

## Continuing Education December 2022

### Topic: USDA APHIS and the use of Teachable Moments in a site inspection report

#### USDA APHIS announced that Teachable Moments (TM) will not be used in the site inspection reports

- a. July 28, 2022: USDA APHIS Animal Care will no longer issue Teachable Moments after August 1, 2022.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### Background

- a. February 14, 2016: USDA APHIS announces that the USDA Animal Care Revises Its Animal Welfare Inspection Guide to include the designation of TMs.<sup>3</sup>
- b. What is and what is not a TM:

*A teachable moment is a **minor non-compliant** item that: 1) the facility is willing and able to correct quickly; 2) is not impacting the welfare of any animal(s); and 3) has not previously been cited.*

**What is not a TM:** If a non-compliant item is having a noticeable impact on animal welfare, it cannot be a *teachable moment*.

- c. The goal of a TM: To use TM *as an educational approach that allows an inspector and a licensed/registered facility to work together to bring minor issues at that facility that are not impacting animal welfare into compliance with Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards.*

#### OLAW Definitions for Site Inspection Findings<sup>4</sup>

**A significant deficiency** is defined as one which is or may be a threat to the health or safety of animals. Examples include inoperable HVAC, electrical or watering systems, failure of such systems sufficient to affect critical housing and operational areas, and situations such as natural disasters that cause injury, death, or severe distress to animals.

Generally, a **minor deficiency** refers to a problem for which an immediate solution is not necessary to protect life or prevent distress (e.g., peeling or chipped paint).

**Repeat deficiency:** Ongoing inattention to a minor deficiency may result in a chronic problem indicative of a programmatic failure and may constitute a significant deficiency.

#### Action from the Emory IACUC

- a. Used TM as a minor deficiency with no points assigned. These were included in the Semi-Annual Inspection reports reviewed and approved by the IACUC, and the semiannual report to the Institutional Official.
- b. TMs were also recommended by the Noncompliance Investigation Subcommittee and were presented and voted on as separate agenda items.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://aphis-efile.force.com/PublicSearchTool/s/teachable-moments>

<sup>2</sup> [Letter to Animal Care Stakeholders Regarding Teachable Moments](#) July 28, 2022

<sup>3</sup> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, USDA Animal Care Revises Its Animal Welfare Inspection Guide, January 2016, <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/13044a6>

<sup>4</sup> [How does the IACUC distinguish between significant and minor deficiencies?](#) (FAQ Section E- Program Review and Inspection of Facilities)

As of 1/4/2023, findings previously assigned as TMs will be logged as Observation with Discussion (OD) with "0" points as shown below.

