



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive - MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

July 10, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3597-01 (OLAW Case 2P)

Dr. Fred King
Vice President for Research
West Virginia University
886 Chestnut Ridge Road, (b) (4)
P O Box 6216
Morgantown, WV 26506-6103

Dear Dr. King,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 29, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at West Virginia University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that several procedures were conducted with goats that had not been described in the approved protocol. Procedures included collection of blood and fecal samples and testing the effects of parasite infection. Also, the individuals conducting the procedures were not included on the protocol. One goat died and several others became ill and were successfully treated.

The corrective actions consisted of directing the investigator to stop all experiments on the livestock, to follow the protocol and policies, and to have the veterinarian treat the animals and return them to the institutional herd. The data collected under the unapproved protocol may not be used and animals on the institutional livestock protocol are not to be used for individual research projects. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and the Institutional Official will work with the agriculture faculty to ensure compliance.

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 institution 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



June 29, 2018

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

West Virginia University
D16-00362 (A3597-01)

Dr. Morse,

I am writing to inform your office of a West Virginia University non-compliance issue regarding a service protocol that is part of the WVU Stewartstown Road Farm. On May 17, 2018, the IACUC chair and I were informed of procedures performed on animals on a "Special Events Livestock" protocol that were not included in that protocol. That same day, the investigator that performed the procedures also self-reported that he collected blood and fecal samples on goats assigned to "West Virginia Small Ruminant Evaluation Program", which is part of the Special Events protocol. I requested that the Chair assign investigators to inquire further regarding the action taken by the researcher.

The assigned committee members questioned multiple individuals, including the protocol PI, clinical veterinarian, and the researcher that performed the procedures. They submitted their report, and it was discussed at the June 13th IACUC meeting. The report indicated that the faculty member decided to include an experiment testing the effects of parasite infection on feed intake and efficiency during the buck performance tests that included the evaluation of young male ruminants for feed use efficiency, growth, and semen quality. The report also indicated that the faculty member submitted a new protocol describing his planned experimental procedures using the buck test goats; however, the protocol had not been approved during that time. The report also indicated that the faculty member and his staff who bled the incoming goats were not approved personnel of the "Special Events Livestock" protocol. The faculty member and his staff also collected fecal samples shortly after their arrival during the acclimation period, which is not allowed as per the IACUC policy "Acclimation of Newly Acquired Animals." Ultimately, one of the goats under this protocol that had received testing was found dead of

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pneumonia and a few others were found sick and successfully treated. However, there is no indication that the taking of samples from these animals in any way contributed to their illness.

During its June 13th meeting, the IACUC had a lengthy and thorough discussion regarding the report, and the previous history of the researcher, and they also considered the possible miscommunications amongst several individuals and the misinterpretation of some definitions regarding acclimation and quarantine periods. The committee requested that the data collected prior to the researcher's protocol approval not be used, and that the researcher consider not using the animals currently on the farm for his specific research.

After discussing the IACUC's deliberations with the Vice-Chair of the IACUC, who presided over the June IACUC meeting, I instructed that the Vice-Chair send notice to the researcher to halt all current and future work on the animals currently on the farm and that the clinical veterinarian perform any necessary deworming procedures to return the animals to an appropriate health status, so that the goats may continue on the "West Virginia Small Ruminant Evaluation Program" as part of the "Special Events Livestock" protocol.

Upon review of this incident and the previous history of the researcher, I felt it was important to reiterate to the faculty member the importance of strict adherence to policies governing the protection of animals involved in research. The IACUC and I will work closely with the leadership of the Davis College, their faculty and their staff to ensure proper and full compliance at the farms in the future.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

(b) (6)

Fred King
Institutional Official
Vice President for Research

Cc:

(b) (6)

Dr. Matthew Wilson, IACUC Chair
Dr. Ida Washington, Attending Veterinarian
Ms. Deyanira Santiago, Director of Animal Welfare

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2018 2:16 PM
To: Deyanira Santiago; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Matthew Wilson; Ida Washington Durkin; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Report of Non-Compliance - WVU A3597-01

Thank you for providing this report. We will evaluate it and 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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From: Deyanira Santiago [mailto:disantiago@mail.wvu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2018 12:23 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Matthew Wilson <Matt.Wilson@mail.wvu.edu>; Ida Washington Durkin <ida.washingtondurkin@hsc.wvu.edu>; (b) (6)@hsc.wvu.edu
Subject: Report of Non-Compliance - WVU A3597-01

Dr. Morse,

Attached please see find a report of non-compliance from West Virginia University. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Ms. Deyanira Santiago
Director of Animal Welfare Program
Office of Research Integrity & Compliance
West Virginia University
886 Chestnut Ridge Rd. (b) (4)
Morgantown, WV 26506-6845

Phone: (b) (6)