



Inspection Report

TRIPLE F FARMS INC

Customer ID: 17976

Certificate: 23-A-0312

Site: 001

TRIPLE F FARMS INC

3573 VETTER ROAD

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: Aug-23-2011

SAYRE, PA 18840

2.40 (b) (1)

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

Section 2.40 (b) (1) states - "Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (1) The availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services to comply with the provisions of this subchapter.

1. The 2 major survival surgery rooms at this facility were noted to be dirty. One room had wooden shavings and debris on the floor. In addition, there were boxes of medical supplies (non-sterile exam gloves and needles) and an assortment of other items that were also stored in the room. The other surgical room had an unsealed concrete floor and a stained dirty white plastic surgical table. The surgery rooms were not adequate to perform major survival surgery.

Per this Section of the Regulations, each dealer shall establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care that includes the availability of appropriate facilities to comply with the provisions of this subchapter. Major survival surgery must only be performed in facilities intended for that purpose that are operated and maintained under aseptic conditions to prevent post-operative infections and maintain the health of the animals.

No major operative procedures shall be done at the facility until corrections are made.

2. Two non-veterinary employees currently perform major operative procedure at the facility. It could not be determined how these employees were trained to perform these surgical procedures nor who trained the employees. As identified under Section 2.40 (b) (2) on this report, the techniques used by facility personnel to prepare and perform major operative procedures are not in accordance with the currently accepted veterinary medical procedures.

Per this Section of the Regulations, each dealer should establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care that includes the availability of appropriate personnel to comply with the provisions of this subchapter. All personnel who are responsible for providing veterinary medical care for the animals at a facility should be appropriately trained and qualified to perform their duties.

Correct immediately.

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2.40 (b) (2) DIRECT NCI

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

Section 2.40 (b) (2) states - "Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries."

1. Facility personnel perform spay operations, a major operative procedure. The surgical wound is closed using a single suture that incorporates both the abdominal musculature and the skin. This method of surgical wound closure is not in accordance with current established veterinary medical procedures. Improper closure of surgical incisions can lead to problems with wound healing and infection.

2. A major operative procedure is performed by personnel who do not wear sterile surgical gloves when performing the surgery and sterile drapes are not used to cover the surgical site. The animals are shaved and the skin is scrubbed in preparation for surgery in the same room where the surgery is performed. The table used to prepare the animals for surgery is also used when the surgical procedures are performed. The methods used at the facility for the surgical procedures are not in accordance with the currently established veterinary medical practice for performing major survival surgery. The use of aseptic procedures, that include the use of surgical gloves and aseptic techniques, is necessary to prevent both post-operative infections and problems with wound healing that can affect the health of the animals.

Per this Section of the Regulations, each dealer should establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care that includes the use of appropriate methods that are in accordance with established veterinary medical procedures to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries.

No major operative procedures shall be done at the facility until corrections are in place.

2.40 (b) (3) DIRECT NCI

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

Section 2.40 (b) (3) states - "Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

1. APHIS personnel identified several animals which had medical conditions that had not been previously recognized by facility personnel. These included the following animals:

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- a. A dead ferret was found in a cage containing 2 live ferrets and a dead ferret was found in another cage that contained 3 live ferrets.
 - b. One adult female ferret was observed having strong abdominal muscle contractions and severely straining as if trying to defecate or urinate. The animal appeared to be in distress and experiencing pain. The ferret's condition was pointed out to the Licensee two separate times before he/she told an employee to monitor the animal.
 - c. One adult male ferret was noted to be thin, very lethargic, poorly responsive and had sunken eyes.
 - d. Several ferrets were noted to have thick, white discharge from their eyes. Another ferret had one of its eyes closed. The eye conditions in these animals had not been previously recognized.
2. There was a note on an enclosure that said "skinny 8/12/11". The young ferret housed in the enclosure was noted to be thin and had small sunken eyes. There was no indication that the condition of the ferret had been communicated to the Attending Veterinarian.

Per this Section of the Regulations, all animals must be observed daily to assess their health and well-being and any information on problems of animal health should be directly communicated to the Attending Veterinarian for evaluation and assessment. The Licensee needs to ensure that all personnel who are responsible for the daily observation of animals to assess their health and well-being are familiar with this requirement for the health and welfare of the animals.

Correct immediately.

3.125 (a) DIRECT NCI FACILITIES, GENERAL.

Section 3.125 (a) states - "Structural strength. The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The indoor and outdoor housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals.

1. The enclosures in the birthing rooms are suspended approximately 4 feet above the floor and wooden shavings are placed on the floor to absorb urine and feces. The floors of the enclosures are made of 1x1 inch wire mesh. The small sized newborn ferrets can fit through the 1x1 openings in the floor and as a result some of the newborns fall onto the floor underneath the enclosures. Two newborn ferrets were found on the floor during the inspection and approximately 50 newborn ferrets that had been picked up off the floor that morning by facility personnel were inside a box with a heat source in one of the birthing rooms.
2. The post-weaning enclosures have floors made of 1x1 inch size wire mesh. The size of the wire mesh allowed the feet and/or legs of some of the weaned ferrets to pass through the 1x1 openings that has the potential to result in an injury to the animals.
3. The enclosures are constructed of wire mesh panels and have plastic panel dividers between adjacent enclosures. Metal clips are used to secure adjacent panels together. Some of the wire clips were broken and as a

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result there were gaps between adjacent panels or under the plastic dividers along the floor of the enclosure. The gaps between the panels are a risk for possible entrapment of a limb, foot, or tail that could lead to an injury. In addition an animal could squeeze through the gap and escape from the enclosure.

4. One young weaned ferret had gotten inside the PVC tube feeder in its enclosure. The animal was vocalizing and trying to get back out of the feeder. The feeder had to be removed from the enclosure by facility personnel in order to free the animal.

Per this Section of the Regulations, indoor facilities should be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals. The Licensee needs to address these items for the health and safety of the animals.

Correct items 1 through 4 by 9/7/11.

3.129 (b)

FEEDING.

Section 3.129 (b) states - "Food, and food receptacles, if used, shall be sufficient in quantity and located so as to be accessible to all animals in the enclosure and shall be placed so as to minimize contamination.

1. The enclosures housing mothers and their kits have a nest box containing wooden shaving bedding. Food receptacles containing special weanling diet were placed in the nest box. Wooden shavings got mixed in with the diet when the kits came over to eat.

2. The lower portion of at least two PVC pipe feeders were separated. As a result, the kibble feed came out of the feeders and fell onto the floor. The young ferrets housed in the enclosures did not have access to any food.

Per this Section of the Regulations, food and food receptacles shall be placed to minimize contamination and ensure sufficient quantity of food.

Correct by 8/26/11.

3.130

WATERING.

Section 3.130 states - "Watering. If potable water is not accessible to the animals at all times, it must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal. Frequency of watering shall consider age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary.

1. The enclosures have an automatic water lixit system. Water bowls are also placed in the weaned animals

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enclosures to provide a source of water while the newly weaned animals become familiar with the lixit system. Some of the water receptacles were not placed inside a holder and as a result the water bowls had been tipped over and some of the bowls were empty.

Per this Section of the Regulations, water should be accessible and provided as often as necessary based on the age and condition of the animals. Correct immediately.

3.131 (c) SANITATION.

Section 3.131 (c) states - "Housekeeping. Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in this subpart.

1. There was an excessive build-up of dust, fur, and wood shavings on the surfaces of the exhaust fans, wall mounted heaters and the tops of the enclosures in some rooms.

Per this Section of the Regulations, premises should be kept clean. These areas need to be cleaned more frequently to facilitate prescribed husbandry practices. Correct from this date forward.

3.132 EMPLOYEES.

Section 3.132 states - "Employees. A sufficient number of adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices set forth in this subpart. Such practices shall be under a supervisor who has a background in animal care.

1. The findings identified during the inspection indicate that there is an insufficient number of employees to care for the number of animals on the premises.

Per this Section of the Regulations, there should be a sufficient number of employees at a facility in order to maintain an acceptable level of husbandry and animal care. The Licensee needs to address this issue for the health of the animals on the premises.

Correct by 9/24/11

NOTE - This inspection was conducted 8/23/11 and 8/24/11. Exit interview held 8/24/11 on-site with facility personnel and APHIS personnel Drs. Paula S. Gladue, Michael J. Smith, and Robert A. Willems. END OF REPORT

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