



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive
Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive
Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

July 19, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3775-01 [OLAW Case 1G]

Ms. Heather Gipson-Cosier
Associate Vice Provost for Research Compliance
Tufts-New England Medical Center
136 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Dr. Gipson-Cosier,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 11, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Tufts University & Tufts Medical Center, Boston Campus. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that an unauthorized researcher euthanized seven pregnant mice earlier than experimentally planned. This was done to negatively impact a Principal Investigator's research. It was not stated if the related protocol was, or was not, PHS funded.

Corrective actions included identifying the responsible researcher and revoking the researcher's animal facility access. Disciplinary action was initiated, and the researcher is no longer employed at Tufts University.

The prompt consideration of this unfortunate incident by Tufts University & Tufts Medical Center, Boston Campus was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. OLAW concurs that the incident warranted reporting. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Brent C. Morse, DVM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

A3775-1G

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Tufts University & Tufts Medical Center

136 Harrison Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Phone: (617) 636-5612 Fax: (617) 636-8354

July 11, 2018

Dr. Axel Wolff
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKLI, Suite 360-MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Wolff:

We are writing to notify OLAW of the circumstances and actions taken with respect to the following issue of non-compliance, as required by the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (section IV.F.3). The Tufts University (Boston Campus) Assurance number is **A3775-01**. The following issue of non-compliance occurred in the centralized animal facilities.

Seven pregnant mice were euthanized earlier than experimentally planned by an unauthorized researcher who admitted he caused the loss of the dams to negatively impact a Principal Investigator's research. Therefore, the animals were not utilized for the purpose that the IACUC had approved. The carcasses were left in the cages and found by other personnel; including researchers in the same lab and husbandry staff members.

The following actions were taken to investigate and resolve the issue:

- The Institutional Official, Principal Investigator, and Tufts Public Safety were notified.
- Public Safety initiated an investigation and was able to identify the researcher responsible.
- Once identified, animal facility access was revoked.
- Disciplinary action for the researcher was initiated with Human Resources. The researcher is no longer employed at Tufts University.

At an IACUC meeting, this issue was voted to be significant and therefore reportable to OLAW. This letter provides the summary of the issue and resolution to OLAW as voted by the IACUC. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Heather Ginson-Cosier, JD
Associate Vice Provost for Research Compliance
Tufts University

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 3:26 PM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Gipson-Cosier, Heather; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: OLAW Report - Tufts University/Tufts Medical Center A3775-01

Thank you for providing this report of this unfortunate incident. WE will send an official response soon.

Sincerely, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

From: (b) (6)@tufts.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 3:05 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Gipson-Cosier, Heather <Heather.Cosier@tufts.edu>; (b) (6)@tufts.edu>
Subject: OLAW Report - Tufts University/Tufts Medical Center A3775-01

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a report letter regarding a significant issue of non-compliance at Tufts University/Tufts Medical Center Boston campus, A3775-01.

Thank you,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *Alm*

Date: *5/2/18*

Time: *9:00*

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)
Telephone #: (b) (6)
Fax #:
Email:

Name of Institution: *Tofts UNIVERSITY*
Assurance number: *A3775*

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? _____
Funding component: _____
Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

A disgruntled investigator killed pregnant mice by cervical dislocation. The mice had not yet been used. Protocol violation, programmatic problem.

Species involved: *Mice* *Not known if they were anesthetized.*
Personnel involved:
Dates and times:
Animal deaths:

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____
Call police, fire person

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY
Case # _____