



Inspection Report

V A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE & STATE UNIVERSITY
300 TURNER STREET N.W., SUITE 4120
BLACKSBURG, VA 24061

Customer ID: **492**
Certificate: **52-R-0012**
Site: 001
VIRGINIA TECH

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 26-JUL-2022

2.31(e)(3) Repeat
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

A protocol involving research with Syrian hamsters is incomplete and doesn't include the parenteral administration of DMSO. In reviewing the protocol, DMSO was not listed as a drug/substance being administered to the hamsters. Several hamsters on the study developed minor skin lesions on their abdomen in the same area as the DMSO was administered. The veterinarian was contacted and no treatment was needed. The institution has already taken steps to notify the primary investigator that the DMSO use was not included in the approved protocol.

Incomplete descriptions of procedures do not allow the IACUC to fully review the proposed activities involving animal use. This oversight is crucial to monitoring and enforcing animal welfare standards in research. Correct by August 12, 2022 by ensuring that protocols submitted to the IACUC for review contain a complete description of the proposed use of the animals including all substances to be administered. The principal investigator has submitted a protocol amendment to the IACUC for review.

3.129(a) Critical
Feeding.

Based on a necropsy report, a 6 day-old piglet died from starvation and emaciation due to the facility's failure to ensure it received a sufficient amount of food to maintain proper body condition and health. The piglet had been removed from its

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mother per a research protocol. The standard feeding protocol for these piglets is to teach the pig to drink milk provided in a bowl. Milk was provided to this piglet in a bowl and several attempts were made to teach the pig to drink from it, such as by dipping its snout into the milk and using fingers to try to lure the piglet to the bowl however, the facility's notes indicate that the piglet did not learn to eat from the bowl. Although the piglet had not learned to self-feed through the facility's standard practice, the facility did not ensure the animal received sufficient feed through an alternate means (bottle, syringe, or other method) to maintain proper body condition and health. Supplemental milk was only occasionally offered by syringe feeding. In addition, the volumes of milk provided in this manner over each 24 hour period were approximately 10% of the animal's daily energy requirements. On day 4, the pig was described as sitting in the corner, quiet and with its head hanging down. When stimulated to move towards the milk bowl, the pig's snout fell into the bowl. At no time in the 6 days were additional steps implemented such as calculating nutritional needs to maintain body weight, increasing the food offered via syringe or other method, measuring glucose levels, measuring hydration levels and/or fluid intake, or conducting weight checks. On day 6, at 4 pm, the pig was found dead. On necropsy, the pig was described with a body condition score of 1/9, emaciated and the death was attributed to prolonged starvation. The facility failed to take the necessary steps to ensure that a sufficient quantity of food was provided to this piglet in a manner that considered its age, condition, and inability to self-feed from a bowl.

Young neonatal animals that are removed from their dam require additional care to ensure that the food provided is of sufficient quantity and presented in a manner that they are able to consume. Failure to provide feed in an appropriate manner and ensure adequate feed consumption can lead to unnecessary suffering, starvation, and death.

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Correct by July 28, 2022 by ensuring all animals are provided a sufficient quantity of food to maintain good health and that all diets are prepared and presented with consideration given to the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal.

This inspection was conducted with a facility veterinarian. The exit interview was conducted with the attending veterinarian, facility veterinarians, IACUC members, Principal Investigators, and ACUP staff.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
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Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000015	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000006	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>	SYRIAN / GOLDEN HAMSTER
000025	<i>Equus caballus</i>	DOMESTIC HORSE
000027	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000030	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000103	Total	