



## Inspection Report

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MOTE MARINE LABORATORY  
1600 Ken Thompson Parkway  
Sarasota, FL 34236

Customer ID: **909**  
Certificate: **58-C-0586**  
Site: 001  
MOTE MARINE LABORATORY

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION  
Date: 10-MAY-2023

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### 2.131(b)(1) Critical

#### Handling of animals.

The facility failed to handle a male manatee as expeditiously and carefully as possible to prevent trauma and physical harm, resulting in the death of the animal. On April 29, 2023, according to the accounts from facility representatives, employees observed high intensity sexual behavior between two adult male manatees, which resulted in rectal penetration of the smaller male, at approximately 10:00 am. Shortly after this interaction, employees collected a fecal sample from the smaller male and confirmed the presence of fresh blood. The sexual behavior continued throughout the day with periods of rest between high intensity interactions and occasional penetration. At approximately 5:15 pm, the larger male was observed penetrating the smaller male again. When the larger male swam away, the smaller male was seen unresponsive at the bottom of the pool. It was confirmed that he had passed. Preliminary necropsy reports identified a 14.5 cm tear in his colon, and other traumatic injuries, as the likely cause of death.

Proper handling of animals ensures that their mental and physical well-being is being provided for.

The licensee must ensure that all animals are handled as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does

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Prepared By: CHARLES PALMER  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

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Received by Title: Facility Representative

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not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. To be corrected from this day, April 15, 2023, forward.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

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### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
909	58-C-0586	001	MOTE MARINE LABORATORY	10-MAY-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	CARIBBEAN MANATEE
000001	<b>Total</b>	