INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC).

Section 2.31(c)(3) - IACUC Functions. The IACUC, as an agent of the research facility, shall prepare reports of its evaluations conducted as required by paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section, and submit the reports to the Institutional Official of the research facility. The reports shall be reviewed and signed by a majority of the IACUC members and must include any minority views. The reports shall be updated at least once every six months upon completion of the required semiannual evaluations and shall be maintained by the research facility and made available to APHIS and to officials of funding Federal agencies for inspection and copying upon request. The reports must contain a description of the nature and extent of the research facility’s adherence to this subchapter, must identify specifically any departures from the provisions of title 9, chapter I, subchapter A—Animal Welfare, and must state the reasons for each departure. The reports must distinguish significant deficiencies from minor deficiencies. A significant deficiency is one which, with reference to Subchapter A, and, in the judgment of the IACUC and the Institutional Official, is or may be a threat to the health or safety of the animals. If program or facility deficiencies are noted, the reports must contain a reasonable and specific plan and schedule with dates for correcting each deficiency. Any failure to adhere to the plan and schedule that results in a significant deficiency remaining uncorrected shall be reported in writing within 15 business days by the IACUC, through the Institutional Official, to APHIS and any Federal agency funding that activity.

- The semi-annual report, dated July 2008, of the IACUC review of the research facility’s program for humane care and use of animals and the IACUC facility inspection, incorrectly identified a deficiency as major that should have been classified as a significant deficiency. Two rabbits were observed during the facility inspection with squinted eyes. This was immediately reported to the veterinary staff and the animals were treated. Review of the Institution’s Veterinary Care records indicated that both rabbits were diagnosed in pain/distress. The Animal Welfare Act Regulations state that “A significant deficiency is one in which, with reference to Subchapter A, and, in the judgement of the IACUC and the Institutional Official, is or may be a threat to the health and safety of the animals”. There was a threat to the health and safety of the animals and therefore should have been reported as a significant deficiency. The IACUC must ensure that the semi-annual report correctly distinguishes between significant and minor deficiencies.

To be corrected on all future reports.
ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

REPEAT Section 2.33(b)(3) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care. 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 wellbeing is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

- There were at least twelve pigs with skin lesions that were not being treated at the time of inspection. These lesions consisted of circumscribed areas of reddened tissue with a crust material present in areas on the dorsum of the animals. They ranged in size from 6 inches to ¼ inches in diameter. The majority of the lesions were confined to the dosing area. These pigs were part of a study that involved topical dermal application of material. There was no specific documentation present that addressed these injuries or indicated that the attending veterinarian had been notified. During the inspection the attending veterinarian stated that she was not aware of these skin lesions. All animals must be observed daily and any veterinary cage issues must be timely and accurately relayed to the attending veterinarian. The facility must insure that a program is place to insure that all injured animals receive prompt and adequate veterinary care.

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