



## Inspection Report

Aaron K Esh  
110 Esh Lane  
Loganton, PA 17747

Customer ID: **502383**  
Certificate: **23-A-0656**  
Site: 001  
AARON K ESH

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 09-JAN-2020

### 2.40(b)(2) DIRECT

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

There were 2 guinea pigs observed with health conditions requiring treatment in accordance with the Program of Veterinary Care or consultation with the attending veterinarian. An adult brown and white guinea pig in pen 11 was observed with a right front foot that was swollen and red especially between the first and second digits. The guinea pig was observed to hold the leg up and was reluctant to place weight on it and was also licking and chewing at the leg with some moderate redness and hair loss on the upper part of the leg. In addition, in pen 7 there was a tan and white weanling with hair loss extending from behind the head to the rump especially on the left side and covering about 70% of it's body. The licensee had not contacted his attending veterinarian and was not administering any treatments.

Swollen feet can be painful and if caused by an infection, can worsen and spread to other parts of the body and result in other health issues. Hair loss can be a sign of numerous infectious and non-infectious causes and requires examination by a veterinarian and appropriate diagnostic testing to determine the underlying cause. Delays in providing appropriate veterinary care for these conditions can result in worsening of the condition and potentially spread to other unaffected animals if infectious in nature.

The licensee must communicate with the attending veterinarian to evaluate these animals and determine an appropriate plan for diagnosis and treatment.

Correct by: January 10, 2020

### 3.26(a) DIRECT

#### FACILITIES, INDOOR.

The temperature in the guinea pig housing facility was 52.9 degrees F as measured with a kestrel. There was a wall heater but the licensee had set it to be around 55 degrees F because he thought that was the minimum temperature required.

Guinea pigs kept in ambient temperatures that are too low may be subject to cold stress that may cause discomfort and predispose them to developing other health issues.

The ambient temperature in indoor housing facilities for guinea pigs must not fall below 60 degrees F.

Correct by: January 10, 2019

Prepared By: RADZAI CHRISTINA, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
13-JAN-2020

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6138

Received by Title: LICENSEE

Date:  
13-JAN-2020



## Inspection Report

---

### 3.26(b) DIRECT

#### FACILITIES, INDOOR.

Upon entry into the building housing the guinea pigs, the ammonia odor in the facility was enough to cause burning of the eyes and nose of the APHIS Inspectors performing the inspection. No fans, vents, or doors were observed to be open to allow proper ventilation of the room.

Buildings housing guinea pigs need to be adequately ventilated for the animals. Failure to do so can lead to respiratory distress and other health issues. Correct by increasing ventilation into the room to remove the excessive ammonia odor. Correct by January 11, 2020.

### 3.28(a)(1)

#### PRIMARY ENCLOSURES.

\*\*The feeders in Pens 6 and 15 both had areas where the metal was worn down on the sides of the feeders and had rusty, jagged edges. Since these worn sides were on the portion of the feeder that was on the inside of the pen, the animals in these pens were directly exposed to these rusty, jagged edges when eating from the feeders.

\*\*Four of the pens had separation of the bottom border of the wire mesh from the wooden frame of the guinea pig enclosures. In Pen 3, this separation occurred on two sides of the enclosure with one of the gaps measuring 4in between the wire and the frame. The gap on the other side of Pen 3 measured 1in as did the gaps between the wire mesh and the frame in the other three pens this was observed in.

Enclosures and items within them, including feeders, must be structurally sound and maintained in good repair. The worn down feeders can cause injury to the guinea pigs or increase incidence of illness as these feeders cannot be properly sanitized. The wire gaps in the enclosures can also cause injury by allowing the guinea pigs to escape or fall from their enclosures. Correct by repairing/replacing the feeders and wire mesh attachments. Correct by January 19, 2020.

### 3.30 REPEAT

#### WATERING.

There were 11 water bottles (approximately half) with an accumulation of green material coating the inside of the water bottle. In addition, the PVC piping around the nipples was coated with a large amount of wet brown debris both under the nipple and on the outside of the pipe which would be difficult for the animals to avoid stepping on or contacting when they try to drink from the nipples.

Failure to clean and sanitize water containers can result in disease spread and reduced potability of the water which can reduce water intake and negatively impact the health of the animals.

Water containers must be kept clean and sanitized as necessary to maintain the health and well-being of the animals.

---

Prepared By: RADZAI CHRISTINA, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
13-JAN-2020

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6138

Received by Title: LICENSEE

Date:  
13-JAN-2020



## Inspection Report

---

### 3.31(a)(1) DIRECT

#### **SANITATION.**

Several of the guinea pig enclosures had portions of the pens that were mats of solid fecal material with no clean bedding available. In Pen 8 housing 8 guinea pigs, the entire pen was a solid mat of feces with no clean bedding available for the guinea pigs to stand on and several guinea pigs in the enclosure were observed with the hair and skin on their legs completely wet and matted. Additionally, all of the guinea pig enclosures had spiderwebs present on the inside of the enclosures, adhered to the ceiling of the enclosure as well as the wire mesh on the sides of the enclosures. Debris and bedding were observed to be mixed in with these spiderwebs.

When asked about cleaning, the licensee stated that he was cleaning once a week but only sanitizing once a month.

Enclosures need to be cleaned and sanitized as often as necessary to prevent a build-up of debris and fecal material and sanitized at a minimum of once every two weeks. Failure to do so can have a negative impact on animal health through the increase in disease. Correct by cleaning all enclosures as often as necessary to prevent accumulations of fecal material and spiderwebs and by sanitizing at least once every two weeks. Correct from this day forward.

### 3.31(b)

#### **SANITATION.**

In the building housing the guinea pigs, there were accumulations of wet brown/yellow debris observed on the walls of the building, spiderwebs in corners and on shelving, and a build-up of wet grain and debris on the floor under the sink. Areas of rust were seen on the ceiling and there was hay scattered all across the floor of the building.

Buildings and grounds need to be kept clean and in good repair. Failure to do so can have a negative impact on the health of the animals by causing respiratory distress and other illnesses. Correct by cleaning the room, removing the spiderwebs, and repairing areas of rust on the ceiling. Correct by January 29, 2020.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee.

#### **Additional Inspectors**

Carlson Melissa, Veterinary Medical Officer

---

**Prepared By:** RADZAI CHRISTINA, D V M      USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Date:**  
13-JAN-2020

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6138

**Received by Title:** LICENSEE

**Date:**  
13-JAN-2020



## Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
502383	23-A-0656	001	AARON K ESH	09-JAN-20

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000176	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	DOMESTIC GUINEA PIG
<b>000176</b>	<b>Total</b>	