



Inspection Report

Sun Pet Ltd
3765 Zip Industrial Blvd
Atlanta, GA 30354

Customer ID: **35765**
Certificate: **57-B-0146**
Site: 001
SUN PET LTD

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 29-JUL-2021

2.40(b)(3) Direct

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

During inspection, the following were found:

- One hamster was seen to have an excessively swollen red right eye that it could not open. The entire right side of his face was also swollen.
- In two separate enclosures, two different hamsters appeared unthrifty, underweight and each with a wet belly and tail trying to clean themselves of the wetness/discharge.
- A thin unthrifty robo dwarf female hamster was found lying on its side not moving in the back of the enclosure. Once roused, she stood unmoving with her eyes closed appearing dull and lethargic.
- One unthrifty dwarf hamster was found in a corner at the back of an enclosure with a mostly hairless face and reddened/crusty skin underneath.
- A teddy bear hamster with approximately 50 percent of its hair missing appeared thin and unkempt.
- A black and white female rabbit housed singly in an enclosure was noted to have increased respiratory effort with yellow nasal discharge and yellow crust present around her right eye.
- 22 hamster enclosures were found to have cannibalism occurring in them. One enclosure had a hamster that was actively being cannibalized while it was still alive and another enclosure had active cannibalism of a recently deceased

Prepared By: LISA EKMAN
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:
04-AUG-2021

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
04-AUG-2021



Inspection Report

hamster. Two enclosures had approximately 8 pieces of deceased hamster with 7 alive hamsters remaining. One enclosure had a recently deceased hamster located under the feed bin. Another enclosure had deceased hamster pieces in the feed bin on top of the pellets for consumption and in the bedding material as well. The rest of the enclosures had varying amounts of deceased hamster pieces in the enclosures with the remaining alive hamsters.

The conditions affecting these animals were not identified by the licensee, therefore the veterinarian had not been contacted and care had not yet been provided. Failure to promptly identify diseases and injuries delays treatment and causes undue pain and distress in animals with conditions such as these listed here. A more rigorous method of daily observation of all animals must be implemented in order to properly assess their health and well-being. Direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian is required for timely diagnosis and adequate medical attention. The animals identified during this inspection noted above were taken by the licensee for veterinary assessment and care at the time of the inspection.

CORRECTION DATE: BY 08/05/2021

3.25(a)

Facilities, general.

4 hamster enclosures were found to have full thickness cracks in the plastic enclosure from the base up the side to the top. There was enough of a gap for a body part of a hamster to slip through and get injured or in some cases escape could occur.

Injury can occur from falls while escaping through the cracks or from exposure to the sharp edges of the plastic. All primary enclosures must be maintained in good repair and must properly contain the animals. Additionally, ensure worn enclosures are replaced when necessary.

CORRECTION DATE: Corrected at time of inspection

3.31(b)

Prepared By: LISA EKMAN
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:
04-AUG-2021

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
04-AUG-2021



Inspection Report

Sanitation.

Some areas, mainly near the feed storage area, was in need of cleaning:

- Spilled pellet feed that was soft and covered with green fuzz was noted on the floor underneath the storage rack for pelleted feed.
- At a storage pallet, spilled cut carrots were found on the ground between a pallet and storage rack. A few pieces of the cut carrots appeared black and had attracted flies.
- Along the wall that stored feed, below a wheeled ladder, two rodent corpses were found that were dry and flattened.

Accumulations of spilled feed and debris can lead to attraction of vermin/pests that can lead to the spread of disease to the animals. Premises shall be kept clean and shall remain free of accumulations of trash, deceased rodents and spilled feed.

CORRECTION DATE: BY 08/18/2021

3.130 Direct

Watering.

10 female gerbils, housed in the same enclosure, appeared thin, unthrifty, and unable to reach their water lixit due to its height in the enclosure. Upon placing a stainless steel step in the enclosure below the waterer to allow access, all the gerbils ran to the corner with the waterer and drank voraciously.

The gerbils had no other access to water other than the one water lixit that was too high for them to reach. This lack in water access severely impacted the welfare of these gerbils as evidenced by their unkempt appearance. Providing sufficient quantity and access to water is important for their comfort and health. All water receptacles must be accessible to all the animals in an enclosure.

CORRECTION DATE: Corrected at time of inspection

3.39(a)

Prepared By: LISA EKMAN
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
04-AUG-2021

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
04-AUG-2021



Inspection Report

Care in transit.

Hamster enclosures on a ground transport vehicle preparing to leave on a six hour journey were stacked on a pallet that were 7 enclosures high, 3 enclosures across and 4 enclosures deep wrapped loosely in a mesh material. The driver stated they stop and visually check the animals once every hour but the 2 center stacks composed of 14 enclosures could not be observed since the pallets would not be unloaded during those checks. Therefore, during transport, the animals in the center enclosures could not be assessed for signs of physical distress, to determine if any veterinary care was needed, or to assess the ambient temperature in the center.

Not having access to the center enclosures on the pallet does not allow for sufficient observation of the animals for signs of distress or injury.

All animals should be observed in the ground transportation vehicle at least once every 4 hours.

CORRECTION DATE: BY 08/18/2021

3.41(c)

Handling.

Many hamster transport enclosures were stacked in an unstable manner on the loading dock prior to departure. The transport enclosures were stacked six enclosures high (each enclosure containing 10 hamsters), in a manner that was stacked off center and unevenly as the stack got higher and was swaying slightly in the breeze of a large fan that was present on the loading dock. The enclosures were stacked in a manner which may reasonably be expected to result in their falling.

During the inspection, an employee was seen picking up hamster transport enclosures to stack on the loading dock only using one handle which caused the enclosures to tilt almost vertically and roughly putting them into place. The licensee addressed the employee immediately for correction.

Stacking enclosures in a manner that could result in a fall and improper handling of transport enclosures can cause

Prepared By: LISA EKMAN
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:
04-AUG-2021

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
04-AUG-2021



Inspection Report

additional stress and/or injury to the animals inside.

The licensee must ensure that the animal enclosures will be properly stacked and handled in the future.

CORRECTION DATE: BY 08/18/2021

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

STEPHANIE MAYARD, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Gervais Edmonds-Wiggins, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Prepared By: LISA EKMAN
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Date:
04-AUG-2021

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
04-AUG-2021



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
35765	57-B-0146	001	SUN PET LTD	29-JUL-2021

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000043	<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG (MOST COMMON PET HEDGEHOG)
000853	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	DOMESTIC GUINEA PIG
002602	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>	SYRIAN / GOLDEN HAMSTER (COMMON PET/RESEARCH TYPE)
000182	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000897	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>	MONGOLIAN GERBIL (COMMON PET / RESEARCH VARIETY)
000425	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	DOMESTIC FERRET
007866	<i>Phodopus roborovskii</i>	ROBOROVSKI'S DWARF HAMSTER
012868	Total	