



Stop Animal Exploitation Now!

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

1/13/12

Dr. Gibbens,

I am contacting you today because I am outraged by the multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act at Care Research LLC (84-R-0081) which directly contributed to/caused the deaths of three dogs at this facility.

A USDA inspection report dated December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 reveals multiple incidents of negligence which took the lives of 3 dogs. An animal caretaker apparently observed the animals several times, marking a report to indicate no abnormalities at 7:10 am, and noted no abnormalities. Similarly, the original notation at 3:40 PM was for no abnormalities, and then the staff person apparently realized that three of the dogs were actually dead, and crossed out the N for no abnormalities notation. Additionally, it is noted that the automatic watering system in this area was not working just two days before the animals were found dead.

This situation was addressed without consulting the attending veterinarian. In fact, blood workups on other dogs in the same study and post-mortems of the dead animals were performed without the attending veterinarian being involved. These things were all done by research staff. This sounds very much like a cover-up, as though research staff did not want the veterinarian involved in the investigation of this incident.

Additionally, upon consulting the 2011 Annual Report of Research form it is apparent that this lab may also have filed a fraudulent report with the USDA. While the document lists the use of 28 dogs in experimentation, none of them are listed in Column E, as having experienced unrelieved pain or distress. Since the three dogs listed in the above incident were simply found dead, without receiving any veterinary treatment, it is very likely that they may well have experienced unrelieved pain during their deaths. Since they were not reported as such in the 2011 filing by this lab, this report was likely fraudulent, and may constitute another aspect of an attempted coverup.

In the USDA inspection report, Care Research is cited for inadequate monitoring of research by the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee, Unqualified Personnel, and two separate citations are issued by the inspection for inadequate veterinary care. Three out of four of these violations are directly relevant to the incident which killed these three dogs. This is an extremely serious situation and must be dealt with severely.

Negligence at this lab has now taken three animals' lives. Something MUST be done to prevent further negligent deaths. Therefore, I must insist that the Western Regional Office of the USDA/APHIS/AC immediately initiate the process of issuing a fine against Care Research LLC.

I expect that your office will reply to this correspondence within five business days.

Sincerely,

*Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.*

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

Attachments: USDA Inspection Report & 2011 USDA Report

CC: Office of the Inspector General