



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Animal Care

Western Region
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July 6, 2001

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David Freed President
Lagoon Corporation
P.O. Box 696
Farmington UT 84025-8082

Dear Mr. Freed.:

During the inspection of July 3, 2001, we discussed the death of an elk calf on 6-11-01. The cause of death reported by the attending veterinarian was "septicemia, probably secondary to inadequate intake of colostrum". I was concerned by this and asked if anyone had observed the calf nursing or passing feces. My understanding is that no one had made such an observation. As there was a previous incident in which a fallow deer fawn died without ever having nursed, it is appropriate to ask again that keepers make careful observations of newborns to ensure that they nurse. This is particularly important during the first 24 hours, to ensure that they receive an adequate intake of colostrum. Colostrum is important in antibody transfer from the dam to the calf.

I hope that this reminder will be of assistance to Lagoon, as I wish to encourage you to develop a more effective husbandry program for neonatal animals.

The July 3rd inspection also disclosed that Lagoon has successfully resolved the non-compliances noted previously. I appreciate the efforts made by you and your staff to address these issues.

Judy W. Davis, VMO

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USDA, APHIS, AC, Western Region

