



University of Texas
Medical Branch at Galveston
301 University Blvd.
Galveston, TX 77550

CITATION AND NOTIFICATION OF PENALTY

We believe that you violated the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (AWA), as described below.

Date of Violation: March 13, 2013

9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1) Handling of animals.

(b)(1) 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.

You failed to handle animals as carefully as possible. Five of forty guinea pigs died when staff members stacked several enclosures on top of each other and transferred them from one room to another. The only ventilation for each enclosure was located on its top.

Date of Violation: On or about November 17, 2015 to December 15, 2015

9 C.F.R. § 2.31(c)(7) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

(c) IACUC functions. With respect to activities involving animals, the IACUC, as an agent of the research facility, shall:

(7) Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the care and use of animals in ongoing activities.

You failed to secure IACUC approval prior to making significant changes regarding the care and use of animals used in ongoing activities. Protocols 1507043 and 1507044 indicated that you would increase animal observations at the onset of clinical signs, but forty-nine animal records did not document these increased observations. In addition, the scoring sheet used to record animal observations did not correlate with the project specific scoring sheet approved for use in these protocols.

Date of Violation: On or about November 24, 2015 to December 15, 2015

9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b)(3) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

(b) Each research facility 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

You failed to provide direct and frequent communications to the attending veterinarian. Staff members did not notify the attending veterinarian when nine of twenty-five guinea pigs used during protocol 1507043 died. The protocol stated death was not the end point of the study.

Date of Violation: On or about December 4-12, 2015

9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b)(3) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

(b) Each research facility 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

You failed to provide direct and frequent communications to the attending veterinarian. Staff members failed to notify the attending veterinarian when ten of twenty-four guinea pigs used during protocol 1507044 died. The protocol stated death was not the end point of the study.

Date of Violation: January 20, 2016

9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1) Handling of animals.

(b)(1) 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.

You failed to handle animals as carefully as possible. When staff members moved a sheep from one enclosure to another enclosure, the sheep jumped over the temporary ramp used to facilitate the movement between the uneven surfaces of the enclosures. The sheep sustained a leg fracture that required euthanasia.

The penalty for the alleged violation(s) described above is \$33,000.