



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

January 30, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3045-01 (OLAW Case 1S)

Sheila L. Vrana, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research
Penn State University – Hershey Medical Center
Office of Research Affairs, H138
500 University Drive, PO Box 850
Hershey, PA 17033-0850

Dear Dr. Vrana,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 18, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Pennsylvania State University – Hershey Medical Center. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on November 18, 2018 a research technician placed “Do Not Feed” cards on two cages of mice without filling them out properly. The experiment was postponed but the cards were not removed and feed was not placed in the cages. Two days later, two of the four mice were found dead. It was stated that the animal activity was not PHS funded.

Corrective and preventive actions included a veterinary resident instructing the research technician on including appropriate information on the “Do Not Feed” cards. Although it was stated that the IACUC recommended that “Do Not Feed” cards should be properly filled-out and signed and that the cards should be removed and feed provided if the procedure is not conducted, it was not stated how these recommendations were implemented. OLAW assumes that this information was distributed to research personnel conducting such experiments.

The consideration of this matter by the Pennsylvania State University – Hershey Medical Center was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate. Although this activity was not PHS funded, the application of the standards of the PHS Policy across the animal care and use program reduces any potential appearance of a double standard. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

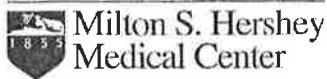
Brent C. Morse, DVM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact

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

Retrieved from Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO)

PENNSTATE HERSEY



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

January 18, 2019

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 resulting in harm; Animal Welfare Assurance D16-00024 (A3045-01); not PHS-funded

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 in which lab personnel neglected to return food to animals after a period of food fasting.

It was brought to the attention of the IACUC that on November 18, 2018, a research technician had placed "Do Not Feed" cards on two cages of mice. The cards were not filled out completely to include the date and time of the restriction period and the name/signature of the requesting lab personnel, and only stated "Do Not Feed - 4 Hour Fast." The experiment was postponed and the technician did not return food to the cages. Food was not returned to the cages of mice until two days later, after which two of the four mice were found dead. A veterinary resident instructed the technician of the appropriate information to include on the "Do Not Feed" cards.

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

1. "Do Not Feed" cage card(s) should be filled out completely with date and time period of restriction so that veterinarians, animal care staff, etc. are aware of the time period under which food is not to be provided, and can then provide food if the food restriction period is complete. Additionally, the name/signature of the lab personnel should be included so that the appropriate person can be contacted if needed.
2. If the procedure will not be conducted, lab personnel must ensure to return to the facility and remove the "Do Not Feed" card(s) and return food to animals.

The findings of the investigation were reviewed at a convened meeting of the IACUC on December 17, 2018. 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,

(b) (6)

Sheila Vrana, PhD
Institutional Official
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee



Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 8:24 AM
To: Vrana, Sheila; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: svrana@psu.edu; IACUC; IACUCChair; Wilson, Ronald
Subject: RE: Communication from Penn State College of Medicine

Thank you for providing this final report Dr. Vrana. We will send an official response 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 [mailto:svrana@pennstatehealth.psu.edu]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 3:40 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: svrana@psu.edu; IACUC <IACUC@pennstatehealth.psu.edu>; IACUCChair <IACUCChair@pennstatehealth.psu.edu>; Wilson, Ronald <rwilson2@pennstatehealth.psu.edu>
Subject: Communication from Penn State College of Medicine

Dear Dr. Morse,
Please see attached communication from Penn State College of Medicine. Let me know if you have additional questions.
Sincerely
Sheila Vrana

Sheila L. Vrana, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research
Associate Professor of Pharmacology
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