



Inspection Report

Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, Inc.
P.O. Box 207
Gulfport, MS 39502

Customer ID: **322997**
Certificate: **65-C-0540**
Site: 001
INSTITUTE FOR MARINE
MAMMAL STUDIES INC

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION
Date: 17-NOV-2022

2.131(b)(1) Critical

Handling of animals.

According to the Executive Director (ED) and documents provided, Jag, a 22yo male bottlenose dolphin died after an accidental submergence with inspiration of salt water.

The dolphin was undergoing treatment in the medical pool for a health condition and animal care staff, including trainers, were present to assist. Jag was voluntarily trained for the treatment and had received them in this pool previously without incident. The ED stated there has not been a malfunction of the restraint system of the medical pool during the 10 years of its use. Due to the frequency of the treatments, manual restraint was now required for Jag. While being handled for his therapy, Jag pushed through the trainers and swam beneath the false bottom of the pool enclosure. Despite immediate attempts to direct him out of the enclosure by opening the gates to adjacent pools and cutting the net of the false bottom, the animal expired. Corrective action has since been implemented to minimize the risk of animal injury while handled for medical treatment. The presence of animal care staff and trainers may not be sufficient to restrain a dolphin, especially under stressful conditions. A system should be in place to ensure safe handling of animals, especially while undergoing medical treatments. Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

Prepared By: JEFFREY LEE

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
23-NOV-2022

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
23-NOV-2022



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Correct from this time forward.

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

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
322997	65-C-0540	001	INSTITUTE FOR MARINE MAMMAL STUDIES INC	17-NOV-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN
000001	Total	