



Inspection Report

Franklin Stary Wilma Stary
416 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HALLETTSVILLE, TX 77964

Customer ID: **4898**
Certificate: **74-A-0948**
Site: 001
FRANKLIN & WILMA STARY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 09-FEB-2022

2.40(b)(3) Direct

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

Over the course of the inspection, approximately 10 deceased sugar gliders were observed in enclosures throughout the facility grounds that were in varying stages of advanced decomposition ranging from recent, to dried out husks, to noticeable skeletons. In each case, the employee accompanying the inspector had been previously unaware that the animal had perished. In some cases, rooms in which were inspected were told to have only been cleaned and sanitized once every three weeks, the advanced decomposing bodies, along with the buildup of feces, food, hair and other debris prove that daily observations are not being conducted. Without proper daily observation to assess the animals there is no effective way to gauge the health and well being of the animals. There is no effective way to treat or assess a sick or injured animal in a timely manner, and there is no effective way to communicate in a timely manner any issues that may arise to the attending veterinarian. Beginning immediately, daily observation of all animals throughout the facility and direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian must begin. By end of business day on 2.11.2022, a veterinarian must assess and begin treatment of the animals within the facility and provide a statement on the overall safety, health, and care of the animals.

3.131(a) Direct

Sanitation.

Prepared By: BRENTON COX
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:
10-FEB-2022

Received by Title: Employee

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10-FEB-2022



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During the course of the inspection, an overall and severe lack of sanitation was witnessed. The sugar gliders are provided food in small bowls. These animals often rake the food out, which collects in a tray under the cage, along with animal excreta. In most cases, the trays were full to overflowing with food, something that would take days or weeks to accumulate considering the small amount of food the animals require on a daily basis. Excreta and hair were observed collected and caught through the wire floors of most cages, and a dried brown mushy substance which had the appearance of dried fecal material was present on the tops of a majority of the nesting structures inside the cages which are round capped pieces of pvc pipe, approximately 4-5 inches round. Pests and rodents were present and feeding off of the excreta and food waste. The overall smell of waste throughout the enclosed facility rooms was very pungent and overwhelming causing discomfort to the inspector. The odor was still present on the inspector and his clothes even after several hours after the inspection. The employee accompanying the inspector informed him that due to a lack of employees, some of the rooms are only cleaned as often as once every three weeks. Inadequate sanitation poses a direct health and safety hazard not only to the animals, but to employees as well. The atmosphere itself can become dangerous and can cause serious respiratory problems or death. Animals that are subjected to soiled enclosures, and food can become distressed, or sick. By close of business on 2.11.2022, all animals at the facility must be provided access to a clean and sanitary portion of their individual enclosure. By 2.16.2022, all enclosures and rooms must be adequately cleaned and sanitized and a proper sanitation program must be maintained from this point on.

3.131(d) Direct Sanitation.

Throughout the facility grounds, inside the individual animal rooms, inside the washout trench tubes and inside both empty and occupied enclosures, there were an insects, small black worms, and mice observed in an amount which was too numerous to count. Mice were observed inside a hole in the wall in one room. An uncalculatable amount of bugs appearing to be small roaches were inside the trays underneath the sugar glider cages. In some instances, many insects

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were seen inside occupied cages with the gliders. Insects were also observed in many food bowls which can and will contaminate the animals food source. One cage that contained the carcass of a sugar glider also contained a live mouse directly under the carcass. Several deceased insects and mice were observed in varying stages of decomposition indicating that this is a chronic and ongoing problem. The employee stated that boric acid is sprinkled in corners and against walls and that the buildings are very old and the issue has been ongoing. Without adequate pest control, the animals within the facility are in severe risk of being exposed to disease, and parasites. Sugar gliders are at risk to being injured or killed by rodents or large numbers of insects. Food and enclosures are become contaminated. By close of business on 2.11.2022, a more effective pest and parasite control plan must be established and implemented. A statement of this plan must be provided to the inspector.

3.132 Direct Employees.

During the inspection of the facility several significant noncompliant items directly affecting the health and safety of the animals housed within were observed. After speaking with the licensees and two employees of the facility it was learned that the licensee has had difficulty finding employees to work at the facility. In some cases, rooms in which were inspected were told to have only been cleaned and sanitized once every three weeks. The amount of animals at the facility cannot be properly and adequately taken care of with the amount of employees available. The facility must have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees in order to maintain the acceptable levels of husbandry practices set forth in the animal welfare act regulations. Correct by close of business on 2.11.2022

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with site employee.

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Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:
10-FEB-2022

Received by Title: Employee

Date:
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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
4898	74-A-0948	001	FRANKLIN & WILMA STARY	09-FEB-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
004925	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	SUGAR GLIDER
004925	Total	



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Customer ID: **4898**
Certificate: **74-A-0948**
Site: 001
FRANKLIN & WILMA STARY

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION
Date: 14-FEB-2022

2.40(b)(2) Direct

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

Over the course of this inspection several adult sugar gliders were found to have serious eye lesions. The lesions have not been observed by the facility and therefore no medical care has been provided. These animals are housed in a large building divided into several rooms kept in unsanitary conditions with extensive buildup of excreta and food all over their cages and an infestation of mice and roaches.

Inside room 3, an adult grey-yellow with black stripe sugar glider (cage ID #166) has a sunken right eye. A white patch covers the entire surface of the eyeball giving it a milky color. The area around the eye is reddened with watery discharge.

Inside room 4, there is an adult grey-yellow with black stripe sugar glider (cage ID #25) with the right eye completely shut and sunken in. There is no bulging appearance which gives the impression the eye is missing, or it has ruptured. There is a dark yellow staining of the skin around the eye. The animal has also long nails that must be trimmed. A second adult grey-yellow with black stripe sugar glider (cage ID #268) has watery eyes and a sunken left eye. A white patch covers the entire surface of the eyeball giving it a bluish coloration. This tissue appears to be inflamed around both eyes.

Inside room 7, an adult yellow sugar glider (cage ID #45) has an extensive lesion on the left eye. The hair around the eyeball is missing and the skin is swollen, red and moist. The eyeball is sunken in and barely visible. There is yellow discharge and dark crusty material around the eye. When light was shined directly to the eye, the animal quickly moved away and sought cover to avoid the light. A second adult grey-yellow with black stripe sugar glider (cage ID #38) has

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asymmetrical eyes. The right eye is swollen, and the left eye is sunken in with white opacity inside the eyeball.

Eye lesions can be very painful and indicative of an underlying disease. The animals must be examined by a veterinarian immediately for diagnosis and treatment.

To be corrected by February 16th, 2022.

2.40(b)(3) Direct Repeat

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

Over the course of this inspection a total of 5 adult sugar gliders were found to have lesions on one or both of their eyes. The lesions have not been observed by the facility prior to inspection and occurred prior to the daily observation for that day. The lesions range from missing eyeballs to loss of the normal structure of the eye. These lesions can be very painful and impair the vision of the animal. Without proper daily observation to assess the animals there is no effective way to gauge the health and well being of the animals. There is no effective way to treat or assess a sick or injured animal in a timely manner, and there is no effective way to communicate in a timely manner any issues that may arise to the attending veterinarian. Ensure daily observation of all animals throughout the facility and direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian when needed.

3.126(b) Direct

Facilities, indoor.

The overall odor from the waste and lack of sanitation throughout the indoor facility was extremely pungent and overwhelming. This caused discomfort to both inspectors and they had to wear N95 masks throughout the inspection of the indoor facility. Several rooms had open windows and box fans. The rooms with open windows or fans in use had a decrease in odor. Some of the windows are in disrepair and do not open. The odor was still present on the inspectors and their clothes even several hours after the inspection. The employee accompanying the inspectors informed them that due to a lack of employees, some of the rooms are only cleaned as often as once every three weeks. Inadequate sanitation

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increases noxious odors in the rooms. Inadequate ventilation poses a direct health and safety hazard to the animals. Multiple animals on inspection were seen with ocular problems which could be a result from inadequate ventilation. The licensee must provide adequate ventilation for all housing facilities to ensure the health and prevent the discomfort of all animals at all times. Correct by 02.16.2022

3.131(a) **Direct** **Repeat**

Sanitation.

During the course of the focused inspection, there continued to be an overall and severe lack of sanitation in the following cages.

Room 1: Cage #42 with 2 Gliders

Room 2: Cage #133 with 2 Gliders

Room 4: Cage #54 with 2 Gliders

Cage #187 with 2 Gliders

Cage #25 with 1 Gliders

Room 7: Cage #84 with 2 Gliders

Room 9: Cage 240 with 2 Gliders

Room 10: Cage #436 with 2 Gliders

During the course of the focused inspection, one Sugar Glider food receptacle in Room 2, cage # 69 housing 2 Gliders was observed as having a dark brown crusty organic buildup inside the receptacle that was neither the size, shape, color, or texture of the dry food used. An additional food receptacle in Room 10, cage # 56 housing 2 Gliders was approximately half way full of a wet mushy tannish substance that had neither the look, texture, shape or color of the dry

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food used.

Excreta and hair were observed collected in those above mentioned cages and caught through the wire floors of most cages, and a dried brown mushy substance which had the appearance of dried fecal material was present on the tops of a majority of the nesting structures inside the cages which are round capped pieces of pvc pipe, approximately 4-5 inches round. The animals within those cages listed above were not provided any clean and sanitary space within the cage in which to sit, stand, rest, move, or otherwise make normal postural adjustments. Animals that are subjected to soiled enclosures and food can become distressed, or sick. All enclosures and food receptacles must be cleaned and sanitized as often as necessary to provide for the health and well being of the animals housed within.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with licensee.

Additional Inspectors:

NIANET CARRASQUILLO, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:
15-FEB-2022

Received by Title: Licensee

Date:
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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
4898	74-A-0948	001	FRANKLIN & WILMA STARY	14-FEB-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
004925	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	SUGAR GLIDER
004925	Total	



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Customer ID: **4898**
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Site: 001
FRANKLIN & WILMA STARY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 24-FEB-2022

2.40(b)(2) **Direct** **Repeat**

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

Over the course of this inspection 2 adult sugar gliders were found to have previously unobserved, undiagnosed and untreated eye conditions. These animals are housed in a large building divided into several rooms kept in unsanitary conditions with extensive buildup of excreta and food all over their cages and an infestation of mice and roaches.

Inside room 4, an sugar glider (cage ID #161) has a sunken and open right eye. A whitish wet concave organic matter occupies the eye socket, while the other eye is round and dark and healthy.

Inside room 7, there is an adult sugar glider (cage ID #13) with the right eye has a greyish milky hue to it while the left is dark and healthy.

Additionally, 6 sugar gliders were observed as having wet fur and bodies. In none of these occasions was there a leaking water source in or around the cages.

Inside room 1, a sugar glider (cage id#45) was observed being wet throughout more than a third of its body. It was visibly shaking and a mushy, runny, dried brownish organic material indicative of animal excreta was seen on top of the nesting tube.

Inside room 3, a sugar glider (cage id#63) was observed being wet throughout the bottom half of the animal. The animal

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did not react when coaxed.

Inside room 10, a sugar glider (cage id#171) was observed as being wet and had the appearance of having a thin and poor body condition. Its hip bones were observed through its skin and wet fur.

Inside room 10, (cage id#225), 2 sugar gliders were observed as being wet throughout their entire body. A reddish wet protrusion extended from one of their noses.

Inside room 10, a sugar glider (cage id#597) was observed as being wet throughout its entire body and a wet, loose brownish organic material indicative of animal excreta was observed inside the nesting tube with the animal.

Finally, inside room 4, a sugar glider (cage id#53) was observed as having a dark reddish, crusty organic material on top of its head where there appeared to be no hair, and reddish inflamed skin underneath.

The above listed unobserved abnormalities can be indicative of an underlying disease, injury or illness. The animals must be examined by a veterinarian immediately for diagnosis and treatment.

To be corrected by Close of business, 2/25/2022

2.40(b)(3) Direct Repeat
Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

Over the course of this inspection a total of 2 adult sugar gliders were found to have abnormal discoloration of one eye or seeming lack of on one of their eyes.

6 sugar gliders were found to be wet, shaking or thin, 1 of these also had a small red protrusion on the tip of the nose.

1 sugar glider had a dark red crusty spot on its head with some hair loss.

These animals have not been observed by the facility prior to inspection. These abnormalities can be very can cause discomfort, pain, impair the vision of the animal, or otherwise be an underlying symptom of an illness, injury or disease.

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Without proper daily observation to assess the animals there is no effective way to gauge the health and well being of the animals. There is no effective way to treat or assess a sick or injured animal in a timely manner, and there is no effective way to communicate in a timely manner any issues that may arise to the attending veterinarian. Ensure daily observation of all animals throughout the facility and direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian when needed.

3.125(a)

Facilities, general.

Several enclosures throughout the facility were observed to be in disrepair. The facility utilized plastic dipped metal wire cages. Many cages were noted as containing damage in the plastic dip, exposing bare metal underneath which has since rusted or broken apart, exposing sharp points or holes in the enclosures. An employee stated to the inspector that at night some of the gliders in room 7 are able to get out of their cages and will "go visit with their friends". Several enclosures were observed with breaks in the wire that were to the extent that the animals within could potentially escape, or rodents could enter the enclosure with the animals. There is a history of animal escapes according to the employees at the facility. There is also a significant and documented infestation of rodents and insects throughout the facility. Ant poison powder is used on the floors throughout the facility and rodent poison, though covered with cages, are used on the floor throughout the facility. There is a significant risk of injury, contamination, contact with pests, poison and/or death to animals housed in enclosures that are damaged and in disrepair. Repair or replace damaged enclosures housing animals, or relocate the animals to enclosures in acceptable repair. Correct by 2/28/2022

3.131(a)

Direct

Repeat

Sanitation.

During the course of the inspection, an overall and significant lack of sanitation was witnessed, most prevalent in rooms 7, 9, and 10. Excreta and hair were observed collected and caught through the wire floors of most cages, and a dried brown

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mushy substance which had the appearance of dried fecal material was present on the tops of a majority of the nesting structures inside the cages which are round capped pieces of pvc pipe, approximately 4-5 inches round. Pests and rodents were present and feeding off of the excreta and food waste. The overall smell of waste throughout the enclosed facility rooms was very pungent and overwhelming causing discomfort to the inspector unless a mask was used. The odor was still present on the inspector and his clothes even after several hours after the inspection. Inadequate sanitation poses a direct health and safety hazard not only to the animals. Animals that are subjected to soiled enclosures and food can become distressed, or sick. 6 gliders were observed to showing signs of discomfort, illness, or disease. All enclosures and rooms must be adequately cleaned and sanitized and a proper sanitation program must be maintained.

3.131(d) **Direct** **Repeat**

Sanitation.

Throughout the facility grounds, inside animal rooms number 7, 9, and 10, inside the washout trench tubes and inside both empty and occupied enclosures, there were an insects, small black worms, and mice in an amount which was too numerous to count. Mice were observed inside a empty cages, eating glider food, in crevices and cracks, running across the floor. An uncalculatable amount of bugs or different sizes and types were inside the trays underneath the sugar glider cages. In some instances, many insects were seen inside occupied cages with the gliders. Insects were also observed in many food bowls which can and will contaminate the animals food source. These food sources were the only source of food for many caged gliders. In one case, a deceased mouse that was observed two and a half weeks ago my an inspector in a wash down trench was still there, now decomposed to be point of being skeletonized, an indication that the wash down trenches in the back rooms have now been utilized in at least that long. Mouse bait stations were observed in all rooms, however a majority of them are empty and dry. Without adequate pest control, the animals within the facility are in severe risk of being exposed to disease, and parasites. Sugar gliders are at risk to being injured or killed by rodents or

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large numbers of insects. Food and enclosures are become contaminated. at least 6 sliders at the facility are showing signs of illness or disease. A more effective pest and parasite control plan must be established and implemented.

3.132 **Direct** **Repeat**

Employees.

During the inspection of the facility several significant noncompliant items directly affecting the health and safety of the animals housed within were observed. After speaking with the licensees and two employees of the facility it was learned that the licensee has had difficulty finding employees to work at the facility. The amount of animals at the facility cannot be properly and adequately taken care of with the amount of employees available. The facility must have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees in order to maintain the acceptable levels of husbandry practices set forth in the animal welfare act regulations.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with licensee and employees.

Additional Inspectors:

ELIZABETH PANNILL, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Prepared By: BRENTON COX
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:
25-FEB-2022

Received by Title: Employee

Date:
25-FEB-2022



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
4898	74-A-0948	001	FRANKLIN & WILMA STARY	24-FEB-2022

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
004111	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	SUGAR GLIDER
004111	Total	