

## USDA investigating Clemson animal research

By [John Staed](#), Thursday, May 14, 2009

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is investigating Clemson University over an animal welfare issue.

A USDA official, area manager Herbert Jordan in Raleigh, N.C., said the investigation involved the Animal Welfare Act, but he could not provide specifics of the complaint.

“Yes, we were referred a request for an investigation,” Jordan said. “Anytime there is an allegation, we get the facts and report back to the program that reported it.”

A Clemson official who asked not to be named also confirmed the investigation and said it involved the failure of the university to follow certain protocols for animal research. He said no animals were harmed, but rules were broken.

“I can tell you that animal welfare regulations were not followed,” he said.

A spokeswoman for the USDA’s public affairs office, Brie German, said a USDA inspection report for Clemson was completed in July 2008 and “there were no non-compliances. Everything about the facility was in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act.”

German said, however, that she could not discuss an ongoing investigation.

Chris Prziembel, university vice president for research and economic development, said investigators were on campus for about a day and a half in April.

He said Clemson “is committed to the highest standards of animal care” and as evidence of that, the university was just reaccredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animals International for 2009. The university was accredited in 2003, 2006 and now 2009, he said.

“We are one of the few land-grant universities that have pursued and have received accreditation of laboratory and farm animals,” Przirembel said.

Przirembel said he was told it would be six to eight months before university officials receive information from the USDA investigation and then it could be six to eight months more before a determination is made.

While the investigators were on campus, “I did not receive any written document on the specific and general nature of the allegation,” he said.

According to the USDA Web site, the Animal Welfare Act “is the only federal law in the United States that regulates the treatment of animals in research, exhibition, transport, and by dealers.” The act is enforced by the USDA.

END