



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

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

July 15, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3958-01 [OLAW Case D]

Dr. Dianne Nagy
Research Integrity and Compliance Officer
South Dakota State University
Division of Research and Economic Development
Morrill Hall (b) (4) Box 2201
Brookings, SD 57007

Dear Dr. Nagy,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 10, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at South Dakota State University, following up on an initial report on September 7, 2018 and an interim report on October 23, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two mouse rooms had elevated humidity levels for most of July 2018. No adverse effects were noted with the animals and no PHS- or NSF-supported activities were affected.

The corrective actions consisted of placing mouse cages into individually ventilated racks in conjunction with portable dehumidifiers. Additional animal room environmental control renovations are being planned to ensure ongoing compliance with the *Guide*.

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. Please provide an update regarding the status of the additional actions taken with the physical plant in the 2019 Annual Report to OLAW. Thank you for keeping OLAW apprised on this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: Dr. Daniel Scholl, Institutional Official
IACUC Chair

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

A3958

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 1:42 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Open OLAW Case

Thank you for this update. I will send the response shortly to close out the case.
Axel Wolff

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 12:13 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Open OLAW Case

Dear Dr. Axel,

To resolve the humidity problems reported, we upgraded our mouse cages to individually ventilated models that allow 50 air exchanges per hour and used portable dehumidifiers to fine-tune the humidity in specific rooms as needed. No animal welfare issues were associated with the high humidity, and no PHS- or NSF- supported activities were affected.

SDSU's Senior Mechanical Engineer and the Director of Energy Systems also identified several environmental control alterations and renovations to the research facility that would ensure room environmental parameters remain compliant with the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* over the long term. The work will be bid when funding is secured. We applied for a grant to support the desired renovations. The study section is currently deliberating; we expect to hear back from them in two months.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

www.sdstate.edu



**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 7:19 AM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: Open OLAW Case

Dear (b) (6)

Please send me the final report for a case submitted 9/7/18 regarding humidity problems in mouse rooms.
Thank you.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

A 3958

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 6:25 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Preliminary report

Thank you. I will add this to the case file.
Axel Wolff

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 3:14 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Preliminary report

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I am writing with a status report on this case. We are working with our facilities managers, HVAC professionals, and engineers to optimize building renovations and should have a detailed strategy by the end of January.

Best,
(b) (6)

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 5:23 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Preliminary report

Thank you for this preliminary report, (b) (6). We will open a new case file and look forward to receiving the final report from the IO after the IACUC has completed its investigation. In the final report indicate if there were any animal welfare issues associated with the high humidity, provide the grant number(s) for animals on PHS or NSF studies, and indicate what actions were taken to ensure that the room environmental parameters remain compliant with the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2018 5:25 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Preliminary report

Dear OLAW,

Attached and below please find a preliminary report of non-compliance with the *Guide* for your consideration.

Reporter: (b) (6)
Institution: South Dakota State University

Assurance number: A3958-01

Description of infraction: Two rooms housing mice in the Animal Resource Wing experienced prolonged excessive humidity. Throughout the month of July, the average humidity was 72.5% in Room A, and 71.4% in Room B. Room A hit a high of 79% on one day, and there were only 8 days in July when the humidity was under the threshold of 70%. Room B hit a high of 81% humidity on one day, and there were only 4 days in July when it was under 70%.

Thank you for your time.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

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Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
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Thank you for your time.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Preliminary Report to OLAW

Date: September 7, 2018

Reporter: (b) (6)

Institution: South Dakota State University

Assurance number: A3958-01

Description of infraction: Two rooms housing mice in the Animal Resource Wing experienced prolonged excessive humidity. Throughout the month of July, the average humidity was 72.5% in Room A, and 71.4% in Room B. Room A hit a high of 79% on one day, and there were only 8 days in July when the humidity was under the threshold of 70%. Room B hit a high of 81% humidity on one day, and there were only 4 days in July when it was under 70%.