INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC).

(d) IACUC review of activities involving animals. (1) In order to approve proposed activities or proposed significant changes in ongoing activities, the IACUC shall conduct a review of those components of the activities related to the care and use of animals and determine that the proposed activities are in accordance with this subchapter unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented in writing; Provided, however, That field studies as defined in part 1 of this subchapter are exempt from this requirement. Further, the IACUC shall determine that the proposed activities or significant changes in ongoing activities meet the following requirements: (v) (v) Animals that would otherwise experience severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved will be painlessly euthanized at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure;

Primate records revealed one animal was not euthanized in a timely manner. The veterinarian requested via email to the investigator to consider using this animal acutely on August 7, 2007. The records indicated by Saturday, August 11 that the animal appeared to have severely molested existing wound lesions resulting in further lacerations. The animal was not euthanized but the veterinarian placed a fentanyl patch on Friday, August 10 as a means of addressing pain and as potential treatment for self-inflicted behavior. Euthanasia occurred on Monday, August 13, 2007. At the least this animal should have been euthanized on Saturday, August 11 when it was discovered that the fentanyl patch had been chewed off, and the method of treatment may not have been successful. Subsequent animals in this condition were euthanized in a more timely manner to prevent their experience of severe or chronic pain or distress.

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

(b) Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian;

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Medical records on the above animal mentioned healing lesions that appeared to be self inflicted but there were no notes in the medical record that identified when the behavior first occurred. Identification of lesions caused by self inflictive behaviors, identified early enough, may be treated and resolved through multifaceted treatment approaches. It is important to identify this behavior prior to the self inflicted wounds and this may be done through training and monitoring animals with this or other abnormal behaviors and communicating to the veterinary staff in a timely manner.

Correct by July 1, 2009.

This inspection was performed as the result of a complaint sent the regional office.

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