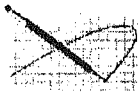


(b) (5)



Betty J Goldentyer

05/10/2000 02:45 PM

To: Barbara A Kohn/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc: Ron DeHaven/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Richard H
Watkins/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
Subject: Research proposal

The basic premise of the transportation study is good and will be helpful. Specifically, we would recommend adding a description of the ventilation openings, measurements, characterization as to placement, percentage of enclosure wall, etc. This is critical for practical applicability for the field. We need to know how much ventilation is really required to result in adequate temperature control. It is vital to measure these things while the trucks are stationary, as well as when moving.

The exercise study will not be helpful as designed. There are several important complicating factors; "Stereotypic behavior" vs. species typical behavior - current behavior studies are moving away from reduction of stereotypic behavior and toward the expression of species appropriate behavior. The social grouping of the animals is a major factor in their behavior which doesn't seem to be controlled in this proposal.

Exercise restriction - as I read it, the study would require violating policy 6 to compare a group with exercise restriction to those that get exercised. AC could be criticized for supporting this restriction of the minimum standards.

Cumulative effects over time - animals take time to acclimate to different housing and exercise routines. The effects of space and exercise restrictions manifest themselves over long periods of time. Looking at cats during a 2-6 day period in 24 hours blocks of time will not be very informative. In fact, it may show little difference, which should not be an argument against exercise requirements but may be incorrectly interpreted.

Finally, we need to be aware that Dr. Friend is closely associated and supported by the circus industry. His findings will be questioned by the animal protection groups. His background is mainly with the cattle industry and he or someone on the project should be qualified to recognize "species-typical behavior" in exotics if the (highly subjective) exercise study is to be meaningful. I'm assuming someone else will be reviewing the costs but they look pretty high (salaries for one year, fringe benefits, etc.) for a small targeted study like this.

