



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 1D]

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 August 16, 2018 a live mouse was found unattended in a euthanasia cage without food, bedding or water. It is possible that the mouse was in this condition for up to 16 hours due to inappropriate attempted CO2 euthanasia by a lab staff member. The animal was subsequently appropriately euthanized by a Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) technician. It was noted that CO2 euthanasia was not included in the current protocol. The animal was assigned to a project funded by the PHS.

Corrective and preventive actions included counseling of the PI by the IACUC Chair to retrain all personnel involved, submit an amendment to add CO2 euthanasia to the protocol, and to submit a plan to avoid recurrence and improve communication with CMR.

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

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 mouse was left in a cage without food and water for between 2 and 16 hours. The IACUC Manager first reported the incident via telephone call on November 28, 2018.

A Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) animal care technician, observed an empty cage from a PI's lab in the biosafety hood at approximately 4pm on August 15, 2018 and assumed the lab had forgotten something and would come back to attend to the cage and, therefore, he left the cage in the hood. On the morning of Thursday, August 16, 2018, another researcher saw a cage in the hood and reported it to the CMR technician who returned the cage to the rack, between 7 am and 8 am.

On August 16, 2018, someone informed the CMR technician of a mouse with a tumor found alive in a euthanasia cage in the procedure room without food, water or bedding, and with a Euthanex lid rather than a bonnet. The CMR technician euthanized this mouse late morning, August 16, 2018.

The lab staff member that was to euthanize the mouse reported opening the carbon dioxide valve for approximately one minute and walking away, leaving the mouse unattended for at least two hours. The CMR technician successfully euthanized the mouse, with sufficient CO2 remaining in the tank; therefore, the staff member most likely did not leave the valve open when he left the mouse unattended.

Although the lab staff member said he thought the mouse was without food and water for only 2 hours, 16 hours is also possible based on the time the CMR technician saw the empty cage in the hood (e.g., 4 pm until 7 am or 8 am), as it is likely that this mouse was the mouse that had originally been in the empty cage first noticed in the hood on August 15, 2018.

Upon investigation, it was determined that at the time of triennial review (which involved rewriting the protocol into a new web-based protocol submission system) the PI had inadvertently omitted CO2 euthanasia from the protocol.

The following actions were taken in response to this incident:

- The PI was counseled by the IACUC Chair and required to submit a plan to the Chair that includes avoiding recurrence and improving communication with CMR and retraining of all personnel involved.
- The PI was instructed to submit an amendment to add CO2 euthanasia to the protocol.
- At its regular meeting on October 9, 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 mouse 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

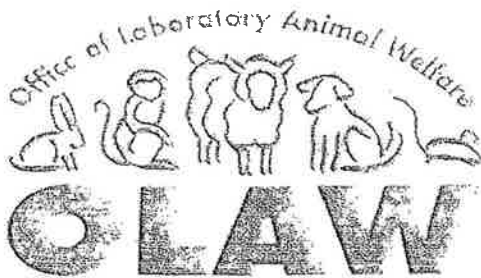
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Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *BM*Date: *11/28/18*Time: *3:00*

Name of Person reporting: [REDACTED]

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Fax #: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Name of Institution: *Rutgers U. - Newark*Assurance number: *A3158*Did incident involve PHS funded activity? *Yes*

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened? *Mouse (live) found in euthanasia cage. May have been there overnight, but at least left for 2 hrs unattended.*

Species involved: *mouse*Personnel involved: *Research Tech.*Dates and times: *8/16/18*Animal deaths: *Euthanized*

Also, CO2 not in protocol.

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

Protocol amended, re-training + counseling PI

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official: _____

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Case # _____