

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In Re:

DANIEL J. MOULTON, an individual,
also known as DAN MOULTON,
doing business as MOULTON
CHINCHILLA RANCH

AWA Docket No. 19-0004

Answer to Interrogatories

Dr. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) will testify about working with the chinchillas of Dan Moulton. He has inspected them for shipments as well as inspected them for problems that they have had. He will also testify about inspecting the farm and the chinchillas at the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch.

(b) (6) will testify about his professional background, his education and his treatment of animals, including chinchillas.

Dr. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) will testify about his experience with the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch and setting up monthly inspections of them over a year ago. He will discuss his observations of the chinchillas and will describe his observations. He will also discuss his assignment of the inspections to his associate, (b) (6)

(b) (6), who graduated from the vet school (b) (6)

(b) (6) will describe his education and training as a vet and, will further discuss medications used with the chinchillas.

(b) (6) will discuss the use of Oxytet 100 and triple sulfa as antibiotics as well as the use of eye drops and eye ointment. He will also discuss strep in chinchillas.

Dr. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) will discuss his education and his graduation from (b) (6) veterinarian school. He will describe his experience with medications and treatments.

(b) (6) will describe his joining the (b) (6) and working with (b) (6)

(b) (6) will discuss the inspections of the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch on numerous monthly visits to inspect each animal, with the use of a bright light and by handling the chinchillas. He will also discuss his observations of the facility.

(b) (6) will also discuss his inspections of each of the chinchillas approximately 14 days after the PETA person started work at the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch on October 3, 2020, and that he found nothing wrong with any of the chinchillas.

(b) (6) will also testify to the use of medications with the chinchillas and a change from Oxytet 100 to Trisulfa, a stronger antibiotic. He will also discuss treatment of chinchillas at the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch and the conditions of the facility.

Susan Moulton

(b) (6)

Sue will testify that she has been around the chinchilla ranch since August 2004 until present.

She will testify about her involvement with the chinchillas, including their care, the husbandry necessary to raise them, their medical needs to be dealt with and their environment. She will also discuss the observations of dealing with the USDA when they have dealt with Dan Moulton. She will also discuss any dealings she has had with the vets who work with the chinchillas.

Dr. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) will testify to his inspections of the chinchillas for shipment as well as the inspection of the chinchillas during on site visits. He will also discuss the prescribing of medication for the chinchillas when needed. He will also discuss the examination of the chinchillas both at his office and at the chinchilla ranch. He will also discuss his experience and education with animals in general.

(b) (6) will also describe being requested to meet with the USDA inspectors and then being canceled just prior to the meeting by the USDA staff.

Dr. Sanford Feldman
 Director, Center for Comparative Medicine
 University of Virginia
 PO Box 800737
 Charlottesville, VA 22908

Dr. Feldman will testify that he met Dan Moulton at NIH approximately 25 years ago and has worked with him regarding suggestions about Dan Moulton's chinchillas. He will discuss their uses in medical research. He also will testify about analyzing medical specimens in Virginia of the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch chinchillas and collaborating with Dr. Arno Wunschmann about Dr. Wunschmann's findings to determine meds to be used to treat chinchillas. Of concern is the chinchilla gut that is sensitive to treatment and using the correct medication.

Dr. Feldman has used chinchillas in his facility for research at NIH and at the University of Virginia – Richmond.

Dr. Feldman will also discuss acceptable treatment for strep and eye issues.

Dr. Arno Wunschmann
 Department of Veterinary Diagnostic Medicine
 College of Veterinary Medicine
 University of Minnesota
 1333 Gortner Avenue
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
 (612) 624-3249

Dr. Wunschmann is a diagnostic vet at the University of Minnesota Diagnostic Lab. He will testify to the analysis of over 25 chinchillas owned by Dan Moulton that were brought to his lab for inspection over the last 8 to 10 years. He will discuss his findings during the diagnostics and discussions about the chinchilla of Dan Moulton.

Dr. Wunschmann will also testify to his education, his training and his experience with animal care.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) was an employee of the (b) (6). He worked with the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch from 2010 to 2017. He had no troubles with the chinchillas from Dan Moulton but a change of practice by the vets was implemented, causing the death to at least 10 animals in one year. (b) (6) felt that puncturing at the brain of the animals was incorrect and he was of the opinion that the vets wanted to shift the blame away from them to Dan Moulton.

(b) (6) will also discuss the temperament of the chinchillas, the knowledge demonstrated by Dan Moulton about chinchillas and (b) (6) experience with the Moulton chinchillas.

Officer (b) (6)

(b) (6) will testify about being involved with the (b) (6) and the (b) (6). He will testify that a complaint was filed by an ex employee of Dan Moulton about the care of the Moulton chinchillas. He will testify that (b) (6) and Dan Moulton went to the chinchilla ranch to inspect the animals and found everything looked good. That all of the animals were inspected without any concern resulting.

Reports were passed to PETA, with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and with the Minnesota Board of Professional Responsibility about the care found at the visit.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) is an animal worker (b) (6) who accompanied (b) (6) and Dan Moulton to the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch about a complaint of care. When there, an inspection occurred of the animals and everything looked good.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) was employed (b) (6) as a manager and worked with the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch chinchillas. She inspected them and received them from the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch.

(b) (6) was involved with the inspection of lab animal provider facilities. She also inspected facilities for the (b) (6).

(b) (6) but has reviewed the USDA inspection reports and has drawn an opinion about the USDA reports she has viewed. She determined that there were many blown up issues that were overstated like many of the citations were minor.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) is a (b) (6) and (b) (6). She will testify that she has been to the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch on at least 8 annual visits (b) (6). She will also discuss how (b) (6) looked at all of the chinchillas and if they noticed anything, they would draw it to Dan Moulton's attention. In September 2020, (b) (6) did not observe anything to be concerned about regarding the chinchillas. She also will discuss the care of the chinchillas and how the facility and environment looked during the 8 annual visits.

Turner Bridgforth

Mr. Bridgforth formerly worked at the USDA and while working there, he saw new inspectors of the USDA who were admonished by their supervisors for getting too carried away with their citations.

He has reviewed the citations of the inspections.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) will testify to her familiarity with chinchillas due to breeding them but also marketing them. She has over 30 years of dealing with chinchillas.

She will also testify to being in attendance at the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch when the USDA was present and, with others, discussed their concerns about the USDA and problems that have been experienced with the USDA.

She will also testify about the condition of the chinchilla barn of Dan Moulton as well as the condition of the chinchillas.

She will testify that her facility was breached by a PETA person and false information was given to the USDA, resulting in an unannounced inspection, threats by USDA staff and the closing of the business.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) will testify about his experience with Mr. Kevin Wiltgen of the USDA. Mr. Wiltgen did an unannounced visit of the (b) (6) (b) (6) said that he could not be involved in the inspection because (b) (6) was the permit holder of the USDA permit. Mr. Wiltgen said that that was okay and he would cite (b) (6) unwillingness to proceed with the inspection. (b) (6) called (b) (6) who arrived later. (b) (6) allowed the inspection to proceed.

Mr. Wiltgen looked at all of the species and kept returning to a mouse cage and looking at it. Mr. Wiltgen kept returning about 6 times to out cage and then completed the inspection. Mr. Wiltgen cited the business and (b) (6) asked why because there were no issues. Mr. Wiltgen noted that he issued the citation as a learning experience to the business.

(b) (6) called Dan Moulton and asked about his thoughts. Discussions occurred about how Wiltgen had cited (b) (6) with 3 pages of citations after 16 years of no issues being cited. (b) (6) (b) (6) was advised to appeal Mr. Wiltgen's findings.

(b) (6) has suspected that Mr. Wiltgen was a member of an animal rights organization and has been told of such affiliations by others in the pet industry.

(b) (6) has also been to the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch and has toured it. He, (b) (6) and others in the pet industry complained to Dr. Scott Welch and to Ann Marie about issues they had during the visit and tour with the USDA.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) was the owner of (b) (6). He was the permit holder for the pet shop and, other than the first USDA unannounced inspection, he was inspected for 16 years without any citations.

In 2016, (b) (6) was inspected by Mr. Wiltgen of the USDA. Mr. Wiltgen began writing numerous citations on (b) (6) business and (b) (6) told him that he would discontinue selling animals that required a permit. (b) (6) reviewed the citations and then complaints were filed with the (b) (6).

During (b) (6) meeting with Mr. Wiltgen, (b) (6) was asked for his list of vendors. Mr. Wiltgen asked (b) (6) how well he knew the vendors and Mr. Wiltgen advised (b) (6) (b) (6) that one of the vendors was going to be losing his permit.

(b) (6) told Dan Moulton about his discussions with Mr. Wiltgen and Dan Moulton asked for (b) (6) to write a statement that was then provided to Mr. Wiltgen's manager, Dr. Cathy Hovensack. Mr. Wiltgen was presented with the statement and denied it.

(b) (6) closed the store because he could not sell dogs or cats because of a change in the ordinance.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) is an owner of (b) (6) which is a supplier and distributor of birds, fish, reptiles and animals to the pet industry in five states as well as Minnesota.

He has toured the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch and participated with others discussing issues with the USDA. These were with (b) (6) and (b) (6). One issue discussed was Mr. Wiltgen and the way he conducted himself with people in the pet industry. There was concern about the application of the AWA and how it was interpreted by the USDA people and enforced.

(b) (6) felt the condition of the barns were acceptable and clean. He did not see anything out of the ordinary.

(b) (6) may discuss maintenance that he deals with as well as other animal breeders have.

Kevin Wiltgen

Mr. Wiltgen is a USDA inspector who previously worked for the Milwaukee animal shelter, until he (b) (6) and, the Saginaw, Michigan animal shelter, where he managed the facility and then (b) (6) (b) (6). He then was employed by the USDA and is now there.

Known businesses that he inspected included the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch, the (b) (6) and (b) (6). He got involved by visiting and inspecting the pet shop in (b) (6) named (b) (6) (b) (6) which is the (b) (6) in Minnesota (b) (6). The state legislature

has been asked to restrict (b) (6) from commercial breeders to pet shops but has refused to pass laws to effect this.

Mr. Wiltgen will be asked about his conversation with (b) (6) about vendors. He will also be asked about his inspections at the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch. He will be asked about his affiliation with animal rights groups including PETA, Animal Folks Minnesota and the Humane Society.

Mr. Wiltgen will be asked about his understanding of the AWA and the impact he exercised regarding the inspection of the Moulton Chinchilla Ranch.

“Mr. Wiltgen was believed to be a member of PETA” and will be asked about it.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) will testify to his knowledge of chinchillas and experiences that he has had with care of the chinchillas. He will also discuss the extent of eye issues with chinchillas and also the frequency of strep found with them throughout the nation. He will discuss treatment needed.

(b) (6)

Dated: May 28, 2021

Dan Moulton
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