



Inspection Report

laboratory research assistant called the attending veterinarian because they observed a 5-month-old male wild-type vole entrapped with his severely overgrown upper incisor teeth hooked on the wire lid of the primary enclosure and the vole was unable to free himself. The attending veterinarian immediately went to the vole room and quickly freed the vole from the wire lid. The facility stated that the length of time the animal was entrapped by the overgrown incisors was potentially up to 7 hours. The vole had small lacerations on the upper and lower lips from his efforts to free himself from the wire lid. The vole was anesthetized to do a more thorough evaluation. The voles upper incisors were long/overgrown, approximately 3-4 times the length of a normal vole. The vole was administered meloxicam and buprenorphine for pain and stress from the entrapment. Subcutaneous saline was also administered to the vole for potential dehydration due to the length of time the vole could have been entrapped. The jagged edges of the overgrown upper incisors were trimmed, and the lacerations irrigated. The vole was placed in a recovery cage in the incubator per IACUC surgery guidelines. After the vole awoke from anesthesia, it was noted that there was a large area of urine on the drape and the vole's fur was soaked with urine. This is suggestive of a possible seizure during recovery, but the vole appeared to be behaving normally and was returned to his normal primary enclosure. Twenty-four hours later, upon restraining the vole to administer meloxicam, the vole went into a grand mal seizure/status epilepticus. After several minutes, the vole had not recovered and was euthanized.

Malocclusion can result in dental issues for rodents and should be monitored for routinely in facilities with prairie voles and other species of rodents. Failure to conduct adequate daily observations to assess the health and well-being of this animal prevented the identification of the severely overgrown incisors which led to entrapment and subsequent serious animal impacts. Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include adequate daily observation of all animals to properly assess their health and well-being.

Correct by today 11 December 2025 and going forward

3.125(a) Critical

Facilities, general.

The facility self-reported an incident that occurred on 19 May 2025 where the primary enclosure failed to contain prairie voles resulting in the death of two vole pups and the euthanasia of a third vole pup. On 19 May 2025 in the vole housing room, it was discovered by facility personnel that 3 prairie vole pups had escaped their enclosure and were found on the floor. Two of the pups were found deceased and the remaining pup was observed to be in acceptable health but was euthanized as a precaution for biosecurity risk to the rest of the vole colony.

The laboratory personnel were able to determine the pups escaped from a breeding enclosure that had contained a breeding pair and 6 pups that were born on 01 May 2025, and on 19 May 2025 only the breeding pair and 3 pups remained in the enclosure. The enclosure was discovered to be a two-grommet cage, and the voles remaining inside the enclosure were actively opening the grommet flap and trying to escape through it. These five voles did not escape and were all determined to be in acceptable health.

The facility currently utilizes two types of primary enclosures for rodents which are a single grommet enclosure and a two-grommet enclosure. The single grommet enclosure has only one grommet that connects the enclosure to the air valves on the ventilated rack. The single grommet enclosure is the appropriate enclosure to be used for the voles. The two-grommet enclosure has two grommets, one that is the receptacle for the air valves, and the other which is superfluous comprised of a spring-hinged metal flap covering an open and unused port/hole. These cages are not to be used in the vole colony but can be used for rats when necessary. The facility has established this through training and photos posted in the facility.

Prepared By: ERIC IRVIN

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Date:

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Facility management investigated the incident on 05/19 and 05/20 and determined that the animal care technician inadvertently used a two-grommet cage when changing the enclosure housing the 8 voles. The three vole pups were able to escape through the superfluous grommet flap, leading to the death of two pups and euthanasia of one pup.

Enclosures that do not properly contain the animals can lead to stress, injury, and even death. The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The indoor and outdoor housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals. Prior to inspection, the facility implemented the following corrective actions: On 21 May 2025, the facility staff was re-trained on the requirement of only using the single-grommet cage style in the vole room. The facility and laboratory staff will double-check that there are no two-grommet cages in use each time they're in the vole room. The facility will eliminate two-grommet cages to the extent possible based on cage inventory. If the facility must continue to use two-grommet cages in the rat colony, staff will permanently label all two-grommet cages to be clear that they are only for rat use. The facility will also work with the cage manufacturer to replace the flap-style grommet cover with a solid/immobile cover if possible.

Corrected prior to inspection on 10 December 2025

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

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
502924	31-R-0134	001	HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS	10-DEC-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000857	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	PRAIRIE VOLE
000034	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000891	Total	