



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 14, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3209-01 (OLAW Case 1F)

Dr. Jerry Kruse
Dean and Provost
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
801 North Rutledge St., P.O. Box 19620
Springfield, IL 62794-9620

Dear Dr. Kruse,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 2, 2018 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that four rats died and two were ill because of dehydration caused by improper docking of the cage onto the automatic watering system. A new animal caretaker was working in the room and inexperience may have contributed to this problem.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of treating and then euthanizing the two sick rats. The corrective action consisted of extensively retraining the caretaker and monitoring the individual's work.

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



SIU MEDICINE

May 2, 2018

Dr. Axel V. Wolff
Director of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare – NIH
RKL1 –Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Wolff:

We are writing to report an incident that occurred with respect to research animals at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, Illinois (PHS Assurance #3209-01) on April 10, 2018.

Four rats (2 per cage) in one investigator's room were found dead. Two additional animals, in a third cage, were alive but did not look healthy. The third cage was treated with subcutaneously fluids, but did not seem to recover well and were euthanized the following day. Although none of the animals were necropsied, dehydration was suspected. The room is equipped with an automated watering system; it appears that the cages in questions were not properly situated to allow access to the water. The caretaker assigned to the room was a fairly new employee and had just recently started working in this room. This caretaker has undergone extensive retraining with the DLAM coordinator in the correct handling of the cages/water system to ensure this does not happen again. In addition, the coordinator or her designee will double check the caretaker's work.

The IACUC committee unanimously agreed that this situation had been handled appropriately and determined that the chance of recurrence is highly unlikely. However, the committee also voted unanimously to report this occurrence to OLAW because of the nature of the animal deaths.

If you need any further information or clarification of this incident, we are happy to provide you with any details.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Shelley Tischkau, Ph.D.
Chair, Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee

(b) (6)

Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH
Dean and Provost