

November 8, 2018

Scott D. Conklin, B.S., LAT
Director of Antibody Production
and Chair, IACUC
Pocono Rabbit Farm & Laboratory, Inc.
306 Dutch Hill Road
Canadensis, PA 18325

Dear Mr. Conklin:

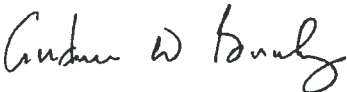
The AAALAC International Council on Accreditation has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the Pocono Rabbit Farm and Laboratory, Inc., Canadensis, Pennsylvania. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining a satisfactory program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the well maintained facilities; the conscientious and engaged husbandry staff; the well managed *in vitro* antigen/antibody laboratory; the general appearance of healthy animals; and the well organized contingency plan with adequate back-up generators to mitigate potential power failures. The Council is pleased to inform you that the program conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, NRC 2011. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of the correspondence dated August 1, 2018 detailing actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items addressed satisfactorily included: ensuring provision of environmental enrichment for chickens; updating and expanding the annual health questionnaire; updating the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) training materials for new and current IACUC members; ensuring appropriate personal protective equipment and training for personnel in the soiled bedding dumping area; establishing safety procedures for accidental needle sticks and human inoculation of Freund's complete adjuvant; training animal care staff on rat social housing practices and expectations; and establishing a procedure for routine nail trimming for chickens.

Enclosed are further recommendations for improvement of the animal care and use program. The Council on Accreditation notes that there is no obligation for institutions to make program changes based on suggestions for improvement. Implementation of suggestions is, however, one means of promoting a high quality animal care and use program.

AAALAC International requires an Annual Report detailing changes made during the year in accredited units. If your institution chooses to implement program modifications in response to the suggestions described in the enclosure, the Annual Report provides an opportunity to summarize the actions taken. In the interim, AAALAC International expects to be apprised in a timely manner of significant programmatic changes or concerns should they occur. Please note that, at your request, AAALAC International will provide your institution with a separate letter simply verifying that your animal care and use program is accredited. Should you also wish to distribute an electronic copy of this letter to program staff, a Portable Document Format (pdf) version will be sent upon request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew W. Grady".

Andrew W. Grady, D.V.M., M.S.
President, Council on Accreditation

AWG:cma
000926

Enclosure

Pocono Rabbit Farm and Laboratory, Inc.
Canadensis, Pennsylvania
File # 000926

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. Rodent and rabbit housing rooms with positive relative air pressure differentials opened directly into the break/meeting room. Inadvertent exposure to aerosolized allergens could potentially expose personnel and visitors to animal allergens and promote the development of allergies or allergic reactions. Measures that will prevent unwanted exposure of non-animal use areas to aerosolized animal allergens should be considered. The Council acknowledges the August 1, 2018 correspondence indicating the plans to change the air pressure differentials of the animal rooms to the break/meeting room; however, Council encourages that this be completed in a timely manner.

2. Species-specific humane endpoints for animals were not well-delineated in either the animal protocols or standard operating procedures. Two animals (rabbit 35172 and mouse 26-28) appeared to be in poor body condition (1.5-2.0 out of 5) and the mouse exhibited moderate alopecia. There was no indication on the health records regarding consideration for veterinary medical care or a humane endpoint. Research animals with unaddressed clinical issues, or with no established endpoint, will likely experience unwarranted pain and/or distress. Descriptions of appropriate humane endpoints should be developed and timely reporting of veterinary issues to allow for such endpoints to be followed should be assured. Veterinary consultation must occur when pain and/or distress is beyond the level anticipated in the protocol description or when interventional control is not possible to minimize pain and distress to the research animals. The Council acknowledges the August 1, 2018 correspondence indicating the plans to develop and implement guidelines determining humane endpoints for animals; however, Council encourages that this be completed in a timely manner.