



Missing Water pouch

Letter of Inspector Advice received

What happened?

- Water pouches were not provided in cages moved to a room that doesn't use the Automated Watering System (AWS)

Why did we have to report it?

- PEL 4 (3) & (5): Animals were left without water and there was a failure in our checking process to detect its absence.

What did we learn?

- LO-1 & 2: Potential unconscious bias when working with Automatic Watering System (AWS).
- LO-3: The cages were transferred late in the day and close to the PM check. This means the cages may not have been checked again in the PM due to recently being handled.

What did we change?

- The task to transfer a cage to an area that does not use the AWS will include instructions to add a water pouch as mice are moved to their new home cage. The task will require an MCMS sign-off.
- Signage will be placed within the room to remind all users that water pouches are required for the area, regardless of the equipment set up.
- Explore possible alternative ways of preventing escapes and removing the valves from view, e.g. cage/rack stoppers.

PEL Standard Conditions

4(3)

Unless otherwise authorised by the Secretary of State an environment, housing, freedom of movement, food and water appropriate for the health and well-being of each protected animal shall be provided.

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.