



Inspection Report

Louisiana State University System
Office of Academic Affairs
156 Thomas Boyd Hall
BATON ROUGE, LA 70803

Customer ID: **1484**
Certificate: **72-R-0003**
Site: 003
LSU Health Science Center

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 09-JUL-2024

2.31(c)(7)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

Practices and procedures performed on February 23, 2024 during a swine non-survival Caesarian-section (C-section) were not approved by the IACUC in protocol P-22-020. The "Standard Operating Procedures for Caesarian-sections of timed pregnancy sows" included in the IACUC approved protocol P-22-020 requires use of personal protective equipment (PPE) including head cover, surgical mask, sterile gown, and sterile gloves. Various participants were confirmed on video surveillance by the institution's safety office not wearing proper PPE and included the principal investigator (PI) who was wearing only a head cover and surgical scrubs.

Also, detailed in the IACUC approved protocol P-22-020, is an expectation of higher mortality among preterm pigs as compared with preterm human infants. As such the PI indicated piglets that were moribund because of respiratory distress or that had met IACUC approved criteria for euthanasia would not be intubated for resuscitation. An IACUC subcommittee meeting following suspension of protocol P-22-020 to investigate events surrounding the non-survival C-section on February 23, 2024 revealed personnel made efforts to intubate and resuscitate the piglets but the animals were too small and the ventilation equipment was too big to revive the piglets.

The modifications made by the investigator staff on February 23, 2024 to the IACUC approved protocol procedures regarding PPE adherence and the respiratory rescue attempts of pre-term piglets were not approved by the IACUC. It is important that animal usage occurs exactly as approved by the IACUC to ensure required animal welfare standards are appropriately met with current veterinary practices and institutional policies.

Correct today, 7/17/2024, moving forward by ensuring the IACUC, as an agent of the research facility, shall review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the care and use of animals in ongoing activities.

2.31(d)(1)(viii)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

On January 25, 2024, the principal investigator (PI) requested to amend protocol P-22-020 to add/allow 42 students to participate in a non-survival swine Caesarian-section that involved recovery and nursing of preterm piglets. The required approval and training process from the Safety Office and IACUC (e.g. completion of applicable online training modules

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and submission of Occupational Health evaluations) had not yet occurred at the time of the surgery on February 23, 2024 when the students participated with the live animal work. It is critical that personnel be qualified and trained prior to performing animal work to ensure both personnel safety and animal welfare.

Correct today, 7/17/2024, moving forward by having the IACUC determine that personnel conducting procedures on the species being maintained or studied are appropriately qualified and trained in those procedures.

2.31(d)(1)(ix)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

During inspection of the SRF facility the principal investigator's (PI) pet dog freely accompanied the PI and the USDA veterinary medical officer, walking through the surgery suite as well as other areas intended to nurse both premature and neonatal piglets after delivery via experimental Caesarian-section (C-section). On February 23, 2024, during a surgical C-section, the dog was reported by participants to be walking freely and unsupervised in the main hallway connecting to the surgical suite and neonatal intensive care unit areas. This was confirmed on video surveillance.

Aseptic conditions are not being maintained due to presence of a pet dog in the major operative surgical areas of the SRF facility. This poses health risks to the sows and their preterm piglets; has the potential to introduce stressors such as dander, allergens, and biological agents to highly susceptible immune suppressed piglets; and could ultimately compromise research integrity.

Correct today, 7/17/2024, moving forward by ensuring major operative procedures on animals, other than rodents and birds, are conducted only in facilities intended for that purpose and are operated and maintained under aseptic conditions.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
1484	72-R-0003	003	LSU Health Science Center	09-JUL-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000000	NONE	NONE
000000	Total	