



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: 28-AUG-2024

2.33(b)(3) Critical

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

Upon the arrival of two lethargic Venezuelan fruit bats, the Primary Investigator (PI) failed to notify the attending veterinarian (AV) of their condition in a timely manner and both bats died later that day. A shipment of 103 fruit bats from Colorado arrived in the morning on March 28, 2024, and were received by the PI. No university veterinarians were present during arrival of the shipment. The PI discovered one bat had not survived transport and two other bats appeared very weak and lethargic. The two weak bats were housed individually, provided food and water by the PI, including fruit, a fruit smoothie, and sugar water, and checked on frequently. Approximately 12 hours later, the bats were found deceased. According to the approved protocol, any illness or signs of abnormalities in the bats are to be reported to the university veterinarians. However, the PI failed to notify any university veterinarians regarding the poor condition of the bats upon arrival. Failure to ensure direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian regarding abnormal observations found on animals prevents the veterinarian from assessing the animals and providing adequate veterinary care. Correct by September 17, 2024, by ensuring any abnormalities found on animals during daily observations are communicated in a timely manner to the AV to ensure animals have access to prompt and adequate veterinary care.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Prepared By: RACHEL PEREZ-BAUM
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:
03-SEP-2024

Received by Title: IACUC Representative

Date:
03-SEP-2024



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Customer: 492
Inspection Date: 28-Aug-2024

Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
492	52-R-0012	001	VIRGINIA TECH	28-AUG-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000096	<i>Artibeus jamaicensis</i>	JAMAICAN FRUIT-EATING BAT / JAMAICAN FRUIT BAT
000015	<i>Carollia perspicillata</i>	SEBA'S SHORT-TAILED BAT
000002	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>	MONGOLIAN GERBIL
000341	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	HOUSE FINCH
000040	<i>Bos taurus</i>	CATTLE / COW / OX / WATUSI
000018	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000512	Total	



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
VIRGINIA TECH

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October 2, 2024

Robert M. Gibbens, D.V.M.
Animal Care
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2150 Centre Avenue, Building B, Mailstop
#3W11 Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

RE: Corrective actions

Dear Dr. Gibbens,

During the recent USDA-APHIS-AC inspection held at Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Registration# 52-R-0012, Customer# 492) on August 28-29, 2024, the VMO, Drs. Perez-Baum, cited our institution for the following issue in the inspection report (dated August 28, 2024):

2.33(b)(3) Critical

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Upon the arrival of two lethargic Venezuelan fruit bats, the Primary Investigator (PI) failed to notify the attending veterinarian (AV) of their condition in a timely manner and both bats died later that day. A shipment of 103 fruit bats from Colorado arrived in the morning on March 28, 2024, and were received by the PI. No university veterinarians were present during arrival of the shipment. The PI discovered one bat had not survived transport and two other bats appeared very weak and lethargic. The two weak bats were housed individually, provided food and water by the PI, including fruit, a fruit smoothie, and sugar water, and checked on frequently. Approximately 12 hours later, the bats were found deceased. According to the approved protocol, any illness or signs of abnormalities in the bats are to be reported to the university veterinarians. However, the PI failed to notify any university veterinarians regarding the poor condition of the bats upon arrival. Failure to ensure direct and frequent communication with the attending veterinarian regarding abnormal observations found on animals prevents the veterinarian from assessing the animals and providing adequate veterinary care. Correct by September 17, 2024, by ensuring any abnormalities found on animals during daily observations are communicated in a timely manner to the AV to ensure animals have access to prompt and adequate veterinary care.

Corrective measures instituted:

Virginia Tech has a robust ARCD veterinary service that has visited the bat facility on a minimum of a monthly schedule with additional phone and email correspondence with the Principal Investigator in between visits. In addition, the facility has the emergency contact number for the ARCD veterinarians prominently displayed in case of any health or welfare concerns.

Three actions items were initiated by the IACUC:

1. Extensive retraining of the Principal Investigator and research care personnel on the daily observation for normal activity, behavior, health, well-being, monitoring, humane endpoints, and parameters for when to contact an ARCD veterinarian was provided on September 10th and 13th;
2. Increased frequency of in person visits from the ARCD veterinary staff to the bat facility;
3. Distributed an email to all research personnel working with animals reminding to review IACUC approved protocols for the following before initiating animal work:
 - a. Approved monitoring and humane endpoints;
 - b. Reminder of the veterinary service to contact for consultations and emergencies;
 - c. PI assurance that all research personnel on the protocol are aware of numbers 1 and 2 and have been appropriately trained.

Virginia Tech is committed to protecting the welfare of animals, we appreciate the opportunity to correct this citation and respectfully request the correspondence is documented in our record.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Daniel Sui, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Research & Innovation
Virginia Tech Institutional Official