



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

October 17, 2019

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

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 September 16, 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 three mice were found dead on July 14, 2019 with no food in the hopper. The cage had been weaned five days prior and Tufts CMS believes animals potentially went without food for 4-5 days. Tufts CMS husbandry staff is responsible for daily monitoring of all animals which includes health check and replenishment of food and water. The animals on this study were not supported by NIH funding.

Corrective actions included retraining of responsible husbandry staff, review of cage check procedures with entire husbandry staff, providing red flashlights to better assess animals without disturbance and to obtain necessary tools or body posture to appropriately assess animal health including food and water levels if otherwise not easily visible.

The consideration of this unfortunate incident by Tufts University & Tufts Medical Center, Boston Campus was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. As a note, in advance of a final report and completed investigation, OLAW appreciates institutions providing preliminary reports on potential non-compliance concerns which can be submitted by phone, fax or email to the Division of Compliance Oversight. 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)

Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov, DVM, MPH, DACLAM  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

September 16, 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:

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 D16-00459 (A3775-01).

Three mice were found dead on July 14, 2019 in a cage with no food in the hopper. The laboratory confirmed the cage had been weaned five days earlier, which means the mice potentially went 4-5 days without food. Tufts Comparative Medicine Services (Tufts CMS) husbandry staff are responsible for monitoring all animals daily. The monitoring includes health checks and replenishment of food and water, as needed.

Tufts CMS has taken the following measures to prevent this from occurring in the future:

- The husbandry management team has met with the responsible husbandry staff members to discuss the severity of the incident and they have been retrained on the proper way to check cages.
- The procedures for checking all cages properly, on a daily basis, has been reviewed with the entire husbandry staff.
- All husbandry staff have been provided red flashlights so that they can better assess the animals in the cages without disturbing the animals using white light.
- If animals or the levels of the food and water cannot be seen, the husbandry staff members have been instructed to use the necessary equipment (red flashlight, stepstool, etc.) and/or body postures (squatting, kneeling, etc.) to ensure all of the animals are in good health and the levels of food and water are adequate.

The issue was voted to be significant at the last convened meeting of the IACUC. This letter provides a summary of the issue and resolution to OLAW as voted by the IACUC. There is no NIH funding for this research. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

**Na, Jane (NIH/OD) [E]**

---

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 19, 2019 4:20 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Gipson-Cosier, Heather; (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: OLAW Report - Tufts University D16-00459 (A3775-01)

Dear (b) (6)

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

Jane

Jane Na, DVM, CPIA  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Phone (301) 402-1922  
E-fax (301) 451-5609

**Disclaimer:** 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:** Thursday, September 19, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Gipson-Cosier, Heather <Heather.Cosier@tufts.edu>; (b) (6)  
**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)

\*\*\*\*\*  
(b) (6)