

November 11, 2019

Russ Kick  
[rkick.contractor@neavs.org](mailto:rkick.contractor@neavs.org)

RE: Public records request - APHIS forms, necropsies, correspondence

Dear Mr. Kick:

This is to acknowledge that Parkland College District No. 505 is in receipt of your *Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA) request dated November 3, 2019 received in my office at 2:32 p.m. via electronic mail. As the Vice President for Communications and External Affairs, I am responsible for processing requests for public information for the College, pursuant to the *Illinois Freedom of Information Act*, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq. In your e-mail, you requested that the College make available the following records:

Request:

“1. The following APHIS forms that have been completed since September 1, 2018:

- APHIS Form 7002 – Program of Veterinary Care (or the equivalent document) attached
- APHIS Form 7005 – Record of Acquisition of Dogs and Cats on Hand
- APHIS Form 7006 – Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats
- APHIS Form 7006A – Continuation Sheet for Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats
- APHIS Form 7019 – Record of Animals on Hand (Other than Dogs and Cats)
- APHIS Form 7020 – Record of Acquisition, Disposition or Transport of Animals (Other Than Dogs and Cats)
- APHIS Form 7020A – Continuation Sheet for Record of Acquisition, Disposition, or Transport (Other Than Dogs and Cats)

2. All necropsies for unexpected/unanticipated animal deaths performed since September 1, 2018. (This would encompass all appendices, annexes, attachments, and accompanying documents, including photos and videos in their original formats and resolution.) Not applicable no unanticipated deaths occurred.

3. All correspondence with USDA-APHIS, attached all correspondence with NIH-OLAW, and all correspondence with AAALAC (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International) we do not correspond with these organizations since September 1, 2018. (This would encompass all accompanying documentation, including photos and videos in their original formats and resolution.)

#### REDACTIONS

We voluntarily agree to have the following information redacted from responsive documents if you so choose: room numbers, telephone numbers, the names of secondary individuals, financial

information, and the names of members of the IACUC except for the Chair, Attending Veterinarian, and Institutional Official. In the event that any materials are withheld beyond this, please cite the exemptions invoked and include instructions for appealing.

#### FORMAT

We request that these records be released in any digital formats in which they exist, such as PDF, Word, EML, JPG, MP4, etc. We request that photos and videos be released in their original formats and resolutions.

If possible, please email the documents to [rkick.contractor@neavs.org](mailto:rkick.contractor@neavs.org). Otherwise, please mail CDs to the above address. In the event that these documents exist only on paper—and are not in any digital format whatsoever—please mail the records to the above address.

#### FEE WAIVER

We request a fee waiver, as the records we seek are not in NEAVS's commercial interest and very much serve the public interest. They will be freely distributed to the public, and we will use our skills to analyze and explain them, incorporating them into distinct works that inform the people of Illinois, the US, and the world.

NEAVS is a long-lived public interest organization, founded in 1895, and is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. We have members in all 50 states and multiple countries. As a nonprofit charitable organization, NEAVS has no commercial interest in the requested information.

The disclosure of the requested information serves the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of Parkland College's operations and activities, specifically its spending of taxpayer dollars on scientific research and its treatment and care of sentient beings.

NEAVS qualifies as a member of the media for the purposes of public records requests. NEAVS regularly utilizes open records laws to gather information related to taxpayer-funded animal experimentation, uses its editorial skills to turn raw material into distinct work, and distributes that material to an audience, either on its own website, blog, social media, and mailing list, or through connections with traditional news media.

NEAVS is committed to using public records to create unique works that help the general public understand government activities, particularly as they relate to taxpayer-funded animal experimentation—the very context of this request. NEAVS has the requisite ability and intent to analyze and disseminate this information to the public. NEAVS is a representative of the news media for the purposes of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, as well as being a charitable nonprofit.”

Parkland College's Response:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, a public body may extend the time to respond to a FOIA request by up to five business days for a limited number of reasons. 5 ILCS 140/3(e). We are extending the time to respond to your request by five business days for the following reasons:

- Responding to the request requires that we collect a substantial number of specified records.
- We cannot comply with the request for records within the five business day time limit without unduly burdening or interfering with our operations.
- The request is couched in categorical terms and requires that we conduct an extensive search for the records responsive to it.

Due to the nature of the records requested the college is compiling a mixture of paper and electronic records, some of which require redaction. The time needed to perform this task necessitates this extension as allowed in the statute for the reasons stated above.

As Vice President for Communications and External Affairs, I am responsible for granting and denying the requests for records under the *Freedom of Information Act*. Please be aware that this response to your request is pursuant to my understanding of your FOIA request. If I have misunderstood your request, please let me know as soon as possible so I may provide the correct information.

Finally, if you believe that this response constitutes a denial of your request, you have the right to have this response reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor  
Office of the Attorney General  
500 South 2nd Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
Fax: 217-782-1396  
E-mail: [publicaccess@atg.state.il.us](mailto:publicaccess@atg.state.il.us)

You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the Public Access Counselor or State court, you will need to include a copy of this letter for the review.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Stephanie L. Stuart  
Vice President for Communications and External Affairs

HARD COPY

CC: FILE  
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