

R&R Research - USDA Inspection Reports and Known Violations Summary

- **May 8, 1981:** USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) inspector cites five dogs and 37 cats are at the facility, but no animals are identified and no records are kept to prove that the animals are being kept the required number of days.
- **October 5, 1981:** Inspector notes that R&R's method of euthanasia is cervical dislocation and cerebral hemorrhage. R&R is told to adopt acceptable euthanasia procedures.
- **October 26, 1981:** USDA reports that "method of euthanasia is presently intra-cardiac administration of T-61 solution."
- **July 7, 1982:** Excessive number of flies noted. "Wooden chicken crate-type containers" are used and do not allow room for animals to sit erect; should be changed.
- **July 29, 1982:** Excessive number of flies noted again. USDA suggests screens and increased frequency of cleaning. "The ceiling, which is dirty with fly manure, should be cleaned and made impervious to moisture."
- **September 14, 1982:** USDA inspector reports: "It became apparent that the operator of R&R Research, Jim Woudenberg, and his associate are not familiar with the standards set forth in the CFR booklet they possessed. We frequently stressed reviewing animal welfare standards and achieving compliance by following these standards."

Violations: (1) Newspapers are used as food receptacles and shall not be used anymore due to contamination by excreta; (2) The cat building has a solid floor and doesn't have any litter boxes; cats are excreting on the floor; (3) One primary enclosure has 13 adult cats – should only have 12.

It is also reported that private parties drop off animals and pay by check. Report states "Although this method appears to meet minimum USDA standards, we question its efficiency and effectiveness."

- **April 14, 1983:** USDA reports that outdoor shelter has temperature below 50°. New indoor facilities to be built within a year. Some resting benches splintered and chewed.
- **April 19, 1983:** Dogs not removed from cages in summer when cages are hosed out.
- **August 14, 1984:** USDA is unable to inspect eleven visits, and the State inspector is unable to inspect on at least two occasions because the owner is not present. It is stated that many times no one is present, and the owner requested that inspections only occur when he or his father is present.
- **September 10, 1984:** USDA reports that dogs can jump over separating walls and redistribute themselves – in violation of space requirements. Excessive number of flies noted again.

- **April 1, 1987:** USDA inspector reports a female dog has puppies while in a pen with two other dogs. All of the puppies died. It is deemed that better care and separation should be provided for pregnant animals.

A large, rusty barrel appears to be used for euthanasia. A dead dog is found inside it. Report states that dead animals should be properly disposed of. None of the cats are tagged, as required.

- **February 9, 1989:** USDA inspector states the temperature should not fall below 50° for dogs and cats. However, it is freezing, and all water is frozen.

Bird feces are everywhere. Report states R&R must clean up.

- **March 23, 1989:** Inspection report from USDA indicates that “animals are suffering” and that conditions are “cruel and inhumane” under Woudenberg’s care. R&R is informed that anytime in the future that animals are found in that condition, he will be cited again. Woudenberg responds to USDA and accuses inspector of misinterpreting the guidelines. He suggests he is being singled out and asks that this error be removed from his file.
- **July 25, 1990:** Inspector questions the acceptability of collars placed on the cats. Mr. Woudenberg states he has used these collars for 10 years and asks the Department to explain its position. The Department replies the collars are too narrow, too rigid, the edges are too sharp and they can tighten up automatically and will not loosen.
- **August 29, 1990:** Woudenberg writes to USDA wanting to know the names and addresses of anyone who has requested information on him and about any complaints filed.
- **February 12, 1992:** USDA inspector reports some enclosures have a buildup of two feet of straw, and have not been cleaned for at least two weeks.

The temperature where dogs are housed is at 23°. USDA rules state the temperature cannot be below 45° for more than four hours. Water bowls are frozen and dogs are “noticeably shaking” from the cold. The smaller short-haired dogs are suffering the most. *Note: This is the third time he has been cited for housing animals in frigid temperatures and animals have been deemed to be suffering.*

Dogs are found sick and coughing, and no treatment records can be found.

- **September 10, 1992:** USDA inspector records show 24 more dogs than are actually at the facility. Records are not accurate. Sales and deaths are not being accurately recorded.
- **May 5, 1993:** USDA inspection reports “many animals are not being held the required five full days.”
- **August 16, 1993:** During an investigation into two lost dogs in Ionia County, Mr. Woudenberg is questioned by a Detective Sergeant to determine if the dogs are at his facility. The Sheriff’s Detective asked Mr. Woudenberg three times if he had the dogs and all three times Woudenberg denied having the dogs. One week after he was questioned by the Detective, one dog was

returned to its owner. The dog was very sick and eventually had to be euthanized. This incident culminated in legal action against the County and R & R Research.

- **September 7, 1993:** Letter to Dr. Nancy Frank of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) demands investigation into why R&R mistakenly killed a dog belonging to a Mrs. Helen Schaeffer. The dog was 62 lbs, and was gassed in a CO2 barrel. It is recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) that dogs over 30 lbs are not to be euthanized in a CO2 barrel.
- **September 28, 1993:** USDA inspection report states “This facility is not obtaining health certificates for animals delivered out of state as required.” In addition, outdated drugs are removed.
- **March 21, 1994:** USDA inspection reports a cat with hematoma not being treated. Records are not being kept and certifications are lacking. There is no signed statement disclosing that the animal might be used in research and no signed statement by the pound that requirements were met. Animals still not being held for the required five days.
- **June 6, 1994:** USDA inspection reports continuous failure to hold animals the number of days required. Fined \$2,000.00.
- **August 29, 1994:** R&R Research still not in compliance with holding procedures—after being fined \$2,000.00 two months earlier for the same violation.
- **February 14, 1995:** USDA inspection finds five cats acquired from a shelter do not have USDA tabs affixed to collars.
- **June 13, 1995:** USDA inspection finds four more dogs than R&R records show.
- **August 30, 1995:** Deb Bankus, the Newaygo County Shelter Director, files a complaint with the MDA after witnessing animals suffering from improper euthanasia practices by Jim Woudenberg. The formal complaint states that puppies were put on the cement floor and stuck over and over through the chest and into the heart with a needle without the benefit of sedation or tranquilization. The puppies reportedly screamed in agony until they died, in full view of the other dogs. Ms. Bankus reported that Woudenberg used a thick, yellow liquid suspected by to be T-61, which is not considered humane and is no longer being manufactured.
- **September 5, 1995:** Class B Dealer R & R Research had been regularly invoiced over a period of years by an Iowa university which asked for credit for dogs they had purchased. These dogs arrived at their facility “vomiting, dehydrated, listless, with pneumonia and upper respiratory infections, pregnant, near death, etc.” to the extent that the animals could not be used.
- **December 12, 1995:** USDA inspector finds improper records. Three animals are shown to be euthanized even before their arrival at the facility. Animals are again not being held the required five days. Inspector has Mr. Woudenberg move a dog out of the cold.
- **May 9, 1996:** Inspector finds improper record keeping again. Five animals out of compliance.
- **February 3, 1997:** R&R Research is ordered by the Attorney General's office to “cease and desist” from advertising R&R as an “animal shelter and/or animal control” in the Yellow Pages, as the information is “false and misleading to the public.”

- **February 10, 1997:** Mr. Woudenberg writes to the Attorney General's office to insist that information on him not be released to the public despite the Freedom of Information Act.
- **May 28, 1997:** Expired drugs are removed, including acepromazine (expired October 1995) and Fatal Plus (expired October, 1996).
- **July 29, 1997:** USDA inspector finds a dog with a collar so tight, it needs immediate treatment. According to records, dog had arrived on January 7, 1997. The dog had been held at this facility for over 6 months.
- **May 10, 2005:** Four cats are found with upper respiratory infection, and no medical records can be found. Several cats are not tagged.
- **March 24, 2005:** Inspector catches Mr. Woudenberg taking cats directly from Howard City. In arranging to pick up stray animals from private citizens, he circumvents the shelter altogether. This is a violation of the USDA regulations. R&R is fined \$4,195.00. Paperwork is out of order as well.
- **November 14, 2006:** Inspectors report Mr. Woudenberg transporting animals in a livestock trailer with dogs chained to the side of the interior in violation of USDA regulations.
- **October 2, 2007:** USDA inspector reports Mr. Woudenberg taking stray cats from a private citizen. R&R was previously fined and ordered to stop this violation in May of 2005.
- **November 14, 2008:** Mr. Woudenberg is cited again for taking three dogs and one cat from different people who were not the original owners of said animals.