



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

May 29, 2019

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

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 April 10, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Louisiana State University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a student worker failed to come in over a weekend to provide care to cats, parrots, reptiles, and rodents. Specifically, 12 cats and 20 parrots had no food and 6 cats had no water. One cat exhibited stress induced anorexia and vomiting and may not have had access to food in a motorized feeder. All other animals did have food and water.

The corrective actions consisted of having the veterinarian examine all animals. All were found to be in good condition except for the one cat who was treated and is doing well. The batteries in the automatic feeder were replaced. Because the student had been a good worker, she was retained but must now notify the supervisor when working alone on weekends.

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 on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. In future, please submit all signed final reports electronically to olawdco@od.nih.gov.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



School of Veterinary Medicine
Office of the Dean

April 10, 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 student worker employed to provide weekend care to animals in one of our vivaria, failed to come in and perform her duties over the two days of one weekend. 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 and VII were violated. Further, our PHS Assurance Statement indicates that we 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 housing location. Hence, we make the following report.

On Monday, March 11, 2019, the Life Sciences Vivarium Supervisor discovered that, contrary to standard operating procedure, the weekend animal care schedule had not been initialed by the student worker assigned to provide animal care that weekend. Upon checking with the student worker, the Supervisor learned that the student worker was distracted by her uncle's funeral that weekend, was confused regarding her work schedule, and, did not report for work on the assigned schedule. As a result, animals were not cared for over the weekend.

The Supervisor examined all animals in the vivarium. It was discovered that 12 cats and 20 parrots lacked food. In addition, 6 cats lacked water. The remaining cats, parrots, all reptiles (chameleons, tortoises, geckos) and all rodents in the facility had food and water. All animals were examined by a laboratory animal veterinarian. One cat was observed sitting in her litter

box. She had produced a small amount of blood-tinged vomit. This cat has a history of stress-induced anorexia and vomiting; and, while her feeder contained food, the batteries operating her motorized feeder were low, and may not have opened the device upon the cat's approach. The batteries were replaced, and the cat was treated symptomatically and recovered without complications. No other animals in the facility had clinical signs attributable to the incident.

The incident was investigated by the Attending Veterinarian/Director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM), and the Chief Clinical Veterinarian, and was then reported to the IACUC for discussion. The student worker who failed to report for duty had, prior to this incident, been a very good and dependable employee. After much discussion, it was decided to retain her as a student worker. However, to prevent a reoccurrence of this operational failure, the DLAM has instituted a standard operating procedure requiring weekend student employees working solo, to call or send their Supervisor a text message upon arriving at the vivarium.

The issue was discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the IACUC, held April 9, 2019. The IACUC was satisfied with the corrective measures taken by the DLAM, and considered the matter closed. The DLAM, IACUC and University regret the occurrence of this incident and will make every effort to ensure it does not occur again in the future.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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