



Inspection Report

The Ohio State University

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH PRACTICES
300 RESEARCH FOUNDATION BLDG, 1960 KENNY RD
COLUMBUS, OH 43210

Customer ID: **216**

Certificate: **31-R-0014**

Site: 003

OHIO AGRICULTURE AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 13-AUG-2025

2.31(c)(7)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

A change was made to a protocol without prior review and approval by the IACUC. There was an interinstitutional collaboration study between this research facility (INSTITUTION A) and a second research facility (INSTITUTION B). The collaborative study occurred within the high containment facility at INSTITUTION A and was performed by study team members from INSTITUTION B, using a protocol approved by INSTITUTION A's IACUC. The study team members from INSTITUTION B made a change to protocol 2024A00000045 affecting the care and use of animals in an ongoing study. The change was for the October 2024 and February 2025 iterations of this protocol. Per animal observation records, weight loss removal criteria in the ferret kits was calculated using their weight at the start of the study, not to "mock animals" as indicated in the IACUC approved protocol. Using the mock animal weight, as described in the approved protocol, weight loss in the kits exceeded 20%, which was a criterion of early removal from the study. Had mock animal weights been used, the early removal criteria would have been met earlier in the protocol timeline.

Early removal criteria are used as humane endpoints to ensure that animal stress or discomfort is not prolonged. With respect to activities involving animals, the IACUC, as an agent of the research facility, shall function to review and approve, or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the care and use of animals. Deviations in an already-accepted IACUC protocol without submitting an amendment prohibit the IACUC's ability to review changes and how those changes may impact animals. Correct by ensuring all protocol changes or amendments are reviewed by the IACUC prior to implementation into a protocol. Correct by: Sept 1, 2025.

2.31(d)(1)(ii)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The IACUC did not adequately ensure the Principal Investigator (PI) had considered alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals were not available. Keywords used for a search of scientific literature in the section of Protocol 2024A00000045 titled "Consideration of Alternatives to Painful or Distressful Procedures" did not include all of the USDA species for which the protocol was approved (cows, deer mice, ferrets). The search also did not include any keywords for infantile ferrets or considerations for their nursing care, fostering, or supportive care. Lastly, it did not include keywords for clinical conditions or outcomes expected to occur based on the anatomically targeted areas for the species used, specifically mastitis (ferrets, cows), lactation in ferrets, intramammary

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infusion/inoculation, etc. It is the responsibility of the IACUC to determine that the proposed activities or significant changes in ongoing activities meet the requirement that the PI has made a concerted effort to consider alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary pain or distress to the animals, provided to the IACUC in a written narrative. Correct by: Sept 1, 2025.

2.33(b)(2) Critical

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

Adequate veterinary care was not provided to 16 infantile ferrets during an interinstitutional collaboration study between this research facility (INSTITUTION A) and a second research facility (INSTITUTION B). The collaborative study occurred within the high containment facility at INSTITUTION A and was performed by study team members from INSTITUTION B, using a protocol approved by INSTITUTION A's IACUC. There was an interinstitutional collaboration involving studies performed by study team members from INSTITUTION B to utilize the high containment facility at INSTITUTION A. All animal care and observations were performed by study team members from INSTITUTION B. The study team from INSTITUTION B failed to provide supportive care to 16 infantile ferrets (kits) for protocol 2024A00000045. The INSTITUTION A Clinical Veterinarian was informed by the INSTITUTION B Study Director that the jills (female ferret mothers) were having decreased milk production. The communication dated October 9, 2024, shows the INSTITUTION A Clinical veterinarian recommended using a milk replacer product to supplement the kits, and to ensure the kits were gaining weight. It was reported by the INSTITUTION B Study Director to the INSTITUTION A Clinical veterinarian that the jills were still allowing the kits to nurse, that they did not meet the Early Removal Criteria of 20% weight loss, and no additional care was provided to the kits. The INSTITUTION A Clinical Veterinarian followed up 48 hours later and was told that the study was ended early. Review of study observation records from October 2024 show 3 kits belonging to jill #T6545 were noted to have "significant weight loss" at 10:51am on October 10, 2024, and one kit was found deceased later that evening at 5:53 PM. The next morning (October 11, 2024) one kit from jill #T6545 was found deceased, and the last remaining kit was euthanized. It was noted that jill #T6545 was also losing weight. "Significant weight loss" noted by INSTITUTION B study team members on October 10, 2024, was not communicated to the INSTITUTION A Clinical veterinarian.

This interinstitutional collaboration had another study begin on February 24, 2025, involving 3 jills: #84, #85, and #86, with 5, 3, and 6 kits, respectively. All animal care and observations were performed by study team members from INSTITUTION B. On March 2, 2025, at 11 am study observation records show 3 kits belonging to jill #84 were "weak". On the same day, at 4:30pm, 6 kits belonging to jill #86 were also noted to be "weak". The study records indicated "no treatment, just observed". At 8:30am on March 3, 2025, the three remaining kits to jill #84 were found deceased. At 10 am the six kits belonging to jill #86 were euthanized due to weight loss. At 3:30pm kits belonging to jill #85 were noted to be continuing to lose weight. Jill #85 was not producing milk and there was concern for the kits overnight. No supportive care was provided to the kits. On March 4, 2025, one kit from jill #85 was found deceased. The remaining two kits were weak and not responsive and were euthanized. There was no communication with the INSTITUTION A Clinical veterinarian in reference to the arrival in the facility or subsequent condition of the ferrets in this February 2025 study. Further, Early Removal Criteria for ferrets in the protocol states that "animals unresponsive to supportive care will be removed and euthanized". Supportive care was not administered to these kits. There was no communication by the INSTITUTION B study team or Director to the INSTITUTION A Clinical veterinarian, who learned of the death and euthanasia of the kits in late March while performing a review of records for the facility.

Implementing methods stated in the protocol to prevent and treat disorders, such as supportive care, is one way a facility can ensure adequate veterinary care is provided. Failure to provide adequate veterinary care can result in prolonged

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stress, pain, or distress to the affected animals. The facility must ensure that appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries are used. Correct by: August 18, 2025.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the Institution A Attending Veterinarian.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
216	31-R-0014	003	OHIO AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER	13-AUG-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
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000000	NONE	NONE
000000	Total	