



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
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Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
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August 31, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3448-01 [OLAW Case X]

Dr. Yvonne T. Maddox
Vice President for Research and
Institutional Official
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Dr. Maddox,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 31, 2017 letter regarding noncompliance with the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at The Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. This letter was preceded by a preliminary report that OLAW received via email on May 24, 2017. According to the information supplied, OLAW understands that on May 17, 2017, a cage wash technician found a live litter of mouse pups in a cage that had likely been recently placed in cage wash for cage cleaning. There was no identifying information to trace the original source of the pups so they were euthanized. An IACUC subcommittee investigated the incident but was unable to determine the responsible party.

Corrective actions have been completed which involved notifying all investigators and research staff of the incident and reminding them to check all cages including bedding material to ensure that no animals are left in cages prior to moving dirty cages to cage wash. Additionally, investigators and animal caretakers were notified that animal numbers including new litters must be tracked and discrepancies, e.g., missing litters, should be reported, if noted.

Based on the provided information, OLAW believes that appropriate steps have been taken to address this incident and encourages continued efforts to maintain sustained vigilance to prevent recurrence of these incidents. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Jane Na, DVM
Veterinary Medical Officer
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

31 July 2017

Axel Wolff M.S., D.V.M.
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda MD 20892-7982

Final Incident Report
(OLAW Assured Facility Number A3448-01)

Dear Dr. Wolff,

This is a final report on an incident at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) (OLAW Assured Facility Number A3448-01) that was initially reported to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) on 12 July 2017.

On the morning of 17 May 2017, a litter of mouse pups was found in a cage that had been placed in the cage washing room for cleaning. Fortunately, a cage-washer technician found the pups while inspecting the bedding before dumping the cage contents in the trash. The pups were still warm and appeared recently fed, suggesting that the cage had been placed there relatively recently. Cage cards were no longer present on the cage. Since the source of the pups could not be immediately identified, the pups were humanely euthanized by LAM staff.

An IACUC subcommittee was appointed to review the incident. The subcommittee attempted to identify the responsible party but was unsuccessful. Because of the number of breeding colonies in the facility, it was not possible to identify the source of the litter unambiguously, and no investigator reported that a litter of pups was missing.

The subcommittee proposed the following:

- 1) The cage-washing crew be thanked for their part in checking each cage before bedding, etc., is placed in the trash, thus averting an animal welfare incident. They recommended that the importance of this final inspection should be further emphasized in the initial training of new cage-washer personnel.
- 2) All investigators and research staff with access to the Central Animal Facility have been notified of the incident, and reminded that every precaution must be taken by staff to ensure that no animals are left in cages moved to the cage-washing room for cleaning.
- 3) Investigators also have been notified that they are required to track animal numbers in their breeding colonies and to report missing litters, etc., if discrepancies are noted. All new litters must be noted in the breeding colony logs.

The report of the subcommittee was discussed by the full IACUC at its scheduled meeting on 19 July 2017. After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the subcommittee. All investigators with access to animals in the Central Animal Facility have been notified of the incident and reminded that all cages placed in the cage-washer room for cleaning must be checked to ensure that all animals, including litters of pups hidden in nesting materials must be removed before the cages are taken for washing. Investigators and animal caretakers have also been asked to record the arrival of new litters of pups and to accurately record the numbers of animals housed in the facility. This incident is now considered closed.

Sincerely,

Secondary individual

on behalf of

Yvonne T. Maddox, Ph.D.

Vice-President for Research, and Institutional Official

A3448-X
Obtained by Rise for Animals. Uploaded 08/24/2020
Retrieved from Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO)

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: [REDACTED] Brian Cox; [REDACTED] Secondary individual; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: USARMY Ft Detrick MEDCOM USAMRMC Other ACURO; iacuc@usuhs.edu; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Initial Report of Incident Re Animal Welfare - Uniformed Services University (OLAW Assured Facility #A-3448-01)

Thank you [REDACTED] We will open a case file and await further information.

Regards, Brent Morse

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

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From: [REDACTED] Secondary individual <[REDACTED]@usuhs.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>; Brian Cox <brian.cox@usuhs.edu>; [REDACTED] Secondary individual <[REDACTED]@usuhs.edu>; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: USARMY Ft Detrick MEDCOM USAMRMC Other ACURO <usarmy.detrick.medcom-usamrmc.other.acuro@mail.mil>; iacuc@usuhs.edu; [REDACTED] Secondary individual <[REDACTED]@usuhs.edu>
Subject: Initial Report of Incident Re Animal Welfare - Uniformed Services University (OLAW Assured Facility #A-3448-01)

To Dr. Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM, OLAW,

Dr. Morse,

I am writing to report a recent incident relating to research animal welfare in the animal care and we Program at Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, MD.

On the morning of 17 May 2017, a USU Veterinarian was informed that a cage containing mouse pups had been found in the cage wash area, apparently awaiting cage washing. Upon inspection, 10 mouse pups were counted in the cage. These pups were alive, moving, with eyes closed. They appear to have nursed as well. These signs suggest that the animals had recently been placed in the cage wash area. No adult animals were identified. The pups were humanely euthanized by LAM staff.

The USU IACUC is now investigating this incident. The committee has appointed a subcommittee with the responsibility of consulting with investigators and LAM staff to determine how this mouse litter came to be placed in this situation, and to avoid similar incidents in the future.

A final report will be sent as soon as the investigation has been completed. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns .

Contact person making report:

Secondary individual

IACUC Administrator

Secondary individual@usuhs.edu

301-295-3579

Institution: Uniformed Services University

OLAW Assured Facility Number #A-3448-01

Thank you,

Secondary individual

IACUC Administrator

Office of Research Compliance

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

4301 Jones Bridge Road

Room #

Bethesda MD 20814

telephone #

Secondary individual@usuhs.edu

iacuc@usuhs.edu

<https://sites.google.com/a/usuhs.edu/iacuc/home>