



July 27, 2020

David Lee, Ph.D.
Vice President of Research
University of Georgia
310 East Campus Road
Athens, GA 30602
Via Email: dclee@uga.edu

Dear Dr. David Lee,

On behalf of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), including our membership in Georgia, I am writing to relay our concern regarding troubling evidence of animal suffering taking place at the University of Georgia and to respectfully ask that you consider following the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations to alleviate this suffering.

Document We Reviewed

In formulating the recommendation in this letter, NEAVS reviewed the University of Georgia's FY19 Exceptions/Exemptions to the AWA Regulations, Sec. 3.128 - Space Requirements, which was made public by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).

Finding: 458 Ferrets in Caging that Does Not Allow for Fully Upright Posture

The document we reviewed reveals an Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) approved exception/exemption to the AWA regulations at the University of Georgia regarding the space requirements for ferrets. Instead of placing ferrets in caging that allowed them to move around, they were placed in small, plastic caging in which they were unable to achieve a "fully upright posture." This exception/exemption was granted because the smaller caging was less heavy than the standard steel caging, and the plastic allowed more light into the cage so the ferrets could be observed more easily. There were two periods in which ferrets endured this cramped caging: one period of 23 days and another of 17 days, making 40 days total. The two periods took place at least ten weeks apart.

Request: Change the Protocol and Follow Standard AWA Regulations

While this exception/exemption may have been conducted in compliance with existing Animal Welfare laws and regulations, that should not be the minimum standard for animal welfare under your leadership at the University of Georgia. Shrinking the space requirement for live animals based on its convenience to lab personnel is not a compelling or reasonable enough exception/exemption. This warrants your intervention to immediately end cruel caging requirements for animals and to enact a policy against allowing the passing of any similar research protocols in the future.



Thank you for your attention to this important request, and for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Herschler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nathan Herschler, Executive Director
New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS)