



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) 480-3387

July 16, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3021-01 (OLAW Case 3W]

Ms. Jennifer Lassner  
Senior Assistant Vice President for Research  
The University of Iowa  
2660 University Capitol Centre  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Dear Ms. Lassner,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 19, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at The University of Iowa. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on January 21, 2020 veterinary staff directed euthanasia of an animal on an active study and euthanasia was delayed due to necropsy scheduling efforts with the pathology laboratory. The animal was observed by laboratory staff and expired prior to euthanasia. Communication between the laboratory and veterinary staff during the monitoring period and following the death of the animal did not occur. The IACUC was promptly notified of the incident. The study was PHS supported.

As a corrective measure, the Principal Investigator (PI) met with the Attending Veterinarian, the Chair of the IACUC and the Director of the IACUC Office to discuss the non-compliance. The PI and lab manager were provided retraining. The IACUC Training and Compliance Manager (ITCM) is working with the laboratory to create a standard operating procedure (SOP) for communication with veterinary staff and upon completion of SOP, the lab members will be trained.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by The University of Iowa which is consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate steps have been taken to investigate this incident and to attempt to prevent recurrence. OLAW reminds your organization that instances in which an animal's disposition extends beyond established humane endpoints are considered significant non-compliances and are of concern to OLAW. We appreciate being informed of this matter and please contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by  
(b) (6) Nicole L. Lukovsky-  
Akhsanov -5  
Date: 2020.07.16  
11:14:57 -04'00'

Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov, DVM, MPH, DACLAM  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact



**Office of the Vice President  
for Research**

2660 University Capitol Centre  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-5500  
319-335-2119

February 19, 2020

Axel V. Wolff, MS, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive  
Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

This letter is to report an incident involving a ferret. The University of Iowa PHS Assurance Number is D16-00009 (A3021-01). The grant number affected is 75N92019R0014.

January 21, 2020: Veterinary staff directed euthanasia of an animal that was part of an important ongoing study. Euthanasia was acutely delayed owing to efforts by the lab to schedule a necropsy with the pathology lab. The animal was kept under close observation by laboratory staff and succumbed prior to being euthanized. Communication between the laboratory and veterinary staff during this monitoring period and following the death of the animal should have occurred but it did not.

The IACUC Office was promptly notified of the incident. The PI and lab manager were contacted and provided retraining. The AV, Chair, and Director of the IACUC Office met with the PI to discuss the matter. The IACUC Training and Compliance Manager (ITCM) is assisting the lab with the creation of a standard procedure (SOP) for all circumstances in which communication to the veterinary staff is required. Once complete, the ITCM and veterinary staff will conduct training sessions with lab members on the SOP.

February 12, 2020: The IACUC members discussed the incident at a convened meeting and voted to report to the appropriate agencies.

I have reviewed the events and believe they were appropriately managed and fully addressed. If you have any questions pertaining to this report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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A large grey rectangular box redacting the signature of Jennifer Lassner.

Jennifer Lassner  
Institutional Official  
Senior Assistant Vice President for Research

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 2:12 PM  
**To:** IACUC; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Report of non-compliance incident

Thank you for providing these reports. 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

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.

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**From:** IACUC <iacuc@uiowa.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:11 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** accredit@aaalac.org  
**Subject:** Report of non-compliance incident

Please see attached reports of non-compliance at the University of Iowa.

Thank you,

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(b) (6)