



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

September 9, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3539-01 [OLAW Case X]

Dr. Martin Hetzer
Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
10010 North Torrey Pines Road
LaJolla, CA 92037-1099

Dear Dr. Hetzer,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 26, 2019 letter describing an adverse event at your Institution. According to the information provided, our office understands that on August 25, 2019 a pair of marmosets escaped their enclosure and fought with four family units housed in the same room, resulting in minor injuries. Cages were assessed to determine the root cause and it was discovered that some cages and nest boxes were built with missing locking hardware, resulting in loosening of screws.

Immediate corrective measures included tightening of screws for the affected cages, removal of affected nest boxes and covering the resulting gaps with plexiglass panels. Long term corrective measures consisted of contacting the cage manufacturer, who is in the process of implementing a permanent solution.

OLAW concurs with the actions taken by your institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Please contact our office if the corrective actions are not carried out as described. We appreciate having been informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office at this time.

Sincerely;

(b) (6)

for

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

cc: IACUC Chair



August 26, 2019

Axel Wolff, DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institute of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The Salk Institute, in accordance with reporting requirements as defined by PHS Policy IV.F.3 and Assurance A3539-01, hereby communicates an adverse event that occurred at our institution.

On August 25th, 2019, a pair of marmosets escaped from their home cage during the night and fought with 4 family units housed in the same room. The fighting resulted in multiple finger lacerations and lesions on 6 animals. Escaped animals were immediately caught and returned to their home cages. All animals were sedated, evaluated and treated by the Veterinarian. The incident prompted an immediate assessment of all cages to evaluate their safety and ability to contain animals securely and prevent accidental opening or escapes. The initial assessment revealed a significant manufacturer's defect in cage manufacturing. The components of an early version of the cages and nesting boxes were assembled by the manufacturer without locking hardware (over 125 bolts and nuts on each unit) such as locknuts, thread lockers or other thread locking mechanisms. Without this hardware, nuts and bolts are prone to loosening upon vibration and processing in cage wash. Several nuts and bolts were found to be slightly loosened (can be unscrewed manually but not visibly dislodged). In this specific case, 2 out of 3 nuts and bolts on the front panel of the nesting box were loose and unscrewed by the animals allowing the escape. All nuts and bolts were immediately inspected and tightened. All nesting boxes from this manufacturer were immediately removed and the front opening of the cages secured with a plexiglass panel. Alternatives to the nesting boxes were provided to the animals to ensure welfare. The manufacturer was contacted. They are currently addressing the defect and evaluating options to secure the nuts and bolts.

The IACUC Chair and IO were immediately contacted and decided that a prompt preliminary report to OLAW and USDA was advisable. The incident will be further investigated and discussed at the next IACUC meeting. We believe that the corrective action will prevent further incidents until a final corrective plan is found by the manufacturer.

The Salk Institute is committed to protecting the welfare of the animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Edward Callaway, PhD, IACUC Chair at (b) (6)

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Martin Hetzer, PhD
Vice-President, Chief Scientific Officer
Institutional Official

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 7:42 AM
To: Mathias Leblanc; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Self reporting of an adverse event

Thank you for providing this final report Dr. Leblanc. 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

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

From: Mathias Leblanc [mailto:mleblanc@salk.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 2:00 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Self reporting of an adverse event

Dear Division of Compliance Oversight,
Please find enclosed (see attachment) a preliminary report signed by our IO on a reportable adverse event that occurred on August 25, 2019 at the Salk Institute. The incident was also reported to our USDA-APHIS VMO by phone.
Let me know if you have any additional question.
Sincerely,
Mat

Mathias Leblanc, DVM, Ph.D., DES, DACLAM
Senior Director/Staff Scientist
Animal Resources Department
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