



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

February 13, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3612-01 [OLAW Case 1F]

Dr. Joel D. Baines
Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine
Louisiana State University
Skip Bertman Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3103

Dear Dr. Baines,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 29, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Louisiana State University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a mouse was euthanized by cervical dislocation in the animal room. The procedure was not performed under CO2 anesthesia as described in the protocol and was performed in an animal room, which is prohibited. Due to staff turnover, the matter was not reported to OLAW promptly.

The corrective action consisted of the veterinarian directing the research associate responsible to stop all animal activities. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) required the individual to undertake hands-on and on-line retraining, which was subsequently completed. Internal policies have been revised to ensure prompt reporting to OLAW.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of these problems. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the IACUC 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



A3612-1F

School of Veterinary Medicine
Office of the Dean

January 29, 2019

To: Axel V. Wolf, DVM, MS
Director: Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

From: Joel D. Baines VMD, PhD
Institutional Official for Animal Care and Use, and
Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine
Through the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Re: Non-compliance- Assurance number D16-00372 (A3612-01)

The Louisiana State University (LSU) IACUC, through the Institutional Official, herein report a deviation from the provisions of the *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* and the *Animal Welfare Act* (AWA). Specifically, a Research Associate euthanized a mouse in a manner that was not approved on the associated animal care and use protocol. While only one mouse was euthanized, the LSU community takes seriously our commitment to comply with all laws, regulations and guidelines pertaining to animal care and use. In the opinion of the IACUC, U.S. Government Principles I, IV, V and VIII were violated. Further, our PHS Assurance Statement indicates that we will equally apply all federal laws governing the use of animals in research, teaching, and testing, regardless of PI, vertebrate animal species, experimental use, funding source or animal housing location. Hence, we make the following report.

In May, 2018, an animal caretaker reported to her Supervisor that a Research Associate performed cervical dislocation on a mouse inside the animal room. Not only are animals not to be euthanized inside the animal room, the approved animal care and use protocol stipulated that cervical dislocation would only be performed under CO₂ anesthesia. The issue was investigated by the Chief Clinical Veterinarian, who instructed the Research Associate to cease all animal use. The principal investigator (PI) was notified and likewise instructed to prohibit the Research Associate from further animal use until the issue could be discussed by the IACUC and corrective actions taken.

The issue was discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 12, 2018. The IACUC voted to require the PI to instruct the Research Associate to retake the online training ("ASLAS

Working with the IACUC at LSU”) and to retake a “wet lab” on methods of humane euthanasia. The PI complied with these requirements. The Research Associate undertook the training. The IACUC was satisfied with the corrective measures taken by the PI and Research Associate, and considered the matter closed. The LSU-IACUC and the University regret the occurrence of this incident and will make every effort to ensure it does not occur again in the future.

Very unfortunately, at the end of June, 2018, the IACUC Secretary retired; in July, 2018, the IACUC Chair stepped down and a new Chair was appointed, and, the annual changeover of laboratory animal (Attending) veterinarian on the IACUC occurred. The outgoing Acting Attending Veterinarian (LSU’s Chief Clinical Veterinarian), assumed that OLAW had been notified of the incident, while the incoming Attending Veterinarian was unaware of the incident because he had not been on the IACUC the month prior. In January, 2019, it was discovered that a letter of report had not been sent to OLAW.

The LSU-IACUC regrets that notification of this non-compliance event did not occur in a more timely manner. This issue was discussed with the new IACUC Chair, Attending Veterinarian, and new IACUC Manager, and a system initiated to prevent a further occurrence of this administrative mishap.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

✓ Joel D. Baines, VMD, PhD
Dean, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine
Institutional Official for Animal Care
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA