

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

February 20, 2020

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 480-3387

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance #A3045-01 (OLAW Case 2B)

Sheila L. Vrana, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research
Penn State University – Hershey Medical Center
Office of Research Affairs, (b) (4)
500 University Drive, PO Box 850
Hershey, PA 17033-0850

Dear Dr. Vrana,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 17, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Pennsylvania State University- Hershey Medical Center. The incident had been identified during the OLAW site visit. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a laboratory which euthanized rodents with CO2 did not have a flow regulator, did not have posted instructions, and that staff was unfamiliar with how to correctly apply the CO2.

The corrective action consisted of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) directing the Principal Investigator to obtain a flow regulator, to post instructions by the euthanasia chamber, to have veterinary staff retrain the laboratory staff on CO2 euthanasia, and to have the IACUC reinspect the area once the corrections are complete. A subsequent inspection confirmed that all corrections had been completed.

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 IACUC to comply with the PHS Policy.

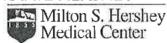
Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair

PENNSTATE HERSHEY



Shella L. Vrana, Ph.D. Associate Dean for Research

February 17, 2020



Brent C. Morse, D.V.M. Animal Welfare Program Specialist Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare Division of Compliance Oversight 6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910 Bethesda, MD 20892-6910

Re: Conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals, including natural disasters, accidents, and mechanical failures, resulting in actual harm or death to animals; Animal Welfare Assurance D16-00024 (A3045-01); 1R01NS089991

Dear Dr. Morse,

The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, in accordance with Assurance D16-00024 (A3045-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of a noncompliance regarding an incident that was discovered during the OLAW site visit on November 21, 2019 when the researcher's lab was visited by the site visit team. The incident involved a lab that was conducting CO2 euthanasia of rodents (mice and rats) in their laboratory and did not have appropriate equipment (flow regulator), nor instructions regarding flow rate posted. Additionally, a laboratory staff member was questioned by the site visit team on how mice were being euthanized, and did not convey knowledge regarding slow introduction of CO₂ into the cage as the first step of the appropriate twostage method of CO2 euthanasia.

To address the situation, the IACUC recommended the following corrective action plan:

- 1. The PI must obtain a flow regulator before conducting euthanasia in the lab.
- 2. The PI must post CO₂ euthanasia instructions by the euthanasia station.
- 3. All laboratory staff members conducting euthanasia will need to retrain on CO2 euthanasia with veterinary.
- 4. A subset of the IACUC will reinspect the euthanasia station upon notification that a flow regulator and instructions are in place.

The findings of the investigation were reviewed at a convened meeting of the IACUC on November 25, 2019. A subset of the IACUC reinspected the lab on January 6, 2020 and verified that the flow regulator was purchased and installed, and that instructions were posted. On January 16, 2020 the lab confirmed that CO2 euthanasia retraining had been completed. The IACUC recommended to the IO that the incident be reported to OLAW.

Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

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Sheila Vrana, PhD Institutional Official

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center • Penn State College of Medicine Office of Research Affairs, Mail Code H138, 500 University Drive, P.O. Box 850, Hershey, PA 17033-0850

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From:

OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)

Sent:

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 10:53 AM

To:

Vrana, Sheila; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)

Cc:

IACUC; IACUCChair;

Subject:

RE: Communication from Penn State College of Medicine

Thank you for providing these reports Dr. Vrana. We will send official responses soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

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----Original Message-----

From: Vrana, Sheila <svrana@pennstatehealth.psu.edu>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 1:53 PM

To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>

Cc: IACUC <IACUC@pennstatehealth.psu.edu>; IACUCChair <IACUCChair@pennstatehealth.psu.edu>;

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Subject: Communication from Penn State College of Medicine

Dear Dr. Morse,

Please see attached communications, and let me know if you have additional questions.

Thank you

Sheila Vrana

Sheila L. Vrana, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research
Associate Professor of Pharmacology
Penn State College of Medicine

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