



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

August 16, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3094-01 [OLAW Case G]

Drs. Joseph Moerschbaeher and Jennifer Pepping
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
433 Bolivar Street
New Orleans, LA 70112-2223

Dear Drs. Moerschbaeher and Pepping

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 14, 2019 letter describing an adverse event involving a PHS funded animal activity, which had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW. According to the information provided, our office understands that on August 1, 2019 several birds received for a PHS funded protocol escaped their transport enclosures upon unpacking of the animals. Two birds evaded recapture, flew into a tight space behind a cabinet and were retrieved unharmed, but two additional dead birds were discovered which were reported as missing previously in the last year but never found, and thought to have possibly resulted from a census error. Upon examination of the location where the birds were found, it was determined that a partial faceplate that failed to cover the entire distance between the cabinets and wall caused the birds to become trapped.

Corrective measures included removal of the faceplate and looking for similar issues in other parts of the facility. One other similar situation was found, and the faceplate there is slated to be dismantled by facility services.

OLAW concurs with the actions taken by your institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We appreciate having been informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely;

(b) (6)

Nicolette Petervary, VMD, DACAW
Veterinary Medical Officer
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 7:48 AM
To: Pepping, Jennifer K.
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: LSUHSC Adverse Event

Thank you for this report, Dr. Pepping. We will respond soon.

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

From: Pepping, Jennifer K. <jpeppi@lsuhsc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 7:56 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: IACUC Office <IACUCoffice@lsuhsc.edu>
Subject: LSUHSC Adverse Event
Importance: High

See below for an adverse event that occurred involving the same birds mentioned in the previous noncompliance incident. This adverse event is unrelated to the noncompliance. Again, apologies on not reporting this sooner. This incident was reported to me by one of the veterinarians in the Animal Care division at LSUHSC.

August 14th, 2019

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

RE: Adverse Event
Assurance number: #D16-00058

Dear Dr. Morse,

In the last year we had reports of 2 birds missing from the lab. Animal care staff searched the room, but could not determine any means as to why the birds were missing. After discussion with the lab, they concluded it may have been error in their own processes of counting the birds which were used for experimentation. On 8/1/19, they received a new shipment of birds. Upon unpacking the birds, a few got loose and flew around the room. The lab technician (b) (6) noticed two birds that flew into the top right corner of the room above fixed cabinetry and they disappeared. She climbed onto the lab counter and leaned into the crawl space (approximately 8 inches in height) and discovered that the face plate of the cabinets did not extend the full length of the space between the cabinet and wall. The space was approximately 3-4 inches wide between the wall and cabinet and about 4 feet deep. 2 dead birds (presumably from previous disappearances) were found

and two live birds from the shipment from that day. The face plate was removed off the mount and the 2 birds were rescued. The face plate will not be replaced to stop this from occurring again. We identified one additional space similar to this, and it will be dismantled by facility services to prevent chances of this happening at that location.

Jennifer Pepping, DVM, MS
IACUC/IBC Coordinator
LSU Health Sciences Center, Office of Research Services
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