



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

June 18, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3270-01 [OLAW Case 1G]

Dr. Laurie Locascio
Vice President for Research
University of Maryland – College Park
(b) (4) Lee Building – 7809 Regents Drive
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Dr. Locascio,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 5, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Maryland – College Park. We received the initial prompt report via a phone call on November 27, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on November 23, 2018 it was discovered that a total of 76 mice were found dead in an animal housing room. These animals had been euthanized then returned to their cages. In addition, some of the remaining live animals had been moved into incorrect caging, such that animals could not be definitively identified. These were subsequently determined to be deliberate acts, but no perpetrator has been identified. The animals were part of an NIH-funded activity.

Corrective and preventive actions included immediately notifying University Police and all animal research investigators were alerted. A card-swipe access system has been installed for building entry and exit and animal room locks were replaced and rooms are now kept locked. All personnel have been retrained in building security. Remaining animals were genotyped in order to save as many as possible for future research.

The consideration of this unfortunate matter by the University of Maryland – College Park was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the actions taken to salvage animal resources and prevent recurrence of the incident were appropriate. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office at this time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Contact



DIVISION OF RESEARCH

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

2133 Lee Building
College Park, Maryland 20742-5125
301.405.4175 TEL 301.405.8386 FAX

June 5, 2019

Dr. Brent Morse, DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

RE: Animal Welfare Assurance Number: **D16-00172 (A3270-01)**

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), has finalized an issue that was previously self-reported to OLAW on November 27, 2018. On November 23rd, animal care staff reported that an unusually large number of mice (*Mus musculus*) had been found dead in one room of a centrally-operated animal facility. The room housed animals belonging to two investigators. Upon further investigation and subsequent necropsy, the animals appeared to have been euthanized and returned to the cages. A total of 76 animals died. Some of the remaining living animals were found to have been moved into incorrect caging, such that the animals could not be definitively identified. A single sentinel cage was moved and a message of unclear meaning was attached to it. Animals in the sentinel cage were unharmed. This research was partly supported by PHS award R015200062.

Corrective actions:

University of Maryland Police were immediately notified and they initiated an investigation. The incident was deemed to be deliberate malfeasance, however to date, no perpetrator has been definitively identified. All animal research investigators at UMD were alerted, and increased vigilance, safety, and proper security of facilities were emphasized. Staff were encouraged to enter the impacted facility in pairs to ensure safety. All personnel associated with the facility were interviewed and security footage and other records were reviewed.

Access to this facility was originally via brass key, and in the near-term, all cores were changed to further limit access. The University subsequently installed card swipe access for external entry this facility to improve security and ensure that all entry/exit is recorded. Individual animal room locks were also replaced and animal rooms are now kept locked. Retraining of all personnel regarding building and facility security was performed. Remaining animals were genotyped in order to save as many as possible for future research.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Laurie E. Locascio
Vice President for Research
and Institutional Official

cc:

(b) (6)

Catherine Carr, Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

(b) (6)

Shannon Stutler, University Attending Veterinarian

(b) (6)

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 8:14 AM
To: Pamela Jean Lanford; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Laurie Locascio; [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Catherine Carr; Shannon A. Stutler
Subject: RE: UMD finalized report

Thank you for providing this final report Dr. Lanford. 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: Pamela Jean Lanford [mailto:planford@umd.edu]
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 3:27 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Laurie Locascio <lel@umd.edu>; [REDACTED] (b) (6)
[REDACTED] (b) (6) Catherine Carr <cecarr@umd.edu>; Shannon A. Stutler <sstutler@umd.edu>
Subject: UMD finalized report

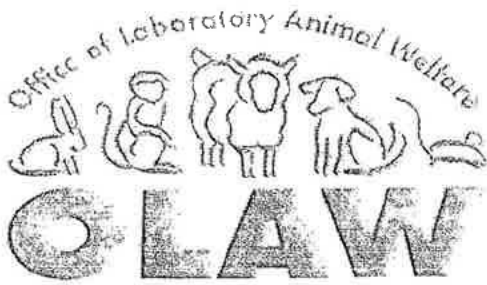
Dear Dr. Morse,

Please find attached a letter from the University of Maryland, College Park Institutional Official, Dr. Laurie Locascio, finalizing the second of two animal care issues previously self-reported to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare on November 27th.

Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Pamela Lanford MS, PhD, CPIA
Director of Animal Research Support & Administrator, IACUC
Chair, University Senate
(b) (4) James Clark Hall
8278 Paint Branch Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
t: [REDACTED] (b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 11/27/18

Time: 3:35

Name of Person reporting: Pam Lanford, Ph.D.

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution:

U. MD - College Park

Assurance number:

A3270

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened? One of 4 rooms had significant number of mice killed + moved around. Deliberate sabotage (?)

Species involved: Mice

Personnel involved: Unknown at this time

Dates and times: 11/22 or a.m. of 11/23/18

Animal deaths:

67 adults + 9 pups killed.

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____

Police investigation ongoing

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____



Division of Compliance Oversight

Record of Call for Case # A3270-16

Date & Time	Message	Initials
5/2/19 1:10	Dr. Lanford called. Will have final report soon.	(b) (6)