and health of a species is critical to ensure that daily observations are performed adequately and can recognize signs of distress or disease in animals quickly to implement interventions.

Correct by July 7, 2023 by ensuring that adequate training and instruction is made available and that the qualifications of personnel are reviewed with sufficient frequency to maintain adequate animal welfare and ensure compliance with sections 2.31 and 2.32 of the Animal Welfare Act.

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

Additional Inspectors:

Kristina D'Apice, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Prepared By: RACHEL PEREZ-BAUM  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:  
06-JUL-2023

Received by Title: IACUC Representative

Date:  
06-JUL-2023



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
492	52-R-0012	001	VIRGINIA TECH	05-JUL-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000000	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>	MONGOLIAN GERBIL
000029	<i>Equus caballus</i>	DOMESTIC HORSE
000041	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000048	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	DOMESTIC GUINEA PIG
000004	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>	SYRIAN / GOLDEN HAMSTER
000122	<b>Total</b>	