



Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!

Dr. Robert Gibbens
Director, Western Region, USDA/APHIS/AC,
2150 Center Ave.
Building B, Mailstop 3W11
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

11/25/20

Dr. Gibbens,

I am writing to you today to file an Official Complaint against Montana State University (81-R-0002), for clear violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

Montana State University (MSU) documents recently obtained by SAEN reveal multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act which resulted in either animal deaths or serious injuries.

One incident is described in an MSU report dated 10/6/20:

"5th October Called to examining animal 01-10 following unintentional exposure to a large male NHP and aggressive episode with contact. The contact occurred due to an error in cage manipulation. When I saw the animal (01-10) he was re-separated, blood could be seen around his right forelimb in the area of the bicep and some blood around the mouth. The animal was quickly sedated removed from the home cage and examined in the procedure area. His wounds were clipped, cleaned, irrigated and sutured. The animal will require further treatment and wound care."

This incident would potentially violated Sec. 2.38 Misc. (f)(1) Animal Handling, or Sec. 2.32 Personnel Qualifications.

A second incident is described in an MSU report dated 5/19/20:

"Guinea pig #1 received of the irritant and her coughs were recorded for 15 minutes. She was returned to the home cage and her breathing pattern did not appear to be troublesome. It was slightly labored, but she did not appear to be in distress. Guinea pig #2 received the same irritant and responded with a similar number of coughs. However, she was showing some signs of labored breathing. . . . I placed guinea pig #3 in the chamber and started the irritant. At approximately 9 minutes after the end of nebulization, her breathing was becoming more labored, shallow and rapid. She urinated and then started to evacuate her bowels. At this point I removed her from the chamber and placed her into the transport cage. Her breathing became more labored and she was clearly in distress. I ran to get the attending veterinarian for assistance. By the time she arrived (approximately 1 minute later) the guinea pig was barely breathing so she was euthanized by the vet. I then went back to look in on guinea pigs #1 and 2 only to find that guinea pig# 2 had already died. Guinea pig #1 was still having some difficulties breathing so we elected to euthanize her for humane purposes."

This incident would likely constitute a violation of Sec. 2.38 Misc. (f)(1) Animal Handling, or Sec. 2.33 Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care. This should constitute a **CRITICAL** violation because the botched test in this incident resulted in the death of three animals.

Since Montana State University negligence has now caused serious injury to one animal and killed three, I must insist that you take the most severe action allowable under the Animal Welfare Act and immediately launch a full investigation and at the conclusion of the investigation issue the maximum fine allowable against Montana State University -- \$10,000 per infraction, per animal.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future about the fate of this facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.,
Executive Director, SAEN

Viewing Form: Unanticipated Adverse Event Form

Viewing an individual submission to this form.

Submitted:	Oct 6, 2020 1:11pm
Protocol:	2019-107
Building%26room:	ARC 151
Protocoltitle:	Characterizing the neural bases of perception and attention in visual cortex
Pi:	Mazer
Investigatorsname:	N/A
Date:	10/06/2020
Dateofproblem:	10/05/2020
Dateidentified:	10/06/2020
Animalspecies:	NHP
Numberanimalsinvolved:	1
Locationofevent:	ARC
Outcome:	<input type="text" value="Treated/Recovered"/>
Vetconsulted:	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Researchrelated:	<input type="text" value="Not Related"/>
Eventinprotocol:	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Doesthiseventrequireachangetothe:	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Description:	<p>5th October Called to examine animal 01-10 following unintentional exposure to a large male NHP and aggressive episode with contact. The contact occurred due to an error in cage manipulation. When I saw the animal (01-10) he was re-separated, blood could be seen around his right forelimb in the area of the bicep and some blood around the mouth. The animal was quickly sedated removed from the home cage and examined in the procedure area. His wounds were clipped, cleaned, irrigated and sutured. The animal will require further treatment and wound care. The animal was given multi-modal analgesia, antibiotics and late a muscle relaxant. The animal will continue on analgesic medication as well as antibiotics until no longer required.</p>

Viewing Form: Unanticipated Adverse Event Form

Viewing an individual submission to this form.

Submitted:	May 19, 2020 6:18pm
Protocol:	2019-91
Building%26room:	ARC Rm 112/113
Protocoltitle:	Evaluation of antitussive properties of novel Nav1.7 inhibitors in a guinea pig model
Pi:	Jacob Beckley
Investigatorsname:	Sheri Klas
Date:	05/19/2020
Dateofproblem	05/19/2020
Dateidentified:	05/19/2020
Animalspecies:	Guinea Pigs
Numberanimalsinvolved:	3
Locationofevent	Rm 112
Outcome:	<input type="text" value="Treated/Euthanized"/> <input type="text" value="Fatal"/>
Vetconsulted:	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Researchrelated:	<input type="text" value="Related"/>
Eventinprotocol:	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Does this event require a change to the	<input type="text" value="No"/>

Description: On 19MAY2020 all guinea pigs were going to be subjected to the nebulized irritant, GSK1016790A (a TRPV4 agonist - formulated at 30ug/mL (45.7uM) in a vehicle of 1% ethanol and 1% Tween 80 in saline (Bonvini et al, 2016, J Allergy Clin. Immunol, 138:249-261)). This session was to determine the baseline for the GSK1016790A-induced coughs. Guinea pig #1 received of the irritant and her coughs were recorded for 15 minutes. She was returned to the home cage and her breathing pattern did not appear to be troublesome. It was slightly labored, but she did not appear to be in distress. Guinea pig #2 received the same irritant and responded with a similar number of coughs. However, she was showing some signs of labored breathing. I thought it would clear up once she returned to her home cage. I continued to watch her for additional 5 minutes. Her breathing seemed to be easing so I placed guinea pig #3 in the chamber and started the irritant. At approximately 9 minutes after the end of nebulization, her breathing was becoming more labored, shallow and rapid. She urinated and then started to evacuate her bowels. At this point, I removed her from the chamber and placed her into the transport cage. Her breathing became more labored and she was clearly in distress. I ran to get the attending veterinarian for assistance. By the time she arrived (approximately 1 minute later) the guinea pig was barely breathing so she was euthanized by the vet. I then went back to look in on guinea pigs #1 and 2 only to find that guinea pig #2 had already died. Guinea pig #1 was still having some difficulties breathing so we elected to euthanize her for humane purposes.

Managed: Guinea pigs in distress were euthanized for humane purposes and all planned treatments for the remaining guinea pigs were immediately terminated.

Preventionforfuture: We will dilute the GSK1016790A 10-fold to 3ug/mL instead of the original 30ug/mL. We will test this dose on a single guinea pig and observe her closely for over an hour for any signs of changes to her breathing pattern. If this dose is still too high then we will either dilute it again or decrease the nebulization rate. Alternatively, we may just discontinue the GSK1016790A treatment as an irritant altogether.