

Malocclusion x2

Not pursued as non-compliance



What happened?

- 1x newly weaned mouse was found with malocclusion.
- 1x breeding mouse was found underweight and hunched with malocclusion.

Why did we have to report it?

- Potential breach of PEL 4(5). The health and wellbeing of the mice was not adequately checked.

What did we learn?

- Relevant weaning and breeding set up SOPs did not include a step to check the teeth of the mice for the presence of malocclusion, leading to the condition not being detected.
- There was failure in the health and sex check time point to detect the presence of misaligned teeth in both animals.
- The littermates of the newly weaned mouse were all small in stature leading to an assumption that malocclusion was not a cause, so the teeth were not checked.

What did we change?

- All involved were reminded of the importance of checking for clinical signs of malocclusion at specific time points and whenever small mice are found.
- The weaning and breeding SOPs were reviewed and updated to include teeth checks.
- Post wean teeth check labels were introduced to inform technicians that teeth have been checked for malocclusion in the case of small mice.

SC PEL Standard Conditions

4(5)

The health and well-being of protected animals, and the environmental conditions in all parts of the establishment where animals are kept, shall be checked at least once daily by a competent person. Arrangements shall be made to ensure any defect discovered and any avoidable pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm discovered is eliminated as quickly as possible.