



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

December 19, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3158-01 [OLAW Case 1A]

Judith A. Neubauer, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice President for Research Regulatory Affairs  
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  
New Jersey Medical Schools  
65 Bergen Street  
SSB 519, PO Box 1709  
Newark, NJ 07101-1709

Dear Dr. Neubauer,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 5, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Rutgers University. Your letter supplements the information in the initial phone report on November 28, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on June 20, 2018 Comparative Medicine Resources was notified of a loose rat in a lab. It was later clarified that it was an escaped research animal. After failed attempts to trap the animal alive, pest control placed a kill trap on June 26, 2018 and the animal was found dead that same day. It was later determined that the rat had been brought to the lab without IACUC approval and transported to a second lab where it escaped from the cage and bit a lab member who attempted to recapture it. The animal was assigned to a project funded by the PHS.

Corrective and preventive actions included counseling of the PIs for both labs. The PI of the first lab was instructed by the IACUC Chair to cease removing animals from the vivarium without IACUC approval, to retrain his personnel and to not allow any individuals not listed on the approved protocol to handle animals.

The prompt consideration of this matter by Rutgers University was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the actions taken to resolve the issues were appropriate. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Brent C. Morse, DVM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair

Laszlo M. Szabo, Esq., Dir. Office of Regulatory Affairs

Obtained by Rise for Animals. Uploaded 08/31/2020

Retrieved from Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO)

December 5, 2018

Brent Morse, 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 20892-7982

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance Number D16-00098 (A3158-01)

Dear Dr. Morse,

Rutgers University wishes to make a final report in which a rat was transported to a lab outside of the vivarium and handled by personnel not on the protocol. The IACUC Manager first reported the incident via telephone call on November 28, 2018.

On June 20, 2018, Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) was notified of a loose rat in a lab. The initial communication implied that this was a wild rat and CMR staff arranged for pest control. On June 22, 2018, the lab clarified that it was a research animal that had escaped so CMR staff then placed a no-kill trap June 22-26, 2018 but was unsuccessful in capturing the rat. On June 26, 2018, pest control placed a kill trap and the rat was found dead that same day.

Upon investigation, it was determined that the rat was brought from the animal facility to a lab to be euthanized for tissue collection; however, the protocol was only approved for vivarium work. In addition, this lab provides tissue to another lab, the individual from the first lab that was to euthanize the rat had not yet arrived, so the first lab brought the cage to the second lab to be under the oversight of an individual from the second lab that was not listed on the approved protocol. While in the second lab, awaiting arrival of the lab member who was to euthanize the rat, it escaped from the cage and the lab member who was monitoring it was bitten when he attempted to restrain the rat upon its escape.

The following actions were taken in response to this incident:

- The protocol PI was counseled by the IACUC Chair and instructed to cease removing animals from the vivarium unless an amendment to do so is submitted and approved, retrain his personnel, and to not allow any individuals not listed as personnel on the approved protocol to handle animals.
- The PI of the lab from which the rat escaped the cage was counseled to instruct his personnel (including the new hire that replaced the lab member who had attempted to restrain the rat upon its escape as he has since retired from the university).
- At its regular meeting on July 10, 2018, the IACUC reviewed and discussed this incident and unanimously voted to report this matter to OLAW. The IACUC also voted to accept the above noted corrective actions.

Please note that this study was supported by NIH funds.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Judith Neubauer, Ph.D.  
Institutional Official  
Associate Vice President for Research Regulatory Affairs

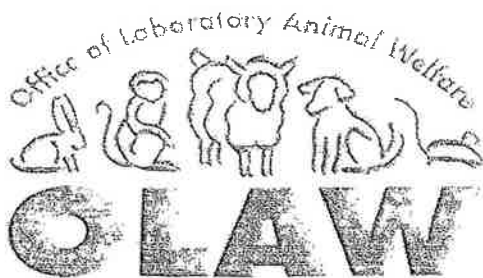
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## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *[Signature]*

Date: 11/28/18

Time: 3:00  
(b) (6)

Name of Person reporting: [Redacted]

Telephone #: [Redacted]

Fax #: [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Name of Institution: Rutgers U. - NewarkAssurance number: A3158Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened? Rat escaped in lab + bit lab member who was not on protocol.

Species involved: RatPersonnel involved: Research TechDates and times: 6/20/18Animal deaths: Euthanized

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

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # \_\_\_\_\_