



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

## Companion Animal/Equine Division

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW, Rm. 122 Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Phone: 1-404-656-4914

Website: <http://agr.georgia.gov/>

Gary W. Black  
Commissioner

Inspection ID **52159**

### Animal Protection Inspection Report

Inspection ID	Inspection Reason	Inspection Date	Inspection Start Time	Inspection End Time	Inspector Name
52159	CONSUMER COMPLAINT	11/30/2017	9:45 AM	11:00 AM	Bame Nissa
EST NO		EST NAME		Type	License No
96126		SUN PET LTD		BIRD DEALER	3796126
Physical Address		Physical City	Physical State	Physical Zip Code	County
3775 Zip Industrial Boulevard SE		Atlanta	GA	30354	FULTON

#### Requirements Details

Premises	Current License Displayed	Housekeeping	Lighting	Adequate Temperature Control	Adequate Ventilation	Fire Extinguishing Device				
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Enclosures	Space Requirement	Interior Surface	Structural Strength	Shelter / Elements	Drainage					
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Performance	Record Keeping	Storage	Pest Control	Sanitation	Waste Disposal					
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Animal Care	Class Separation	Adequate Food	Adequate Water	Selling or Adopting Injured or Diseased or Abnormal Animals	Minimum Age	Tethering	Euthanasia	Humane Care	Negative Coggins	Evacuation Plan
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### Companion Animal Details

Number of Animals	Number of Stall/Enclosure	Number of Breeding Animals	Number of Monthly Bird Inventory

#### Follow Up Status Information

Follow Up Date	Follow Up Reason	Follow Up Duration	Animal Types
	N/A		

#### Follow Up Notes

#### Action Information

Quarantine Issued	SS (Stop Sale)	SU (Stop Use)	SM (Stop Movement)	Quarantine Issue Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Disease type				



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Complaint Unfounded	Complaint Resolved	Complaint Resolved Date	Complaint Reference Number
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		1097663232687

### Action Notes

### Violation Information

### Inspection Comments

#### Initial Complaint:

- Workers kicked hamsters, rats, mice, and guinea pigs, who frequently escaped from tubs or were dropped by employees. They set out poisons for these animals and, at times, put those who were exposed to the poisons back into the bins from which orders were packed.
- The small-animal building was so filthy that it appeared to be hazardous to both animals and workers. Dead animals were found in the toilet of its bathroom, which was virtually unusable.
- Entire tubs of hamsters drowned after water leaked through a roof.
- Employees drew blood from animals and gassed others to death in the break room while other workers ate lunch. The gas chamber was cracked, which allowed gas to escape, exposing workers and prolonging the animals' deaths.
- Many animals, including those who were shipped to stores, were "sickly" and kept in severely crowded tubs, where conditions were apparently so stressful that they cannibalized one another.

Complaint Reference Number: 1097663232687

#### Investigation:

Accompanied by inspector Jason Smith.

As inspector Smith and I approached the building I observed the premise appeared to be clean and in good repair. President/general manager, Barry Wisebram, and department manager of small animals, Scott Goodson, were standing outside of the building upon our arrival. Inspector Smith and I introduced ourselves and explained the complaint which we received. Barry and Scott explained that in the main building is where they house their fish and reptiles; the building directly next door is where small animals are housed; and the building across the street is where birds are housed. As we entered the building, we were in the main office area which appeared to be clean and in good repair. I observed that there were three big fish tanks in the main office area which appeared to be clean and in a good state of repair. Inspector Smith checked the main entrance bathroom which he stated appeared to be in good repair. We then entered into the main employee break room. When we entered the break room, I observed that it appeared clean and odorless. I did not observe any animals or animals being medicated in the break room.

Inspector Smith, Barry, and I continued onto the fish room, I observed all tanks to be clean and in a good state of repair. I observed that all fish appeared to have sufficient space to turn and swim comfortably. Upon investigation, employees were actively cleaning and feeding. Humane care was observed by employees handling fish. Barry explained that the back wall was their fish quarantine area. In the corner of the back wall, there was a red pipe which appeared to be corroded. Barry stated that the corrosion happens because of the high humidity in this section of the facility due to the many fish tanks; Barry stated that they are constantly cleaning and repainting that area. Barry showed inspector Smith and I that all cleaning chemicals are kept in a sealed plastic closet away from all fish tanks when not in use. I did observe algae in between a few fish tanks. Barry explained that the algae is not on the inside but is from water leaking onto the outside of the tanks in between the panels that connect the tanks. I observed algae water under some tanks which did not have any fish housed in them; Barry explained this is their filtered water system and all water gets filtered and recycled. I observed that there was crushed up coal on the ground. Barry explained that when fish are shipped over, some fish come with crushed coals for transport which fall onto the floor when putting fish into enclosures; Barry stated they are regularly cleaned up by employees. Barry stated that fish are packed in special shipment water when being shipped out. Barry stated that all shipments are made within 24 hours but as a precaution ship as though they will be traveling for 48 hours. Fish appeared to be being packed by employees humanely. No signs of disease or illness observed.

Inspector Smith, Barry, and I then went to investigate the reptile room. Reptile manager, Paul Lord, was onsite during out



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investigation. Upon investigation, employees were actively cleaning enclosures and feeding. I observed all tanks appeared to be clean and in a good state of repair. I did not observe any animals loose/roaming the room. All reptiles appear to be receiving adequate food and water. Paul explained that they keep all food in the kitchen; all fresh veggies for reptiles are kept in the fridge and all dry reptile food in sealed containers. Humane care of reptiles observed. No signs of illness or disease observed.

After investigation the reptile room inspector Smith, Barry, and I met back up with the department's manager of small animals, Scott Goodson. Scott escorted us to the building next door which houses all small animals. Scott explained they have started renovating the employee break room, bathroom, and animal hospital room. Scott explained that the employee break room and animal hospital room will be separated by a door. Scott explained that because the bathroom has been closed for reconstruction, all employees that work in that building are required to use the main buildings bathroom. Scott explained that their ventilation system does not recycle air but circulates new air to limit cross contamination and have consistent fresh air flow. Upon investigation, employees appeared to be actively cleaning animal enclosures. All small animal enclosures appeared to be clean and in a good state of repair. All small animals appear to be receiving adequate food and water. All small animals' food appeared to be kept by each animal's enclosure in a sealed trash container to keep out pests. Scott explained that all waste is thrown away into a dumpster. I asked Scott about leaking roofs leaking into animal enclosures; Scott stated that he has not had any leaks down out animal enclosures and that when they do have leaks they patch up the ceilings with boards. I did not observe any loose or free roaming animals in this building. All small animals appear to be receiving humane care by employees. No signs of illness or disease observed.

Inspector Smith, Scott, Barry, and I then went to the bird building located across the street. Upon investigation employees appeared to be actively cleaning enclosures. All bird rooms/enclosures appear to be clean and in a good state of repair. Food appeared to be kept on the outside of each bird room. Scott explained that they have the same ventilation system set up in the bird building as the small animal building: circulation of fresh air. The bathrooms in the bird building appeared to be clean and in good repair. I did not observe any loose or free roaming animals in the bathroom or around the building. Birds appear to be receiving humane care from employees. No signs of illness or disease observed.

Scott explained that the bird building also has the veterinarian's office in it where vets conduct their disease testing and paperwork. Scott stated that they have a veterinarian for each animal species. Scott and Barry stated that they have a vet come to check each species at least once a week if not more. Scott stated they use Dr. Diaz for reptiles, Dr. Richie for birds, Dr. Mimi Shepard for all animals, and a fish specialist who comes in from Florida to inspect the fish.

Inspector Smith and I asked Barry and Scott if they had heard of any inhumane animal treatment by their employees. Barry and Scott stated that they had not heard anything about any of their employees mistreating animals. Barry gave me copy of their employee contract which states that if any employee feels they do not have enough training in animal care or see another employee treating animals inhumanely, they must report it IMMEDIATELY to general manager, Barry. The employee contract also states that any behavior which risks animal health/welfare will be considered grounds for immediate termination.

I will continue to monitor Sun Pet LTD.

Fulton County Animal Services has been informed of the situation.

GDA Supervisor, Mike Lurey and GDA Companion Animal manager, Mark Murrah, have been informed of the situation.

A copy of this report will be emailed to Barry at: [barry@sunpet.com](mailto:barry@sunpet.com) and to Fulton County Animal Services director, Lara Hudson at: [lara.hudson@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:lara.hudson@fultoncountyga.gov).