



Inspection Report

Walter S Terhune
2021 Plains Hwy
Dawson, GA 39842

Customer ID: **328129**
Certificate: **57-A-0199**
Site: 002
WALTER S TERHUNE

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION
Date: 08-OCT-2019

2.40(a)(1) DIRECT

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

A written program of veterinary care was not available for review at the time of inspection, therefore employment of an attending veterinarian with a formal arrangement could not be verified. The inspector spoke with the veterinarian the licensee referred to as his consultant, who could not say with certainty that he was currently employed under formal arrangements by this licensee. The veterinarian explained that he only once toured the facility in 2014 and later had sporadic conversations with the licensee about diseases, drugs and dosages. Per the veterinarian, it has now been 1.5 years since he had any contact with the licensee, consequently he has not since been consulted regarding sick animals, and has not recently prescribed or dispensed drugs to this licensee. During the inspection, 15 animals were identified as needing veterinary care and some were direct veterinary care issues.

A formal arrangement with a veterinarian and a written program of veterinary care are needed to establish an adequate standard of veterinary care for the animals on hand.

The licensee shall employ under formal arrangements a veterinarian knowledgeable about rabbit health. Such arrangement shall include a written program of veterinary care and regularly scheduled visits to the premises. To be corrected by October 18, 2019.

2.40(a)(2) DIRECT

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

The attending veterinarian has not been assured appropriate authority to ensure provision of adequate veterinary care:

- A two month old white, black and tan rabbit was observed in poor body condition with an unkempt hair coat. The licensee explained that the rabbit will be euthanized by decapitation with a lopper. The licensee stated that this is his normal method of euthanasia for young rabbits and had not spoken to his veterinarian about it. The inspector spoke to the veterinarian who explained that he did not discuss euthanasia with the licensee and he was not aware of the method used.

- Multiple other cases of animals with medical conditions that demonstrate the lack of veterinarian's authority are described in 2.40(b)(2), below.

When the veterinarian is not given the appropriate authority, the provision of veterinary care may be inadequate or

Prepared By: MAYARD STEPHANIE, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
13-JAN-2020

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6135

Received by Title: # 70192280000044164220

Date:
13-JAN-2020



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inappropriate. The licensee must assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use. To be corrected by October 14, 2019.

2.40(b)(2) DIRECT

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

In the facility, there were a number of animals the licensee identified as having a medical condition that had not been evaluated by a veterinarian:

- One black and white rabbit had a 90 degree head tilt, referred to as wry neck by the licensee that was creating an abnormal posture and gait. Three more rabbits were observed with the same condition. These rabbits were not given medications. If their condition worsened, the licensee stated that the rabbit will be euthanized. The licensee explained that he tried treatment in the past on other animals with the same condition, per the veterinarian's recommendation, but that did not work. When the inspector spoke with the veterinarian, he explained that he had recommended treatment with fenbendazole, dexamethasone and vitamins. The veterinarian was not aware that the licensee was no longer using this treatment and was not consulted on the new method of care.
- One grey rabbit was identified at the time of inspection with an excessive accumulation of thick brown crusty material in the right ear that was being held low. The licensee referred to the condition as being caused by ear mites. Two more rabbits were observed with the same condition. The licensee treated these rabbits with pour-on ivermectin during the inspection. The veterinarian did not advise the licensee on this method of treatment and was not aware that the facility's rabbits were affected with this condition.
- Several rabbits were heard sneezing throughout the facility. The licensee explained that he has given treatment in the past for respiratory disease per the veterinarian's recommendation but found that many affected and treated died. At this time, the licensee did not communicate this respiratory incident with the veterinarian, was not treating, and was contemplating forgoing treatment.
- The licensee is supplementing his water with hydrogen peroxide as a preventative measure that was not approved by the veterinarian.

The licensee has not sought veterinary care for these animals and is not currently treating or preventing medical conditions per a veterinarian's instruction. This could lead to inappropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose and treat diseases that can be detrimental to animal's health and well-being.

In cooperation with his attending veterinarian, the licensee must develop an adequate program of veterinary care that includes the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries.

Corrected at the time of exit briefing.

2.40(b)(3) DIRECT

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

Daily observations to assess animals' health and well-being are not being performed adequately. Additionally, there

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does not appear to be a mechanism in place for direct and frequent communication with the veterinarian. During the inspection, the following animals were identified in need of veterinary care, of which the licensee was not aware and was not treating:

- One black and white rabbit had a 90 degree head tilt towards the right resulting in abnormal posture and gait. A sticky yellowish opaque liquid was seen oozing out of his right eye. The skin around the eye was red and appeared irritated and inflamed.
- A white rabbit, huddled up in a corner, appearing lethargic, had a large amount of thick sticky yellowish opaque liquid oozing out of a mostly shut left eye. A significant amount of yellowish crusty material was attached to the top and bottom eyelid. The skin around the left eye was red and appeared irritated and inflamed.
- Another white rabbit had thick sticky yellowish opaque liquid oozing out of a mostly shut left eye. The skin around the eye was red and appeared irritated and inflamed.
- One white and tan rabbit, that was heard sneezing, had white opaque mucoid nasal discharge covering his right nostril.
- One tan rabbit had dried white mucoid discharge and hair mats around his nostrils
- One grey rabbit had an excessive accumulation of thick brown crusty material in the right ear that was being held low.
- A tan rabbit was found dead in his enclosure with fecal staining around his anus and the back of his hind limbs. In addition to the rabbits listed above, two more rabbits were seen with a moderate amount of dried brown opaque discharge staining the area about the nostrils and two more had an excessive accumulation of thick brown crusty material in an ear that was being held low.

The conditions affecting these rabbits were not identified by the licensee, therefore the veterinarian had not been contacted and care had not yet been provided. Failure to promptly identify diseases and injuries delays treatment and causes undue pain and distress in animals with conditions such as these listed here.

A more rigorous method of daily observation of all animals must be implemented in order to assess their health and well-being. Direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian is required for timely diagnosis and adequate medical attention. The currently affected animals need to be seen by a veterinarian for an appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan.

To be corrected by October 14, 2019

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the owner and Dr. Heather Cole, Supervisory Veterinary Medical Specialist, by phone conference.

A second exit interview will be conducted in person next week to discuss non-critical non-compliances.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
328129	57-A-0199	002	WALTER S TERHUNE	08-OCT-19

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
001655	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
001655	Total	