



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  
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August 1, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3152-01 (OLAW Case Z)

John Mason, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost and  
Vice President for Research  
Auburn University  
Sanford Hall  
Auburn University, AL 36849-0001

Dear Dr. Mason,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 19, 2017 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Auburn University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that an exotic lizard escaped its outdoor pen.

The corrective actions consisted of setting baited traps, placing the remaining lizards into secure housing, and implanting the animals with radio transmitters to allow tracking in case of future escapes. State and federal wildlife oversight agencies were notified about the matter. The lizard was subsequently caught and the outdoor pen is being renovated to make it more secure.

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,

For

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

cc: IACUC Chair



Office of Research Compliance  
IACUC Administration  
115 Ramsay Hall Basement  
Auburn University, AL 36849

Telephone: 334-844-5978  
Fax: 334-844-4391  
[IACUCadmin@auburn.edu](mailto:IACUCadmin@auburn.edu)

July 19, 2017

Dr. Axel Wolff  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MS 20892-7892

Assurance Number: A3152-01

Dear Dr. Wolff:

On May 28, 2017, a Principal Investigator (PI) reported the escape of an Argentinian Tegu (lizard). The project and housing were approved by the IACUC. The project was not funded by PHS or NSF.

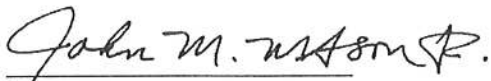
Review of the incident:

On May 27, 2017 tegus were purchased and placed in newly prepared housing. Some of the tegus were smaller than anticipated, so the PI modified the fencing to reduce the size of the openings. Upon inspection the following day, one of the tegus had pushed under the reinforced fencing and escaped. The PI immediately notified the IACUC, United States Geological Survey, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The PI immediately placed 10 baited tomahawk traps in the vicinity. The animal was sighted on the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup> in the vicinity. The traps have been maintained since that time, but the animal remains at large to date.

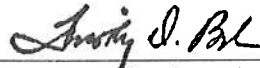
The remaining tegus were immediately placed in a more secure environment that is suitable for housing, but not for experimental purposes.

Corrective actions taken:

The primary enclosure is being renovated to provide greater security, and will be re-inspected by the IACUC prior to housing tegus. Additionally, per the IACUC protocol, the tegus will be implanted with a radio transmitter prior to moving to the renovated housing. Thus, if another escape occurs, the animal can be tracked and retrieved.



John M. Mason, Ph.D., P.E.  
Auburn University Institutional Official  
Vice President for Research and  
Economic Development



Timothy D. Braden, Ph.D.  
Auburn University IACUC Chair  
Associate Professor  
Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology

cc: University Veterinarian – Dr. P Rynders  
Chair, Department of Biological Sciences –   
Associate Dean for Research, College of Science and Mathematics –   
Director, Office of Research Compliance – 

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2017 8:49 AM  
**To:** 'IACUC Admin'  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATE: Report of Noncompliance-Auburn University A3152-01

That's great news. I'll incorporate this in my response letter.  
Axel Wolff

**From:** IACUC Admin [mailto:OARPROG@auburn.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2017 8:43 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** John Mason <jmm0027@auburn.edu>; Timothy Braden <bradetd@auburn.edu>; Secondary Individual @auburn.edu; Secondary Individual @auburn.edu; Secondary Individual @auburn.edu; Secondary Individual @auburn.edu  
**Subject:** UPDATE: Report of Noncompliance-Auburn University A3152-01

Good morning, Dr. Wolfe.

I'd like to do a quick follow up to this email I sent to your office yesterday. About 5 minutes after sending this message, I received a call from the IACUC Chair, Dr. Tim Braden. The missing tegu was captured yesterday.  
Here's the message from the PI:

Good news: we caught this escaped animal, alive and well, in a trap adjacent to the aviary. He has been set up in the agama enclosures holding the other tegus and we are moving forward with the surgeries to implant radio-transmitters next week. We will set up an additional IACUC inspection before they are placed in their outdoor kennels.

Please let our office know if you have any questions.  
Thanks,

Secondary Individual

IACUC Administrator

Phone Number

Office of Research Compliance

Room Ramsay Hall Basement

Auburn University, AL 36849

**From:** IACUC Admin  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:16 AM  
**To:** 'olawdco@mail.nih.gov' <olawdco@mail.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** John Mason <jmm0027@auburn.edu>; Timothy Braden (bradetd@auburn.edu) <bradetd@auburn.edu>; Pat Rynders (RYNDEPE@AUBURN.EDU) <RYNDEPE@AUBURN.EDU>; Secondary Individual @auburn.edu; Secondary Individual @auburn.edu; Secondary Individual @auburn.edu; Secondary Individual @auburn.edu  
**Subject:** Report of Noncompliance-Auburn University A3152-01  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning, Dr. Wolfe.

Please find attached to this email a report of noncompliance from Auburn University, Assurance Number A3152-01. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

Thanks,

Secondary Individual

IACUC Administrator

Phone Number

Office of Research Compliance

Ramsay Hall Basement

Auburn University, AL 36849

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