



Inspection Report

Elena and Andrey Mikirtichev
3000 BENSLEY RD
NORTH CHESTERFIELD, VA 23237

Customer ID: **500902**

Certificate:

Site: 001

Elena and Andrey Mikirtichev

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 11-SEP-2023

2.4 Critical

Non-interference with APHIS officials.

The licensee interfered with the inspection process by making statements to inspectors which were inaccurate and misleading regarding housing of the dogs.

When inspectors arrived at the property on September 11, 2023 at approximately 10:15 AM multiple dogs were heard in the backyard of the residence, in the area of the dog runs. No one answered the door or fence gates when the inspectors knocked. When inspectors called out to the facility's employee who was seen through the fence, the dogs' barking grew louder however the person did not respond. This employee is designated by the licensee as an authorized facility representative. The licensee was reached by phone and later called back to say that he was unable to reach the employee by phone. The licensee arrived at the property at approximately 10:45 AM to begin the inspection. While waiting for the licensee to arrive, inspectors continued to see motion in the backyard, hear footsteps, a water hose in use, and see the employee working in the backyard and in the patio of the large back building. Inspectors also continued to hear dogs coming from the area of the outdoor dog enclosures. Inspectors called several times for the employee by name, though he never responded or came to the gate.

During inspection, the licensee stated to the inspectors that the dogs are no longer housed in the outdoor primary enclosures. Inspectors stated their intention to evaluate enclosures as part of this inspection to which the licensee repeatedly stated that inspectors should not since they were not in use. Inspectors identified numerous piles of feces in the enclosures which were pointed out to the licensee, who again stated that they were not in use and must be old feces. When fresh piles of feces within enclosures were pointed out to the licensee, the licensee stated that the gates to the enclosures are sometimes left open and that the dogs must have gone into the enclosures while they were in the fenced yard for exercise – but again reiterated that they do not use them to house the dogs and that they should not be inspected. The evening prior to the inspection it rained, and the ground was soft with numerous dog footprints in each enclosure. One enclosure contained a significant amount of dog food that had spilled on the ground and was wet and deteriorated, appearing that it had been present outside overnight in the rain. The licensee again stated that it was old, and they were not using these enclosures. He again stated that inspectors should not need to enter these areas to inspect and inspectors reminded him of the licensees' responsibility to allow APHIS Officials to enter for the purpose of inspection. Inspectors went on to find small amounts of dry dog kibble identified in bowls in two different enclosures. This food appeared fresh and was dry indicating that it had not been rained on the prior evening and must have been put outside that morning. When this was pointed out to the licensee, he stated that they do occasionally feed the dogs in the

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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enclosures so that they are separated for feeding.

Despite the licensee's assertions, based on the appearance of footprints in the enclosures, fresh feces, and fresh food within the enclosures, it is clear that the enclosures are being used for housing the dogs at least a portion of the time. Additionally, the dogs were clearly outside at the time inspectors arrived at the facility and were moved to indoor housing by the employee who was on the property working but did not respond to the inspector's attempts to contact him.

Making false or misleading statements to inspectors about how animals are being housed and/or managed interferes with the inspection process since it can prevent APHIS officials from properly assessing compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, Regulations, and Standards. Correct by ensuring that all statements made to APHIS Officials are truthful and that the licensees and all employees refrain from interfering with, threatening, abusing or harassing any APHIS Official in the course of carrying out his or her duties. Correct by: From this point forward.

2.10(c) Critical

Licensees whose licenses have been suspended or revoked

The licensee conducted regulated activity after being notified of a 21-day suspension by APHIS officials. A 21-day suspension was issued to the licensee and served on August 14, 2023, requiring the licensee to cease conducting regulated activity immediately. A disposition record, Form 7006, dated August 16, 2023, shows the licensee donating an adult French bulldog, "Roni" (#900215000815032), to a third party. Removing animals from the property during an APHIS issued suspension violates the Animal Welfare Act and prevents APHIS officials from confirming inventory, animal health status, and following up on animals of concern. Correct by not buying, selling, transporting, exhibiting, or delivering an animal for transport during the period of suspension. Correct by: From this point forward.

2.40(a)(2) Direct Repeat

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

The licensee failed to provide the Attending Veterinarian (AV) with adequate authority by failing to follow treatment recommendations for two adult cats.

- A three-year-old adult male black and gray tabby #900215000815022, "Pavlin", (in the large back building, room #3) was found with a scab and crusts on the back of his neck which appeared to be the site of healing wound, as well as a right eye with the eyelids rolled inward toward the eyeball. The right eye appeared painful in that the cat was found to be constantly and excessively squinting and blinking and there was a moderate amount of clear discharge actively draining from this eye. The licensee stated that this cat had been seen by the veterinarian, at which time the licensee was told that he needed surgery to repair the eyelids. Veterinary records from 9/5/2023, provided by the licensee, show that the Attending Veterinarian prescribed eye lubricant to be applied to both eyes four times a day until the surgery for the eyelids and dental treatment can be completed (to be scheduled within 90 days). At the time of the inspection, the licensee did not mention any current treatments for the animal and no record of treatment was present to confirm that the cat had been receiving the eye ointment. Additionally, although discharge was present on the fur around the cat's eye, there were no signs of ointment on the fur that would be expected if it were being applied as directed.

- The licensee did not follow veterinary directions regarding an approximately two-year-old female dilute-calico cat

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#900215001896849, "Viola" (in the main house, bathroom #1). Medical records from July 25, 2023, indicate the licensee notified the Attending Veterinarian that Viola was likely pregnant. At this time, the Attending Veterinarian recommended an immediate spay to terminate the pregnancy because Viola was not a good candidate for breeding based on her prior medical history. The owner declined spaying and allowed her to give birth, after which her uterus prolapsed. On Sunday, September 3rd, Viola was presented to an emergency clinic for a prolapsed uterus following the birth of a litter of kittens earlier that day. The emergency veterinarian advised an immediate spay to remove the uterus. The licensee declined the treatment advised by the emergency veterinarian and elected for "conservative management" only - to take the cat home to be seen later by the facility's Attending Veterinarian. The cat was brought to the Attending Veterinarian two days later, Tuesday, September 5th, at which time the veterinarian's physical exam findings noted that the uterus was still prolapsed, and was red, swollen and had a foul smelling purulent (pus-like) discharge, indicating a likely infection. The Attending Veterinarian proceeded with an emergency spay surgery for the cat that same day. The licensee's failure to follow the AV's recommendation to terminate the pregnancy and spay Viola on initial examination resulted in the prolapsed uterus that occurred during birth. The licensee then failed to follow the emergency veterinarians' instructions, again delaying appropriate care and treatment for this emergency condition.

Failure to follow instructions from the Attending Veterinarian such as not administering prescribed treatments or failing to follow guidance for surgical and emergency care can result in worsening of medical conditions, unnecessary discomfort and suffering, and death. Correct by ensuring the Attending Veterinarian has appropriate authority over the veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.

2.40(b)(2) Direct Repeat

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

The licensee failed to provide adequate veterinary care for an eight-week-old black and white male kitten known as "Tommy". This kitten was brought to the Attending Veterinarian on September 11th during the first day of the inspection prior to inspectors seeing the animal. According to veterinary records, Tommy was weak, severely dehydrated, very cold, and had pale gums on presentation. The Attending Veterinarian recommended several diagnostic tests to determine the best approach for care. The licensee declined testing and proceeded to bring the kitten back to the facility. The Attending Veterinarian recommended supportive care at home including supplemental heat, the administration of fluids, and enemas. No records were provided to show that these treatments were administered. The kitten was brought back to the Attending Veterinarian the following day and was in worse condition, unable to maintain its own body temperature without support and was weak and unable to stand. The licensee declined transferring the kitten to a hospital for critical care.

Timely and appropriate treatment of medical issues and critical conditions increases the chance of successful outcomes and minimizes risk of complications as well as unnecessary pain and suffering. In these instances, inappropriate care (conservative management only) and delayed treatment resulted in unnecessary pain and suffering for this animal. Correct by ensuring appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care.

2.40(b)(3) Direct Repeat

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

Ten cats and three dogs had medical conditions that had not been identified by the facility prior to the inspection and/or the severity of their conditions were not recognized by the facility. As a result, the conditions of these animals were not

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communicated to the Attending Veterinarian and they did not receive adequate veterinary care. These include:

- A five-and-a-half-year-old adult female smoky black tabby, #900215001896850, (in the main house, sunroom, enclosure #1) is in late term pregnancy, thin, and has cat litter and fecal matter stuck in her fur at her hind end and along her back legs and feet. The cat is very thin and shoulder blades, spine, and hip bones are all prominent and easily felt. According to the licensee, the cat is shaved daily on the back end to help with the litter and fecal contamination, however, the hair is sufficiently long to refute that the cat is shaved daily. There are no veterinary records to indicate that the diarrhea and poor body condition have been observed or treated prior to inspection.

- An approximately 8-day-old (licensee records and veterinary medical records are inconsistent regarding date of birth and dam) male black and white kitten, "Gus," (# 0173/2 in the main house, room #2, enclosure #1) was currently being treated by the licensee for having an abnormally flattened chest. At the time of inspection, the kitten had a tight splint applied around its chest and was showing signs of difficulty breathing at rest including a rapid respiratory rate and increased effort. The licensee was asked to remove the brace during the inspection, and the respiratory effort partially improved. According to veterinary records, the kitten was evaluated by the Attending Veterinarian on 9/8/2023 and was breathing normally. At that time, the licensee was approved to apply a commercially available splint himself and provided instructions to monitor daily for increased respiratory effort or the development of pressure sores while using the splint. Recheck examination was recommended in 2 weeks or if the condition worsened. The licensee had not noticed that the kitten was breathing abnormally and thus had not notified the Attending Veterinarian of this change or presented it for reexamination as directed.

- A seven-month-old adult female black and white cat, #900255202311957, (in the large back building, catio) has accumulated green discharge and crusts at both nostrils as well as fresh blood from the left nostril. She is actively sneezing and has prominent breathing sounds. These signs were identified by inspectors on 9/11/23. On that day, the licensee was unaware that there was a cat sneezing with a bloody nasal discharge in that room. The licensee stated on 9/12/23 that they planned for the cat to be seen by the Attending Veterinarian but instead started treatment according to the new Program of Veterinary Care which allows them to start treatment for 10 days without having the Attending Veterinarian evaluate the cat. The licensee provided an updated copy of the Program of Veterinary Care to inspectors on 9/12/23 that is dated 9/11/23 by the Attending Veterinarian. The updated version allows animals with mild yellow or green nasal discharge and no difficulty breathing to be started on an antibiotic for 10 days and examined if there is no resolution after 10 days or if their condition worsens. This cat's nasal discharge was not mild but rather moderate-to-abundant and involved blood and snuffled breathing sounds. Even after identification of this animal by APHIS Officials, the licensee failed to recognize the severity of the clinical signs and therefore, did not communicate the condition of the cat to the Attending Veterinarian. Based on the severity of the clinical signs, the Program of Veterinary Care required this cat to be examined by the AV in order to determine the appropriate course of treatment and ensure adequate veterinary care was provided.

- A one-year-old adult female charcoal/blue cat, #900215000885835, (in the large back building, room #1) has a moderate amount of yellow-green opaque discharge from her vulva. According to the licensee, the cat has been under treatment for an ear infection and they are awaiting the results of an ear culture performed by the vet, but the discharge from the vulva had not been noticed. The licensee stated she was unsure of when her last litter was born. Veterinary records were provided showing that this cat had last been examined on 9/1/23 for the ear condition at which time there was no vulvar discharge. The licensee failed to observe the presence of the abnormal discharge and communicate that to

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the Attending Veterinarian.

- A four-year-old adult female tortie cat, #900111881602706, (in the small back building, room #4) has severely red and inflamed gums at her back teeth. This was worse on the left side. There was no documentation presented to demonstrate that this had been identified or communicated to the Attending Veterinarian prior to inspection or that adequate veterinary care was provided.

- A two-year-old adult female calico cat, #900215000815024, (in the small back building, room #4) has severely red and inflamed gums along both sides of the mouth and affects both the upper and lower jaw. There was no documentation presented to demonstrate that this had been identified or communicated to the Attending Veterinarian prior to inspection or that adequate veterinary care was provided.

- A two-year-old adult female calico cat, #900215001896730, (in the small back building, room #2) has moderately inflamed and red gums on both sides of the mouth with the right worse than the left. There was no documentation presented to demonstrate that this had been identified or communicated to the Attending Veterinarian prior to inspection or that adequate veterinary care was provided.

- An approximately year-and-a-half-year-old adult female brown tabby cat, #900215000885829, (in the main house, sunroom, enclosure #1) has severely reddened gums extending from the base of each tooth throughout the entire mouth. Adult fleas were also observed in its fur. According to the licensee, the cat has an appointment with the Attending Veterinarian in two days for its teeth to be evaluated, however records from the clinic do not show a currently scheduled appointment for this animal nor was documentation provided to show that it was identified or examined prior to inspection.

- A five-year-old adult female dilute-tortie cat, #900111881173969, (in the main house, room #2, enclosure #4) has fur loss, pink irritated skin, and multiple small scabs too numerous to count over its neck and the back of its ears, especially on the left-side of the body. The licensee stated that the fur loss had progressed slowly over a long period but that the scabs had not been observed until two days ago when the other licensee had examined the cat. The licensee also stated that the cat had an appointment this week with the Attending Veterinarian to have its skin and teeth evaluated, however records from the clinic do not show a currently scheduled appointment for this animal. Additionally, there was no documentation presented to demonstrate that this had been identified or communicated to the Attending Veterinarian prior to inspection.

- An approximately two-and-a-half-year-old adult female brown tabby cat, #900215001896854, (in the large back building, room #1) has severely reddened gums extending from the base of each tooth throughout the entire mouth. According to the licensee, the cat has an appointment with the Attending Veterinarian in two days for its teeth to be evaluated, however records from the clinic do not show a currently scheduled appointment for this animal. Additionally, there was no documentation presented to demonstrate that this had been identified or communicated to the Attending Veterinarian prior to inspection.

- An approximately 5-year-old merle adult male French bulldog, "George", #992001000364968, (in the large back building, kitchen) has a moderate amount of clear discharge from both eyes and the vessels in the whites of the eyes are very prominent with the white part of the eyes (sclera) being bright pink-to-red in color. The dog was noticeably very itchy

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during examination, the left groin and skin folds at the base of the tail are missing fur and have pink and abraded skin that is oozing. When brought to their attention, the licensee seemed unconcerned about the current state of the dog's skin and stated that the dog has ongoing skin issues that the Attending Veterinarian has them managing with flea prevention alone (Bravecto). Veterinary records show the dog was treated in June 2023 with antibiotics for a bacterial infection of the skin. However, there is no record that the vet has been notified regarding the worsening skin condition and the dog has only received flea preventive, which is not controlling the dog's symptoms or the fleas at the facility.

- A 3-year-old tan merle adult female French bulldog, "Vita", #900215000815040 (in the large back building, room #4), has a moderate amount of thick, dark brown debris in her left ear and areas of patchy fur loss with red, ulcerated and oozy skin at her lower back and tail base. When brought to their attention, the licensee seemed unconcerned about the current state of the dog's skin and stated that the dog has ongoing skin issues that the Attending Veterinarian has them managing with flea prevention alone (Bravecto). Veterinary records show the dog was treated in March 2023 for an infected left ear and the Attending Veterinarian noted a dirty coat on physical exam. A medication was prescribed for the ear and a recheck in 30 days. There is no further record that the dog was ever brought in for her ear recheck and no record that the dog has been seen by a vet or treated for its current skin symptoms other than flea preventive, which is not controlling the dog's symptoms or the fleas at the facility.

- A 3-year-old black-and-tan adult female French bulldog, "Marta", #900215000814952 (housed in the large back building, kitchen), has a thinning fur coat with areas of patchy hair loss over her back and shoulders as well as dark, small dry scabs and crusts accumulating at both ear tips. When brought to their attention, the licensee seemed unconcerned about the current state of the dog's skin and stated that the dog has ongoing skin issues that the Attending Veterinarian has them managing with flea prevention alone (Bravecto). Veterinary records show that the dog was last examined 5 months ago, March 2023, at which time a dirty coat but no other skin symptoms were observed. No record exists that the dog has been seen by a veterinarian for her current skin issues or been treated beyond flea preventive alone, which is not controlling the dog's symptoms or the fleas at the facility.

Daily observations of animals at this facility are insufficient to identify animals in need of veterinary care. When conditions are observed, the licensees have failed to communicate them accurately and timely to the Attending Veterinarian so that adequate veterinary care can be provided. Animals with untreated medical conditions including underweight, respiratory, skin, ear and dental problems may suffer from unnecessary pain, discomfort, infection, and stress. Daily observations of animals to identify medical problems is essential to identify injury and illness quickly, initiate treatment quickly, and prevent unnecessary suffering. Correct by observing all animals at least daily to identify physical, medical, or behavioral problems. Additionally, ensure that all findings are communicated in a timely manner to the Attending Veterinarian so that they can examine animals and ensure that appropriate treatment is provided as required by section 2.40(b)(3).

2.50(b)(1) Repeat

Time and method of identification.

A total of 16 live kittens and 7 deceased kittens were not properly identified. APHIS currently accepts compliant "cage cards" to be used to satisfy the individual identification requirements for unweaned kittens when housed only with their dam as an intact family group (with no individuals from other family groups). The licensee is using cage cards for identification purposes of kittens under 16 weeks, however cage cards are being used for enclosures that contain mixed litters born from multiple females. Additionally, for cage cards to satisfy identification requirements they must contain

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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accurate descriptions of gender, color, and distinctive markings so that individuals can be matched with their records and tracked over time. In the case of these 16 live kittens and 7 deceased kittens, the licensees have not provided individual identification and cage cards are no longer accepted as an appropriate method of identification due to the mixed litters and discrepancies in descriptions.

One such enclosure (main house, room #2, enclosure #1) contained a single adult cat and 4 nursing kittens. The cage card listed a total of 4 kittens with 2 different dates of birth (8/30 and 9/3). The cage card specified that 2 kittens were fostered onto this dam and provided the ID number for the biological dam. The descriptions of the kittens were inaccurate listing all 4 as males (one was female) and listing their colors as 1 black & white, 1 red & white, and 2 red. The enclosure actually contained 1 brown tabby female, 1 black & white male, 1 red male, and 1 red & white male. Several of the kittens had inaccurate identification descriptions (color and gender) making it difficult to definitively identify and track individual animals.

Another such enclosure (small back building, room #2) housed a total of 13 live kittens and 3 adult cats. The cage cards indicated that the kittens were born from four different litters and that three of the biological dams were also present. Although the licensee was maintaining cage cards outside the door, only 1 kitten had a microchip for identification. For the remaining 12 live kittens there were also discrepancies regarding the descriptions of color and gender for a significant portion of the animals. The cage cards also listed 7 additional kittens that were deceased which did not record the required identification information. In addition to the discrepancies in markings and gender, records for 1 kitten listed a color in what appears to be a different language which does not match any kittens present in the enclosure and an additional 6 failed to list gender.

The method used by the licensee does not satisfy the requirements per this section since there is mixing of multiple litters, some kittens are not housed with their individually identified birth mother, the cage cards are missing required gender and there are inaccuracies in the genders and descriptions that are recorded. Failure to properly identify individual animals prevents APHIS Officials from ensuring that other requirements of the AWA are being met by the licensee since it prevents tracking of animals over time. Correct by ensuring that all dogs and cats under control of the licensee are individually identified by one of the methods outlined in the regulations.

2.75(a)(1) **Repeat**

Records: Dealers and exhibitors.

APHIS currently accepts compliant "cage cards" to be used to satisfy recordkeeping requirements for unweaned kittens under certain circumstances. Cage cards for kittens currently on-site were evaluated and determined to be both incomplete and inaccurate. Additionally, they were being used in circumstances not approved by APHIS including instances where multiple litters have been mixed in the same primary enclosure. Therefore, the "cage cards" are not sufficient to satisfy recordkeeping requirements of acquisition, disposition, or record of animals on hand.

- A "cage card" currently being used on a foster dam's enclosure (main house, room #2, enclosure #1) lists two biological kittens and two foster kittens. The card identifies the genders and colors as: 1 red and white male, 1 black and white male, and 2 red males. The cage actually contains 1 black and white male, 1 red male, 1 red and white male, and 1 brown tabby female. The female brown tabby is not accurately represented on the cage card by gender or coloring.

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- One cage card (main house, room #3, enclosure #2) listed the litter date of birth as 6/11/2023. However, kittens appeared significantly younger than 3 months old based on their size and development. The licensee agreed with this assessment and checked her phone locating a picture reportedly from the date of birth that she presented to inspectors. This photograph was taken on August 11, 2023 which was consistent with the appearance of the kittens. The licensee updated the cage card during the inspection.

- Four cage cards were located outside of an enclosure (small back building, room #2) housing a total of 13 kittens and 3 adults, the result of 4 commingled litters. These cage cards show a significant number of inconsistencies relative to the animals actually present and/or missing required information. One live kitten (microchip # 900255202311947) and 6 deceased kittens listed on these cage cards had no gender recorded. One live kitten had a description written in a different language that appears to describe an orange and black male kitten, however, no kitten of that color was present in the enclosure. The cage cards listed 10 black & white kittens (6 male and 4 female) however, there were actually only 4 present (3 male and 1 female). The cage cards listed only one red/orange kitten and it was marked as deceased. However, 1 live male red/orange tabby with white was present. The cage cards listed no live tabby kittens, however, there were 2 female tabby kittens and 3 male tabby and white kittens present in the enclosure.

Failure to maintain accurate record of acquisitions by birth (including accurate descriptions and gender) prevents APHIS Officials from tracking animals over time on the property and ensuring compliance with other aspects of the Animal Welfare Act. Correct by ensuring that fully and correctly disclose required information for all animals acquired including the age, description, gender.

2.131(e)

Handling of animals.

Three French bulldogs were subjected to climatic conditions that were detrimental to the animal's health and well-being. At approximately 11 AM on Monday September 11, 2023 three French Bulldogs were housed in wire-type crates in the large back building, room #4. This room was excessively hot and dogs were observed panting. The licensee propped the door open (it was cooler outside) and started the air conditioning unit. At approximately 10:30 AM on Tuesday September 12, 2023 three French Bulldogs were still housed in this room and again, two were observed panting excessively. Inspectors were also uncomfortable from the heat while evaluating the cats and dogs housed in this room. Temperature was recorded throughout the day and ranged from 81-degrees Fahrenheit to 83.5-degrees Fahrenheit with the final reading (83.5 F) taken at 1:45 PM. Although the licensees attempted to fix the air conditioning unit (vacuuming the intake) the room did not cool throughout the day. Two dogs were removed from the room for an unknown portion of the day, however, they were observed back in the room at the final temperature check when they were again observed panting. Additionally, the licensee stated multiple times that the dogs were currently being housed indoors. French Bulldogs are a small short-nosed breed of dog that is less tolerant of heat extremes and more likely than other breeds to experience discomfort and heat-related health problems. The Attending Veterinarian has previously given instruction to the licensees that the French Bulldogs were to be moved indoors when outside temperatures exceed 80-degrees Fahrenheit for their health and well-being. The behavior of these dogs demonstrated that they were uncomfortable, and the licensee failed to alleviate the impact of the heat on these dogs. When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health or well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. Correct by ensuring that animals are not subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity, and time that is detrimental to their health or well-being

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and additionally by ensuring that when climatic conditions pose a threat to an animal's health or well-being that appropriate measures are taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. Correct by 25 September 2023.

3.4(c)

Outdoor housing facilities.

The outdoor primary enclosures for dogs are constructed out of materials that are not impervious to moisture. Wooden privacy fencing comprises a portion of each of the outdoor primary enclosures for dogs. There was rain overnight the evening prior to the start of inspection. The wooden boards appeared wet extending from the ground upwards approximately 1-2 feet making it clear that large sections of the fence (which the dogs can easily contact) were not impervious to moisture.

When inspectors began looking at the outdoor primary enclosures, the licensee repeatedly stated that the outdoor enclosures are no longer being used. At the time that the inspectors arrived at the property, however, the dogs could be heard outdoors. There were large numbers of feces (both fresh and old) which also indicated that these enclosures were in use. Additionally, there was also food present in the enclosures. This included kibble that was spilled on the ground and was sufficiently wet and deteriorated, suggesting it had been outside during the rain that occurred the prior evening, as well as dry kibble (present in two bowls in two different enclosures) that clearly had been put outside that morning after the rain had stopped. When these findings were pointed out to the licensee, he alternately stated that the runs were left open and dogs may go into them when they are in the outside yard for exercise and that the dogs were fed in the outdoor enclosures.

Building surfaces in contact with animals in outdoor housing facilities must be impervious to moisture. Additionally, they must be maintained on a regular basis. Failure to ensure building materials are impervious to moisture prevents adequate cleaning and sanitation which can lead to disease transmission. Correct by ensuring that all building surfaces of outdoor housing facilities that animals may come in contact with are impervious to moisture. Correct by 29 September 2023.

3.6(b)(1)(ii)

Repeat

Primary enclosures.

Two enclosures housing 4 young adult cats each (8 total) are currently housed in primary enclosures that do not meet the required minimum floor space requirements. These enclosures (61 inches by 24 inches) each provide a total of 10.2 sq. feet of floor space. Cats of this size require a minimum of 3 sq. feet each, making the combined requirement 12 sq. feet per group of four. The current enclosures are too small by 1.8 sq. feet. Failure to provide minimum space prevents animals from making normal postural and social adjustments which may lead to unnecessary discomfort, distress, and conflict with co-housed animals. Correct by ensuring that all primary enclosures housing cats provide the minimum required floor space for each animal.

3.6(b)(2)

Repeat

Primary enclosures.

An enclosure (small back building, room 4) housing 8 adult cats showed signs of incompatibility. On previous inspections, this same enclosure has had multiple underweight cats identified. During the inspection, the licensee provided food to cats in the enclosure. As soon as two bowls of food were provided, six cats approached to begin eating. There were

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multiple instances of aggressive and defensive posturing between at least three cats. Animals were observed hissing, swatting, and growling at one another while attempting to access the food that had been added. This room also had only one water bowl, one litter box, and one scratching post that had a total of 6 elevated resting surfaces. When resources such as food, water, elevated resting surfaces, and other favorite locations are scarce compatibility problems may be worsened and animals may fight over access to resources. Incompatibility amongst animals sharing an enclosure can lead to chronic stress, inadequate access to food and water, and potential injury. All cats housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible, as determined by observation. Correct by ensuring all cats housed in the same primary enclosure are compatible.

3.7(c)

Compatible grouping.

Two primary enclosures contain a total of 16 kittens less than 4 months of age housed in the same enclosure as adult cats:

- There is a small enclosure built within the sunroom of the main house (enclosure #3) that contains a total of 24 kittens and 1 adult cat. There are three kittens less than 4-months of age housed in this group (microchip numbers 900255202311920, 900255202311940, 900255202311945). Facility records indicate that these kittens were born on 6/30/23 making them 10 weeks and 3 days old at the time of inspection. There is a white female adult cat (microchip # 990000003113591) housed in this same enclosure. The reported DOB for this cat is 1/25/2018. The remaining 21 adolescent cats/kittens in this enclosure range from 14 to 17 weeks old. The presence of numerous adolescent cats/kittens demonstrate that this is not a permanent breeding colony.

- On September 12, 2023 Room #2 in the small back building contained 12 nursing kittens that are less than 4 months old and 3 adult female cats (Microchip numbers 900215001896736, 900111881174209, and 900215001896730). The prior day, one additional kitten (13 total) was present in this room. Although the majority of the kittens were not individually identified, the facility records (cage cards) indicate dates of birth for all kittens were between June 23, 2023 to July 1, 2023 (making them 10-11 weeks old). The cage cards indicate that these kittens were born from 4 different female cats. The cage cards indicated that one kitten was born from a female cat microchip #900215001896833, which was in a different room in the facility. On August 9, 2023 this room contained 13 kittens and 4 adult female cats (including adult female microchip # 900113000096624). This female cat was present in another room at the facility on September 11th and at least one of those kittens was no longer at the facility. Based on the number and ages of animals present in this room on August 9 and September 12, 2023 it is clear that animals are added and removed from the enclosure and are therefore not maintained in a permanent breeding colony. Facility records indicate that in addition to the 13 kittens that were present on September 11 there were an additional 7 kittens born in those 4 litters which later died between the age of 3 and 22 days old.

Kittens less than 4 months old may only be housed with other adult cats when permanently maintained in a breeding colony. Failure to maintain kittens either as single litters (with no adults other than their dam) or in permanent breeding colonies increases the stress to nursing cats which may lead to decreased immunity, increased disease, and increased mortality. Correct by ensuring that kittens less than 12 weeks old are not housed with adult cats other than their dam unless they are maintained in permanent breeding colonies. Correct by 25 September 2023.

Prepared By: KRISTINA D'APICE
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
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Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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3.9(b)

Feeding

The licensee is not providing enough feed receptacles to ensure all animals have access to food. This is causing competition for food and incompatibility among older animals.

- An enclosure housing 8 adult cats (small back building, room #4) was provided two food bowls during the inspection. At approximately 11 AM inspectors observed that there were no food bowls in the enclosure. The licensee stated that they were feeding and was instructed to provide food while inspectors were present. The licensee put two large food bowls (approximately 6-8 inches in diameter) filled with dry cat kibble next to one another on the floor. As soon as two bowls of food were provided, six cats ran to begin eating. A maximum of 3-4 cats were observed being able to eat at one time while 2 others made multiple attempts to access food. These cats attempted to push into a food bowl and were prevented by others that displayed food guarding behavior including hissing, swatting and growling. Inspectors observed these behaviors for more than 5 minutes during which time the cats continued to change bowls and positions multiple times. On both this inspection and previous inspections, this same enclosure has had multiple underweight cats identified.

- An enclosure housing 24 younger kittens and 1 adult had no food present when inspectors initially walked through the facility. When presented with one large bowl of dry food, almost every cat ran to the bowl, pushing, climbing over and shoving others out of the way attempting to reach the food. After a couple minutes, the licensee added another large bowl to the enclosure but most kittens were too distracted trying to access the first bowl and didn't notice. Later, two bowls of canned cat/kitten food were also subsequently provided to the kittens, who immediately ran over and began pushing and shoving to eat. The entire first bowl of dry cat food was finished in about five minutes, with the wet food bowls being finished just a few minutes later. The kittens were observed pushing one another in attempts to access the food the entire time that food was present. When the first bowl of food was placed in the enclosure, the licensee stated that the kittens don't really eat the dry food, they are still on wet food due to their age. Additionally, the licensee stated that he does not keep food present at all times for these kittens, and that the last feeding had been approximately 12 hours earlier the previous night.

Not providing enough food receptacles to allow all animals to easily access food creates competition for food and can lead to incompatibility, resourcing guarding, and unnecessary stress. Correct by providing an adequate number of food receptacles in each enclosure to ensure that food is readily accessible to all animals. Correct by 25 September 2023.

3.11(a)

Cleaning, sanitization, housekeeping, and pest control.

Excreta is not being removed from outdoor dog enclosures frequently enough to prevent excessive accumulation of feces or reduce disease hazards, insects and pests. According to the licensee, the dogs are not being housed in their outdoor enclosures. However, upon arriving at the property, dogs could be heard in their outdoor enclosures whining and barking while waiting for the licensee to arrive and trying to contact the onsite facility representative. Additionally, food and water bowls were present in each enclosure which indicated that they were in fact in use. Wet deteriorated food that appeared to be from the prior day was present in one enclosure and fresh dry food was present in two additional enclosures. There are six outdoor dog enclosures in total and four of them had excessive accumulations of feces. Three of the enclosures had accumulations of fresh feces and some with up to 20 piles including feces with mold present. One run had about 10

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
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OFFICER

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piles of old feces that had never been removed.

Failure to remove feces daily increases the risk of soiling and disease transmission to and between animals and can attract pests. Correct by removing excreta and waste daily and as often as necessary to prevent excessive accumulation and to reduce the risk of disease hazards, odors and pests. Correct by 25 September 2023.

This inspection was conducted with the licensees.

Additional Inspectors:

Rachel Perez-Baum, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

DANA MILLER, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist

Prepared By: KRISTINA D'APICE
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
500902		001	Elena and Andrey Mikirtichev	11-SEP-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000080	<i>Felis catus</i>	CAT ADULT
000055	<i>Felis catus</i>	CAT KITTEN
000005	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000140	Total	