



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

May 28, 2019

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

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 May 13, 2019 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 on January 31, 2019 an investigator reported the death of approximately 4,000 zebrafish. The deaths resulted from a series of events culminating in low water level in the sump and supersaturation of the water when air was mixed into the water under high pressure by the pump. The situation was further compromised due to an internal low water level alarm being bypassed. It was stated that the related protocol was PHS funded (R21AR072085).

Corrective actions included the vendor correcting the bypassed alarm. Further corrective actions included the PI agreeing to: alerting a Tufts CMS veterinarian within 24 hours of any future event that results in double the normal rate of morbidity/mortality; all applicable records will be available during CMS or IACUC visits; personnel who participate in the care and research of zebrafish will be available during CMS veterinary rounds, and; tests will be routinely conducted and documented on all necessary alarms and equipment maintenance.

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
Andrew Jones, Chief Grants Management Officer, NIAMS

Office of the Vice Provost for Research
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

May 13, 2019

Dr. Axel Wolff
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

This notifies OLAW of the circumstances and actions regarding an 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 D16-00459 (A3775-01).

On January 31, 2019, (b) (6) self-reported an incident in her zebrafish colony that resulted in death of approximately 4,000 zebrafish. The cause was multifactorial. For one, the reverse osmosis unit that supplies fresh water to the system broke resulting in a low water situation. This was followed by an outside vendor service visit to replace UV housings on the zebrafish housing unit. The vendor report stated there was minimal water loss during the repair. The low water level in the sump and the pump's continued operation during the low water event caused air to be mixed into the water under high pressure resulting in supersaturation. The vendor returned to the laboratory upon learning of the mortality event and found the internal alarm for the low water level had been bypassed. This was corrected immediately.

To prevent a recurrence, the PI agreed to implement the following corrective action plan:

1. A Tufts CMS veterinarian will be alerted within 24 hours of any future event that results in double the normal rate of morbidity/mortality of the zebrafish colony.
2. All current SOPs and all water quality, morbidity/mortality, maintenance records from the past 3 years will be available for review at every Tufts CMS or IACUC visit.
3. To ensure proper monitoring and care, all personnel who participate in the care and research involving the zebrafish will be available during regular Tufts CMS veterinary rounds.
4. Tests will be routinely conducted and documented on all necessary alarms and equipment maintenance.

The issue was voted to be significant at a convened meeting of the IACUC. This letter provides a summary of the issue and resolution to OLAW as voted by the IACUC. The grant that covered the animal work is R21AR072085.

If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

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

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 10:40 AM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Heather.Gipson_Cosier@tufts.edu
Subject: RE: OLAW Report - Tufts University D16-00459 (A3775-01)

Thank you for providing this report. We will send an official response soon.

Best regards, 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)
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 9:35 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Heather.Gipson_Cosier@tufts.edu
Subject: OLAW Report - Tufts University D16-00459 (A3775-01)

Hello,
Please find attached a report letter regarding a significant issue of non-compliance at Tufts University, D16-00459 (A3775-01).

Regards,

(b) (6)

Stephanie Heller, CPIA

(b) (6)