



Potential PPL and PIL breach

Home Office Outcome: Letter of Inspector Advice



What happened?

Mice have been found with their tails trapped between the food hopper or mezzanine and the cage base. There has been more than once incidence and this learning card covers all of them.



Why did we have to report it?

PEL SC 4 states 'all protected animals must at all times be provided with adequate care and accommodation appropriate to their type or species'.

In some cases, there was a failure to provide adequate care.



What did we do?

- We reiterated that, when closing a cage lid, if any resistance is felt that isn't normal it is essential to immediately remove the lid and check all animals are okay.
- We reiterated that, once the lid is closed, when performing the 360° check, pay close attention to circumference of the cage where the lid overlaps the base. If a tail is overhanging and trapped, the tip can often be seen.
- Following recent cage testing, we have been able to identify that shifting of internal cage components is unlikely to be a cause of tails becoming trapped.
- We will start gathering photographic images of tail trap injuries to develop a reference library which will help to identify trap locations within the cage for animals that are found injured but freely moving.

PEL Standard Conditions

4(1)

All protected animals must at all times be provided with adequate care and accommodation appropriate to their type or species.

4(4)

The licence holder shall ensure that the installations and equipment at the establishment are suitable for the species of protected animals kept at the establishment and for the regulated procedures, if any, carried out at the establishment. The design, construction and method of functioning of the installations and equipment must be such as to enable regulated procedures to be performed in a manner that provides reliable results, uses the minimum number of animals and causes the minimum degree of pain, suffering, distress and lasting harm to the animals used.

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.