



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
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

May 18, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3205-01 [OLAW Case H]

Ms. Sheila Garrity
Executive Director
Research Integrity and Compliance
George Washington University
2121 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 601
Washington, DC 20052

Dear Ms. Garrity,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 15, 2017 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at George Washington University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that an overcrowded cage of mice had been left in the cage wash area overnight. The inside of the cage was damp, there was no bedding or nestlet, and the water level in the bottle was low. A technician had combined the mice for euthanasia but inadvertently left the cage overnight.

The corrective action consisted of euthanizing the mice and disciplining and retraining the technician. An automated euthanasia system was put in place and staff was trained on its use and on the appropriate conduct of euthanasia.

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,

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight

cc: IACUC Chair

May 15, 2017

Axel Wolff, DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The George Washington University, in accordance with Assurance D16-00128 (formerly A3205-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of non-compliance regarding an incident involving an overcrowded mouse cage.

On the morning of February 22, 2017, the IACUC was notified that a cage of mice had been left in the cage wash area overnight. The cage was overcrowded and had a lot of built-up moisture, leaving the mice damp. The cage also lacked bedding and a nestlet. The mice did have access to both food and water; however the water level in the bottle was extremely low.

The mice were immediately euthanized by the staff of the Animal Research Facility (ARF).

At GWU, investigators may flag their animal cages with a "Sacrifice" card if they want ARF to euthanize the mice on their behalf, which was the case in this instance. This investigator has an NIH funded project at GWU. The grant number is R21CCL590598F. Although these were PHS-funded animals, it was found that an ARF technician was responsible for this error. The technician had combined a number of mice into one cage for euthanasia, but accidentally left the cage overnight. The technician claimed responsibility for the error and received a disciplinary letter and a mandatory training session regarding proper euthanasia.

The following corrective action plan was implemented after the incident:

- The ARF purchased a new euthanasia system (Euthanex EA-34000) to allow 4 cages of mice (or rats) to be euthanized at once. This will discourage people from pooling animals into one cage for euthanasia. The system arrived on March 2, 2017, and was set up by ARF staff.

- All of the Animal Research Facility employees had to attend a mandatory training for proper euthanasia, as well as proper use of the new Euthanex system. The training session was provided by the Attending Veterinarian, Dr. Patricia Foley, on March 10, 2017. Training sessions are also provided to investigators and their associates upon request.

The IACUC was informed of this non-compliance incident at the March 3, 2017, IACUC meeting. The Committee was satisfied with the action that was taken following the incident.

The George Washington University is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Secondary Individual IACUC Coordinator and Compliance Officer (iacuc@gwu.edu).

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Sheila Rose Garrity, JD, MPH, MBA

Institutional Official

Associate Vice President for Research Integrity

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:09 AM
To: 'iacuc'
Subject: RE: Incident Report - The George Washington University

Thank you for this report, [Secondary Individual] We will respond soon.
Axel Wolff

From: iacuc [mailto:iacuc@email.gwu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 9:10 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Sheila Garrity <srgarrity@gwu.edu> [Secondary Individual]@gwu.edu; Patricia Foley <foleyp@email.gwu.edu>; [Secondary Individual]@email.gwu.edu
Subject: Incident Report - The George Washington University

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The George Washington University, in accordance with Assurance D16-00128 (formerly A3205-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of non-compliance regarding an incident involving an overcrowded mouse cage.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact [Secondary Individual] IACUC Coordinator.

Regards,

[Secondary Individual]
IACUC Coordinator and Compliance Officer
The George Washington University
Ross Hall, [Room]
2300 I Street NW
Washington D.C. 20037
Phone: [Phone Number]
Fax: [Phone Number]
E-mail: iacuc@gwu.edu



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: anDate: 3/1/17Time: 9:30

Name of Person reporting: _____

Secondary Individual

Telephone #: _____

Phone Number

Fax #: _____

Email: _____

Name of Institution: George Washington UAssurance number: A3205Did incident involve PHS funded activity? YES

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

overcrowded cage in cage wash, ready to euthanize & forgottenSpecies involved: MicePersonnel involved: Animal caretaker

Dates and times: _____

Animal deaths: _____

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____

Euthanize mice, reprimand, restrain, bought automatic chamber

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____