

**FUR FREE SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 6871  
Towson, Maryland 21042**

August 25, 2017

Dr. Robert Gibbens  
Director, Western Region, USDA/APHIS/AC  
2150 Center Ave.  
Building B, Mailstop 3W11  
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

Dr. Gibbens,

I am writing to you today to file an Official Complaint against Ruby Fur Farm Inc. (Certificate 42-B-0052) for clear and documented violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

Ruby Fur Farm Inc. was inspected on 12/07/2016 and this single inspection cited Ruby Fur Farm Inc. for four (4) Animal Welfare Act non-compliances, including:

- A repeat citation under Sec. 2.40(b)(2) (Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care (Deals and Exhibitors)) for inadequate veterinary care because a skunk was suffering from hair loss and thickened, scaly and cracked skin.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.125(a) (Facilities, General) for numerous broken wires and sharp points in enclosures posing risk of injury or trauma to animals and holes and gaps that may allow escape or injury to animals.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.125(d) (Facilities, General) because two (2) dead ferrets were found in separate enclosures with live animals.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.131(a) (Sanitation) for excessive accumulation of ferret feces in 11 enclosures.

Ruby Fur Farm Inc. was inspected again on 02/22/2017 and this inspection cited Ruby Fur Farm Inc. for four (4) Animal Welfare Act non-compliances, including:

- A repeat citation under Sec. 2.40(b)(2) (Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care (Deals and Exhibitors)) for inadequate veterinary care for severe hair loss and crusty brown material on two skunks (with small black insects crawling on the male skunk) and abnormal hair loss on a female raccoon.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.125(a) (Facilities, General) for sharp points from nails and broken wires in 15 enclosures.

- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.125(d) (Facilities, General) for buildup of old and fresh food material on the machine used to prepare food.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.131(a) (Sanitation) for buildup of excrement, food waste and organic material in enclosures (with excrement in raccoon enclosure covered in grey material that has appearance of mold).

Ruby Fur Farm Inc. was inspected again on 06/12/2017 and this single inspection cited Ruby Fur Farm Inc. for five (5) Animal Welfare Act non-compliances, including:

- A citation under Sec. 2.131(e) (Handling of Animals) for excessive temperature and humidity in the raccoon building. The temperature at 1:30 pm was 91.6 degrees F, humidity was 84% and head index was 111.7 degrees F, and multiple raccoons were observed panting and lying on their sides and abdomens with legs splayed out. The report provided that the Licensee must reduce temperature and humidity inside building to a level comfortable for raccoons to support their health and well-being by June 19, 2017.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.125(a) (Facilities, General) for multiple ferret and skunk enclosures with broken wires creating sharp points, enclosures with gaps and holes created by broken wires, including a ferret enclosure with a 1.5 inch gap between the nest box and cage, with one ferret seen with his head, neck and forelegs through the opening.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.125(d) (Facilities, General) for excessive accumulation of fresh and old excreta (with numerous live maggots present in piles of excreta), and significant accumulation of hair, organic material and other debris among cage supports in both ferret buildings and raccoon building.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.131(a) (Sanitation) for excessive accumulation of ferret feces, hair and dark organic material in enclosures, including an infestation of live maggots in the organic material (ferrets observed stepping in material and maggots).
- A repeat citation under Sec. 3.131(d) (Sanitation) for excessive number of flies in ferret building and skunk building, in and around enclosures and on the feed (with dried raw meat food on top of outdoor enclosures heavily covered in flies) and outdoor ferret enclosure with a large wasp nest within the ferret nesting box.

A focused inspection was conducted at Ruby Fur Farm Inc. on 07.19.2017 and this inspection cited Ruby Fur Farm Inc. for two (2) Animal Welfare Act non-compliances, including:

- A repeat citation under Sec. 2.131(e) (Handling of Animals) for excessive temperature and humidity in the raccoon building. At 2:00 pm temperature was 96.1 degrees F and the heat index is 119.4 degrees F and multiple raccoons were panting and lying on sides and abdomens with legs splayed out. The report indicated that Licensee must reduce temperature and humidity inside building to support health and well-being of raccoons.
- A repeat citation under Sec. 2.40(b)(2) (Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care (Deals and Exhibitors)) for a nonresponsive, lethargic raccoon laying flat on her side and a second female raccoon suffering from a white-yellowish

colored discharge from her left eye and dark line of material under the bottom of her eye.

Focused inspections were conducted again at Ruby Fur Farm Inc. on 07.21.2017 and on 07.25.2017, with each inspection citing Ruby Fur Farm Inc. for repeat Animal Welfare Act non-compliances under Sec. 2.131(e) (Handling of Animals) for excessive temperature and humidity in the raccoon building.

On July 21, 2017 at 3:50 pm, the temperature in the raccoon building was (i) 100 degrees F and the heat index was 119 degrees F at the north end of the building, and (ii) 100 degrees F and a heat index of 120 degrees F along east enclosures in the middle of building. At 4:32 pm, the temperature was 100.4 degrees F and the heat index was 122.1 degrees F along the west enclosures in the middle of the building. At 4:24 pm, near the south end of the first room, the temperature was 100.1 degrees F and 100.2 degrees F and the heat index of 120.1 degrees. Twenty-six (26) of the 290 raccoons were observed to be suffering, in severe heat distress, panting, drooling, experiencing increased respiratory rates, lying on sides, backs and abdomens with legs splayed out but unable to cool off, reluctant to move, lethargic and not alert to activity around them.

On July 25, 2017, the temperature in the raccoon building upon first entering the building was 93.5 degrees F with heat index of 100.7 degrees F. Multiple readings of temperature and heat index were taken in different areas of building and temperatures were 93.7, 94.1, 94.2, 94.1, 95.7, 95.2, 95.4, 95, 95.2, while the heat indexes were 101.1, 101.7, 104.9, 106, 105.1, 106.3, 108, 107.4, 107.6, 106.8, 103.6 and 104.5 degrees. Nine (9) of the 290 raccoons were observed to be suffering and in serious heat distress and were panting, open mouthed breathing, experiencing increased respiratory rate, lying on their sides, backs and abdomens with legs splayed out, reluctant to move, lethargic and not alert to activity around them.

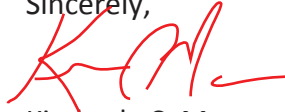
Due to the serious nature and repeated AWA non-compliances by Ruby Fur Farm Inc. in the last year, I hereby file an Official Complaint against Ruby Fur Farm Inc. relevant to the clear and documented abuse of multiple animals, and in light of the excessive number of repeat citations, the seriousness of those citations, and the fact that many animals are suffering and/or dying as a result of Animal Welfare Act violations by Ruby Fur Farm Inc., I must insist that your office open a case against Ruby Fur Farm Inc., and launch a major investigation of this facility.

I know that your office considers major violations of the Animal Welfare Act to be very serious, especially when these violations result in the injury or death of animals. While some of the citations in the reports impact an untold number of animals, the six inspection reports specifically cite 1375 affected animals (96 animals in the 12.07.2016 report; 55 animals in the 02.22.2017 report; 352 animals in the 06.12.2017 report; 292 animals in the 07.19.2017 report; 290 animals in the 07.21.2017 report; and 290 animals in the 07.25.2017 report). Given the egregious nature and number of the repeat violations, we believe that not only is the most severe action allowable under the Animal Welfare Act appropriate, it is necessary in this case -

- the issuance of the maximum penalty allowable against Ruby Fur Farm Inc. at the completion of your investigation (\$10,000 per infraction, per animal), for a total penalty against Ruby Fur Farm Inc. in the amount of \$13,750,000 (\$10,000 per each of the 1375 animals). We further call upon your office to immediately terminate any and all licenses held by Ruby Fur Farm Inc.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future about the fate of this facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'KCM', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kimberly C. Moore  
Board of Directors, Fur Free Society, Inc.



### Inspection Report

Ruby Fur Farm Inc  
2564 200th Street  
New Sharon, IA 50207

Customer ID: **5177**  
Certificate: **42-B-0052**  
Site: 001  
RUBY FUR FARM, I N C

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 07-DEC-2016

**2.40(b)(2) REPEAT**

**ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).**

One white skunk has a large amount of hair loss over 50% of animal including back, legs and abdomen. A large area over the back has skin that appears thickened, scaly and cracked. Licensee states that he had not noticed this animal previously. Skin problems can indicate poor health or nutrition or injury/trauma to the animal. Conditions such as these may be painful and can lead to further health complications. Appropriate methods to prevent, control, observe, diagnose and treat diseases or injuries should be in place for all animals. The animal listed above must be examined by a licensed veterinarian in order to ensure that an accurate diagnosis is obtained and an appropriate treatment plan is developed and followed. This information, including the diagnosis, treatment and resolution of the condition, must be documented and made available to the inspector upon request. The licensee must ensure that all animals receive appropriate veterinary care at all times.

**3.125(a) REPEAT**

**FACILITIES, GENERAL.**

Multiple enclosures have broken wires or sharps points which may injury the animal or allow escape. Six outdoor fox enclosures have broken wires and sharp points in the multiple flooring and wall areas. The edges of wire panels around several support posts and where a wire panel had been overlaid have sharp points that had not been trimmed and are protruding into the living space. Many ferret enclosures housing more than 60 ferrets have broken wires in the flooring or gaps between the wall and floor. The broken wire areas are mainly along the back of the cage where fecal material accumulates. Some gaps between the wall and floor are due to broken or missing clips. Several (approximately three) skunk cages have broken wires or holes in the floor. The broken wires cause sharp points that are protruding into the living space and into the holes. Holes and gaps may allow escape or injury. One raccoon cage with three raccoons has a wire water bowl stand with many sharp points protruding into the cage open space where the raccoon could come in contact with when drinking. Sharp points can cause injury or trauma to the animal. Holes can allow animals to become entrapped or escape. Correction should include ensuring that all housing is constructed of material appropriate for the animals housed

**Prepared By:** CORBIN RANSLEM, A C I

CORBIN RANSLEM USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Date:**  
08-DEC-2016

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**  
08-DEC-2016



### Inspection Report

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and is maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and contain the animals safely. Continual monitoring and maintenance of cage and housing is an ongoing process.

**3.125(d) REPEAT**

**FACILITIES, GENERAL.**

Two dead ferrets were found in separate ferret enclosures. One dead adult was found pushed into the corner of the wooden nest box. Two live adult ferrets are in this enclosure. The licensee removed this dead animal during the inspection. One dead, decomposing, headless juvenile ferret was found incorporated into the fecal material buildup on the wire floor in the corner of the cage. One live adult and six juvenile ferrets are in this enclosure. Dead animals in enclosures can increase the risk of disease and pest infestation to the live animals. Provisions for the prompt removal and disposal of dead animals from enclosures to minimize disease hazards and pest and vermin infestations should be implemented and maintained.

**3.131(a) REPEAT**

**SANITATION.**

Within the Ferret Building there is an excessive accumulation of ferret feces present in the back corners of 11 enclosures. The affected enclosures are located along the east wall and contain 23 ferrets. The licensee stated that the enclosures are cleaned out once a week. Excessive excreta in primary enclosures can contribute to disease hazards, odors, insects and other pests. The licensee must ensure that excreta be removed as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee, Heather Cole, VMO, Kelly Maxwell, ACI, Ann Goplen, VMO and Corbin Ranslem , ACI.

**Additional Inspectors**

Ann Goplen, Veterinary Medical Officer  
Heather Cole, Veterinary Medical Officer  
Kelly Maxwell, Animal Care Inspector

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**Prepared By:** CORBIN RANSLEM, A C I

CORBIN RANSLEM USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Date:**  
08-DEC-2016

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

**Received By:** [Redacted]

**Title:**

**Date:**  
08-DEC-2016



### Inspection Report

Ruby Fur Farm Inc  
2564 200th Street  
New Sharon, IA 50207

Customer ID: **5177**  
Certificate: **42-B-0052**  
Site: 001  
RUBY FUR FARM, I N C

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 22-FEB-2017

#### 2.40(b)(2) REPEAT

##### ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

A male spotted skunk (approximately 3 years old) has a hairless area behind the shoulder blades along the spine. The area is reddened and a dark brown crusty material was present. Closer examination of the animal revealed numerous small black insects crawling throughout the affected area. The licensee was unaware of the condition and stated that he has never applied parasite control products to the spotted skunk.

A white, adult, female skunk has extreme hair loss on its body. The area behind both shoulder blades, across the back, and around the base of its tail are nearly completely devoid of hair. The hair loss extends down the sides of its body to its abdomen. The last one-third of the tail also has severe hair loss and a crusty dark brown material is present on the affected area.

A white, adult, female raccoon has abnormal areas of hair loss on its body. The hair loss is located behind the rib cage across the right and left flank area. The area of hair loss is larger on the right side of the body and the entire tail is completely devoid of hair.

The licensee has not consulted a veterinarian about the abnormal health conditions of the animals listed above. Skin problems can indicate the presence of ectoparasites, poor health or nutrition or injury/trauma to the animal. Conditions such as these may be painful, cause discomfort and lead to further health complications.

Appropriate methods to prevent, control, observe, diagnose and treat diseases, injuries or parasite problems should be in place for all animals. The animals listed above must be examined by a licensed veterinarian in order to ensure that an accurate diagnosis is obtained and an appropriate treatment plan is developed and followed. This information, including the diagnosis, treatment and resolution of the condition, must be documented and made available to the inspector upon request. The licensee must ensure that all animals receive appropriate veterinary care at all times.

Prepared By:

**RANSLEM CORBIN, A C I**

RANSLEM CORBIN, A C I    USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

Date:  
23-FEB-2017

Received By:

[Redacted Signature]

Title:

Date:  
23-FEB-2017



### Inspection Report

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**3.125(a) REPEAT**

**FACILITIES, GENERAL.**

Two enclosures, containing a total of four foxes, have nails protruding through the wooden braces into the enclosures. The ends of the nails have created sharp points which the foxes could come into contact with while moving throughout the enclosures.

Five enclosures, containing eleven ferrets, have metal water receptacles. The water receptacles are attached to the side of the enclosure by wire. The ends of the wires are creating sharp points which the ferrets could come into contact with when drinking from the receptacles.

Four enclosures, containing thirteen ferrets, have a plastic shelf. The plastic shelf is attached to the corner of the enclosure by wire. The ends of the wires are creating sharp points which the ferrets could come into contact with.

Four enclosures, containing eight ferrets, have broken wires around the entry door into the den box. The ferrets could come into contact with the sharp ends of the wires as they enter and exit the den box.

Sharp wire points that animals can come in contact with could cause injuries, be very painful and potentially lead to additional health problems.

The licensee must ensure that all housing is constructed of material appropriate for the animals housed and is maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and contain the animals safely. Continual monitoring and maintenance of cage and housing is an ongoing process.

**3.125(d) REPEAT**

**FACILITIES, GENERAL.**

The interior surfaces of the machine used to prepare food for the regulated animals have an accumulation of dried and caked food material. There's also a buildup of old and fresh food waste under and on the exterior surfaces of the machine. The licensee stated that it has been about a month since it was cleaned.

Food waste that is not frequently removed from food receptacles, food preparation areas, food storage areas and housing facilities can lead to contamination, disease hazards and vermin infestations.

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**Prepared By:**

RANSLEM CORBIN, A C I

RANSLEM CORBIN, A C I    USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

**Date:**  
23-FEB-2017

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**  
23-FEB-2017





### Inspection Report

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The licensee must remove food waste and other debris as often as necessary to minimize odors, vermin infestations and disease hazards.

**3.131(a) REPEAT**

**SANITATION.**

One enclosure, containing at least one white raccoon, has a buildup of old excrement located in front of the den box. Most of the excrement is dried and covered in a gray material that has the appearance of mold.

Another enclosure, containing three raccoons, has a thick layer of dried food waste and organic material covering the surfaces on the front-half of the wire enclosure.

Three ferret enclosures, containing twelve ferrets, have an excessive buildup of old and new feces in the back corners. An enclosure containing one ferret, has an excessive buildup of feces located directly next to and beneath the opening of the den box.

Failure to remove excreta, food waste and other organic material from the enclosures can lead to contamination, disease hazards and odors, which can affect the health and well-being of the animals.

The licensee must ensure that excreta is removed from all primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee, Corbin Ranslem, ACI, Kelly Maxwell, ACI and Ann Goplen, VMO.

\*The white skunk listed under 2.40 (b)(2) on the December 7, 2016 inspection report received veterinary care.

**Additional Inspectors**

Goplen Ann, Veterinary Medical Officer

Maxwell Kelly, Animal Care Inspector

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**Prepared By:**

RANSLEM CORBIN, A C I

RANSLEM CORBIN, A C I    USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6079

**Date:**  
23-FEB-2017

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**  
23-FEB-2017



### Inspection Report

Ruby Fur Farm Inc  
2564 200th Street  
New Sharon, IA 50207

Customer ID: **5177**  
Certificate: **42-B-0052**  
Site: 001  
RUBY FUR FARM, I N C

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 12-JUN-2017

#### 2.131(e)

##### HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

The Raccoon Building has a high ambient temperature and humidity. The building is constructed of metal and is not insulated. There are large fans running at one end of the building and there are windows that are open along the sides. Towards the middle of the building there is little to no movement of air and the temperature in this part of the building as taken by the Kestrel at approximately 1:30 pm is 91.6 degrees F, the humidity is 84% and the heat index is 111.7 degrees F. Multiple raccoons were displaying behaviors such as panting and lying on their sides and abdomens with their legs splayed out that could indicate they are uncomfortable with the temperature. There are approximately 290 raccoons housed in this building. High temperature and humidity could have a negative impact on the health and well-being of the animals.

When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health and well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. An animal may never be subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being. The licensee must reduce the temperature and humidity inside this building to a level that is comfortable for the raccoons in order to support their health and well-being.

To be corrected by: June 19, 2017

#### 3.125(a) REPEAT

##### FACILITIES, GENERAL.

Multiple enclosures in the Ferret Buildings and outdoor ferret housing have broken wires creating sharp points at the level of the animals. At least four enclosures, containing at least ten ferrets, have broken wires in the back corners of the enclosures. At least two enclosures, containing at least seven ferrets, has broken wires around the opening to the nest box. In at least five outdoor housing enclosures, containing six ferrets, there are sharp points created by twisted wire that's attaching shelves to the sides of the enclosures. At least two of the outdoor housing enclosures, containing two ferrets, have broken wires and sharp points in the back corners of the enclosures.

Prepared By: **MAXWELL KELLY, A C I**

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
13-JUN-2017

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

Received By:

Title:

Date:  
13-JUN-2017



### Inspection Report

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Multiple skunk enclosures have broken wires creating sharp points at the level of the animals. One enclosure containing four skunks has a large hole in the flooring created by broken wires. Sharp points surround this hole in the floor. At least two enclosures, containing at least two skunks, have broken wires creating sharp points around the opening to the nest box. Two enclosures, containing two skunks, have broken wires in the back corner of the enclosure.

In the Ferret Building one enclosure, containing three ferrets, has an 1.5 inch gap between the nest box and the cage. One ferret was seen with his head, neck and forelegs through the opening.

One enclosure, containing at least one skunk, has a wooden nest box and the bottom of the nest box has become detached from one corner resulting in a large gap which the animal could be seen through.

Two other enclosures, containing two skunks, have large gaps between the nest box and the enclosure. In one enclosure, containing one skunk, the wire flooring has become unattached to the wire side resulting in a large gap and a broken wire.

Holes and gaps in the enclosure may allow animals to escape or cause injury. Sharp points can cause injury or trauma to the animal. The licensee must eliminate all the sharp points, gaps and holes as well as, ensure that all housing is constructed of material appropriate for the animals housed and is maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and contain the animals safely. Continual monitoring and maintenance of cage and housing is an ongoing process.

**3.125(d) REPEAT**

**FACILITIES, GENERAL.**

There is an excessive accumulation of fresh and old excreta beneath the enclosures located in the Raccoon Building. Under several enclosures containing raccoons, there are numerous live maggots present in the piles of excreta. There is also a significant accumulation of hair, organic matter, and other debris along the cage supports in both Ferret Buildings and the Raccoon Building.

Excessive accumulations of animal waste in the housing area can lead to poor air quality, disease hazards and pest infestations. Poor air quality is linked to the development of health problems and many fumes, such as ammonia, can cause discomfort to animals and can lead to conditions such as respiratory and eye abnormalities. The licensee must remove animal and food wastes as often as necessary to minimize the odors, vermin, and disease hazards for the health and well being of the animals.

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**Prepared By:**

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Date:**

13-JUN-2017

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

13-JUN-2017



### Inspection Report

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**3.131(a) REPEAT**

**SANITATION.**

Within the Ferret Building there is an excessive accumulation of ferret feces present in the back corners of at least three enclosures, containing at least eight ferrets. One enclosure, containing at least one ferret, has an excessive buildup of hair and dark organic material on the wire floor of the enclosure. One enclosure, containing at least four ferrets, has a buildup of dark organic material in a corner of the nest box. This organic material is infested with live maggots and the ferrets were seen stepping in the material and maggots.

Excessive excreta, hair and grime in primary enclosures can contribute to disease hazards, odors, insects and other pests. The licensee must ensure that excreta, hair, and other organic waste is removed as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors.

**3.131(d) REPEAT**

**SANITATION.**

The Ferret Building and a Skunk Building has an excessive number of flies in the housing area, in and around the enclosures and on the feed. A large number of flies were seen throughout the enclosures containing two spotted skunks and on the ceiling directly above these enclosures.

The animals are fed a raw ground meat mixture that is placed on the top of their wire enclosures. In one outdoor housing building the food on top of at least three enclosures, housing at least five skunks, has become dried and is heavily covered in flies.

An enclosure located in the outdoor housing area has a large wasp nest made out of mud within the nesting box that three ferrets can come in contact with.

The presence of pests can cause contamination of the food supply and also lead to health hazards for the animals. The licensee must establish and maintain a safe and effective program for the control of flies and other pests.

The following animals were cited on the previous inspection report under 2.40 (b)(2) and have been evaluated by a licensed veterinarian:

Female white skunk

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**Prepared By:** MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Date:**  
13-JUN-2017

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Received By:** [Redacted]  
**Title:** [Redacted]

**Date:**  
13-JUN-2017



## Inspection Report

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Female raccoon

The following animal cited on the previous report under 2.40 (b)(2) has been evaluated by a licensed veterinarian and received treatment:

Male spotted skunk

Inspection and exit interview conducted with ACI Kelly Maxwell, VMO Autumn Unck, ACI Corbin Ranslem, and the facility representative.

### Additional Inspectors

Unck Autumn, Veterinary Medical Officer

Ranslem Corbin, Animal Care Inspector

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**Prepared By:**

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Date:**

13-JUN-2017

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

13-JUN-2017



### Inspection Report

Ruby Fur Farm Inc  
2564 200th Street  
New Sharon, IA 50207

Customer ID: **5177**  
Certificate: **42-B-0052**  
Site: 001  
RUBY FUR FARM, I N C

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION  
Date: 19-JUL-2017

**2.40(b)(2) DIRECT REPEAT**

**ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).**

A dark colored female raccoon is lying flat on her right side along the front of the enclosure. The raccoon appeared lethargic and had no response when approached by the inspector and the facility representative. The raccoon would slightly raise her head, but would not get up and move. The facility representative thought the animal is an older raccoon and may not be getting along with her pen mates.

A female white raccoon has an abnormal appearance to her left eye. At least half of the surface of the left eye is covered in a white-yellowish colored discharge. There is a dark line of material under the bottom of the eye.

The above mentioned raccoons must be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian for a proper diagnosis and to establish an effective treatment plan. The diagnosis and treatment plan must be documented in writing and available to the inspector upon request. The licensee must ensure that all animals receive adequate veterinary care at all times.

**2.131(e) DIRECT REPEAT**

**HANDLING OF ANIMALS.**

The Raccoon Building has a high ambient temperature and humidity. The building is constructed of metal and is not insulated. There are large fans running at both ends of the building and there are windows that are open along the sides. Towards the middle of the building there is little to no movement of air and the temperature in this part of the building as taken by the Kestrel at approximately 2:00 pm is 96.1 degrees F and the heat index is 119.4 degrees F. The outdoor air temperature at the time of the inspection as read by the Kestrel 101 degrees and the heat index is 113 degrees. Multiple raccoons were displaying behaviors such as panting and lying on their sides and abdomens with their legs splayed out that could indicate they are uncomfortable with the temperature. There are approximately 290 raccoons housed in this building. High temperature and humidity could have a negative impact on the health and well-being of the animals.

When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health and well-being, appropriate measures must be taken

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MAXWELL KELLY, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Date:**  
19-JUL-2017

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**  
19-JUL-2017



## Inspection Report

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to alleviate the impact of those conditions. An animal may never be subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being. The licensee must reduce the temperature and humidity inside this building to a level that is comfortable for the raccoons in order to support their health and well-being.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with Kelly Maxwell, ACI, and the facility representative.

This is a focused inspection conducted only on the building containing the raccoons.

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**Prepared By:**

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I    USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Date:**

19-JUL-2017

**Received By:**

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19-JUL-2017



### Inspection Report

Ruby Fur Farm Inc  
2564 200th Street  
New Sharon, IA 50207

Customer ID: **5177**  
Certificate: **42-B-0052**  
Site: 001  
RUBY FUR FARM, I N C

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION  
Date: 21-JUL-2017

**2.131(e) DIRECT REPEAT**

#### HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

The Raccoon Building has a high ambient temperature and humidity. The building is constructed of metal and is only partially insulated. There are sixteen fans running throughout the building and there are windows that are open along the sides. The temperatures taken in the building by the Kestrel at approximately 3:50 pm is 100 degrees F with a heat index of 119 degrees F at the north end of the building and 100 degrees F with a heat index of 120 degrees F along the east enclosures in the middle of the building. At 4:32 pm the temperature taken is 100.4 degrees F with a heat index of 122.1 degrees F along the west enclosures in the middle of the building. At 4:24 pm near the south end of the first room the temperature is 100.1 degrees F and 100.2 degrees F with a heat index of 120.1 degrees F. Twenty-six raccoons are in severe heat distress and are suffering from the temperatures inside the building.

The behaviors observed in these 26 raccoons include panting, drooling and increased respiratory rate. The raccoons are lying on their sides, backs, and abdomens with their legs splayed out demonstrating they are uncomfortable with the temperature and are trying to cool off. These 26 raccoons are also reluctant to move, lethargic, and not alert to activity in the building around them. These signs are indicative of the elevated temperature inside the building not allowing the animals to regulate their core body temperature properly. The inability of these 26 raccoons to cool off has caused them to suffer. There are approximately 290 raccoons housed in this building. The high temperature and humidity is having a negative impact on the health and well-being of the animals.

The following animals have been identified as suffering from severe heat stress:

- Enclosure #069: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #001: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #004: 2 raccoons
- Enclosure #005: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #007: 2 raccoons

**Prepared By:** MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Date:**  
24-JUL-2017

**Received By:** [Redacted]  
**Title:** [Redacted]

**Date:**  
24-JUL-2017





### Inspection Report

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- Enclosure #008: 2 raccoons
- Enclosure #009: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #014: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #016: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #017: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #019: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #033: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #035: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #040: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #041: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #043: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #061: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #064: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #072: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #174: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #180: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #181: 1 raccoon
- Enclosure #182: 1 raccoon

When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health and well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. An animal may never be subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being. The licensee must reduce the temperature and humidity inside this building to a level that is comfortable for the raccoons in order to support their health and well-being.

This inspection and exit interview was conducted with VMO Scott Welch, VMO Autumn Unck, SACS Heather Cole, ACI Kelly Maxwell, a safety officer, an IES investigator, the attending veterinarian, local law enforcement, and the facility representative.

This is a focused inspection concerning the non-compliant item listed on the previous inspection report dated July 20, 2017.

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**Prepared By:**

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I    USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Date:**

24-JUL-2017

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

24-JUL-2017



## Inspection Report

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### Additional Inspectors

Unck Autumn, Veterinary Medical Officer

Cole Heather, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist

Welch Scott, Veterinary Medical Officer

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**Prepared By:**

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I    USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Date:**

24-JUL-2017

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**

24-JUL-2017



### Inspection Report

Ruby Fur Farm Inc  
2564 200th Street  
New Sharon, IA 50207

Customer ID: **5177**  
Certificate: **42-B-0052**  
Site: 001  
RUBY FUR FARM, I N C

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION  
Date: 25-JUL-2017

**2.131(e) DIRECT REPEAT**

#### HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

The Raccoon Building has a high ambient temperature and humidity. The building is constructed of metal and is only partially insulated. There are eighteen fans running throughout the building and there are windows that are open along the sides. The temperature as taken by the Kestrel at the beginning of the inspection upon first entering the building is 93.5 degrees F with a heat index 100.7 degrees F. Multiple readings of the temperature and heat index were taken during the inspection in different areas of the building. The temperatures taken were 93.7 degrees, 94.1 degrees F, 94.2 degrees F, 94.1 degrees F, 95.7 degrees F, 95.2 degrees F, 95.4 degrees F, 95.0 degrees F, 95.2 degrees F. The heat indices in the building are 101.1 degrees F, 101.7 degrees F, 104.9 degrees F, 106.0 degrees F, 105.1 degrees F, 106.3 degrees F, 108.0 degrees F, 107.4 degrees F, 107.6 degrees F, 106.8 degrees F, 103.6 degrees F, 104.5 degrees F. Nine raccoons are in serious heat distress (too hot) and are suffering from the temperatures inside the building.

The behaviors observed in these nine raccoons include panting, open mouthed breathing, and increased respiratory rate (fast breathing). The raccoons are lying on their sides, backs, and abdomens with their legs splayed out demonstrating they are uncomfortable with the temperature and are trying to cool off. These nine raccoons are also reluctant to move, lethargic, and not alert to activity in the building around them. These signs are indicative of the elevated temperature inside the building not allowing the animals to regulate their core body temperature properly. The inability of these nine raccoons to cool off has caused them to suffer. There are approximately 290 raccoons housed in this building. The high temperature and humidity is having a negative impact on the health and well-being of the animals.

When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health and well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. An animal may never be subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being. The licensee must reduce the temperature and humidity inside this building to a level that is comfortable for the raccoons in order to support their health and well-being.

**Prepared By:** MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

MAXWELL KELLY, A C I USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Date:**  
27-JUL-2017

**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

**Received By:**

**Title:**

**Date:**  
27-JUL-2017



## Inspection Report

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This inspection and exit interview was conducted with VMO Scott Welch, SACS Heather Cole, ACI Kelly Maxwell, a safety officer, an IES investigator, the attending veterinarian, local law enforcement, an Iowa Trooper and the facility representative.

This is a focused inspection concerning the non-compliant item listed on the previous inspection report dated July 21, 2017.

### Additional Inspectors

Cole Heather, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist

Welch Scott, Veterinary Medical Officer

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**Prepared By:** MAXWELL KELLY, A C I

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**Title:** ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR 6080

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27-JUL-2017

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**Date:**  
27-JUL-2017