Animal Care Resource Guide Issue Date: April 14, 1997

Subject: Barrier Facility Policy #9

SPF Colony Inspection

Reference AWA Section 16 (a)

S: 9 CFR, Part 2, Sections 2.38(b), 2.1

History: Provides requested guidance. Replaces letter dated July 5, 1991.

Justification: The Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) must have access to

inspect all covered animals at a regulated facility to ensure compliance with the

Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Policy: Animals housed in barrier facilities are required to be maintained in accordance with the AWA's regulations and standards.

In some cases, APHIS inspections of **bonafide** barrier facilities may be performed by analysis of environmental records, visual inspection through an adequate viewing window, and random selection of animals to be visually inspected. Various non-entry methods, such as video viewing from outside the barrier room, may substitute for an inadequate viewing window.

If the APHIS inspector determines it is necessary to enter a barrier room to adequately complete an inspection or to resolve a suspected problem, the inspector may, by following entry procedures normally used by facility personnel, enter and complete the inspection. The inspector cannot be expected to comply with procedures not used by facility employees. The facility must supply a copy of their barrier entry procedures upon request. The facility will need to provide the inspector with protective clothing and items needed to complete the inspection (pens, paper, tape measure, flashlight, etc.).

Prior to an inspection of a barrier facility, the facility may ask the inspector (as part of the standard entry procedure) to verify that he/she has not been in contact with, or exposed to, certain animals for a specified time period. Such verification is acceptable. Generally, barrier facilities require a period of no animal or specific species contact for 72 hours.

AC 9.1

The APHIS inspector **will not** sign any statement in which he or she accepts responsibility for the health of the animals in that barrier facility.

AC 9.3