



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
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
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

September 12, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3471-01 [OLAW Case 3E]

Dr. Wesley Byerly
Associate Vice President
for Research Compliance
UConn Health
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06030

Dear Dr. Byerly,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 31, 2018 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at UConn Health. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that three mice died and one was euthanized due to poor condition after not having been fed. The animal care staff failed to notice the lack of food during the daily health check for five days. An increase in animal numbers in the vivarium resulted in cursory cage checks.

The corrective action consisted of counseling the animal care staff on performing thorough health checks. Also, an additional animal caretaker was hired.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

UConn HEALTH

Dr. Brent Morse
Acting Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892-6910

August 31, 2018

RE: PHS Assurance A3471-01/D16-00295, UConn Health

Dear Dr. Morse-

I am writing to inform you of an instance we had at UConn Health when a mouse cage was changed in an animal holding room on Monday, August 6. On Sunday, August 12, 2018, the cages was found to have no food in it; 1 animal had died. Animal care technicians (ACT) provided wet food for the animals on that day and the PI was notified; unfortunately, 2 hours later, 2 additional mice had died. The last mouse in the cage was euthanized by the PI on Monday, August 13.

This was immediately brought to the attention of the Attending Veterinarian (AV) on August 12 and the IACUC was notified about the incident from research personnel on August 13. Our Center for Comparative Medicine (CCM) initiated an investigation to determine how it happened that this cage with no food was missed for 5 days (Tuesday – Saturday) by animal husbandry staff. The investigation found a failure of staff to check the cages as required by policy as the root cause. A factor identified as possible contributing was the recent increase in vivarium census resulting in cage checks to be rushed.

CCM personnel met on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 to discuss the incident. The census in the facility has been steadily increasing. Animal care personnel were informed that overtime was available if it were needed to ensure adequate animal care. They were reminded that they need to slow down and focus on the task at hand when performing room checks. In addition, a new ACT was hired at the beginning of August due to the increased census.

This incident was discussed during the August IACUC meeting. As stated above, room checks were logged as being performed every day, yet the absence of food in this cage was never noted. The AV felt that this did not warrant an immediate dismissal of the ACT responsible for this room and the IACUC agreed with that decision. The IACUC made the determination that this was an unfortunate incident and did not think that this incident would recur given the discussion that happened between the ACTs and CCM management and felt that the hiring of an additional ACT will help with the workload.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
263 FARMINGTON AVENUE, MC 1523
FARMINGTON, CT 06030-1523
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oiaacc@uchc.edu
research.uchc.edu

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No federal funds were used in the purchase or housing of these animals.

While all efforts were made to deal with this issue in a timely and meaningful manner, I realize there may be questions that arise following your review of this material. Please feel free to contact me at (b) (6) or at byerly@uchc.edu.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Wesley G. Byerly, Pharm.D.
Associate VP, Research Integrity and Regulatory Affairs

cc: (b) (6)
Dr. Kathryn Bayne, AAALAC

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 12:28 PM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Report of non-compliance

Thank you for providing this final report (b) (6) 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

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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 1:18 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Report of non-compliance

Hi-

I am attaching a report of non-compliance discussed by our IACUC during our August 30, 2018 meeting. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you and have a great day.

(b) (6)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid grey box. The text "(b) (6)" is printed in the top right corner of this redacted area.