

November 30, 1999

Annual report of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for the period of October 1, 1998, through September 30, 1999.

1. Statement of reasons for not using drugs in experiments involving pain and distress:

The NVSL's main function is the diagnosis of animal diseases. Drugs to alleviate pain and distress produced by the infectious disease agents used, are contraindicated as they suppress the immune system causing the disease to be more severe and run a longer course. Making the animals comfortable and disturbing them as little as possible provides better treatment to these animals and quicker recovery than occurs by administering pain relievers. The use of drugs such as anesthetics, tranquilizers, or analgesics could also interfere with the expression of the clinical signs, gross pathology, histopathology, and other assay for the diseases. Misdiagnosis could result in the use of more animals to repeat the testing. Euthanasia or curative treatments are employed as soon as allowed by the Animal Care and Use Committee approved animal use procedure.

2. Exceptions to adherence to the standards and regulations under the Act: None

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Optional Column E Explanation Form

This form is intended as an aid to completing the Column E explanation. It is not an official form and its use is voluntary. Names, addresses, protocols, veterinary care programs, and the like, are not required as part of an explanation. A Column E explanation must be written so as to be understood by lay persons as well as scientists.

1. Registration Number: 42-F-0004
2. Number 8 of animals used in this study.
3. Species (common name) Guinea pigs of animal used in this study.
4. Explain the procedure producing pain and/or distress.

Guinea pigs were given Mycobacterium isolates from submitted diagnostic cases for isolate identification and pathogenically testing. These isolates were from suspected tuberculosis cases in animals. Eight animal became sick from the testing.

5. Provide scientific justification why pain and/or distress could not be relieved. State methods or means used to determine that pain and/or distress relief would interfere with test results. (For Federally mandated testing, see question 6 below)

The disease must be allowed to manifest itself for diagnostic purposes.
Pain-alleviating drugs would interfere with the primary production of disease and present a biosafety hazard to personnel.

6. What, if any, federal regulations require this procedure? Cite the agency, the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) title number and the specific section number (e.g., APHIS, 9 CFR 113.102):

Agency _____ CFR _____