



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

January 6, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3187-01 [OLAW Case 8T]

Mr. George A. Huber  
Vice Chancellor for Research Conduct  
and Compliance  
University of Pittsburgh  
(b) (4) Hieber Building  
3500 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Dr. Huber,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 19, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Pittsburgh. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that one mouse died due to lack of food in the cage.

The corrective actions consisted of providing diet gel and food, placing the technician responsible on administrative leave, counseling the laboratory staff, retraining the laboratory staff on ensuring adequate food and water is in the cage following cage setup and weaning, having a laboratory member conduct weekly cage checks, having a senior technician assist with cage setup and weaning, and retraining all current and one new technician. A letter of reprimand was issued to the Principal Investigator and Executive Director of the animal care program.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented in this specific incident to address the problem. However, this Office remains concerned about the ongoing issue of animal deaths due to lack of food/water and we await the response to case A3187-8Q regarding program wide steps to be taken to prevent such problems. Thank you for informing OLAW about this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



George A. Huber, JD, MSIE, MSSM  
Vice Chancellor for Research Protections  
Professor of Health Policy and Management

Office of Research Protections

Suite 401, Hiebert Building  
3500 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-624-2202  
ghuber@pitt.edu  
orp.pitt.edu

December 19, 2019

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse:

As the Institutional Official responsible for the University of Pittsburgh's Animal Care and Use Program (Assurance number D16-00118), I am writing to report an incident of non-compliance<sup>1</sup> that was reviewed by the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at its November 18, 2019 meeting.

On September 30, 2019, it was determined that one box of mice covered by the investigator's IACUC protocol was not provided with food. Immediately upon discovery, the mice were provided with diet gel and food. One mouse did not survive.

The University of Pittsburgh IACUC reviewed and accepted the investigator's corrective action plan (CAP), which consisted of the following items:

1. Consistent with University practice, the technician responsible for the cage was placed on administrative leave until an investigation has been completed.
2. The Principal Investigator discussed the noncompliance at a lab meeting on October 21, 2019.
3. Lab personnel were retrained on ensuring adequate food and water is provided to mice at the time of cage setup and weaning.
4. A lab member will perform weekly checks of all cages for adequate food and water.
5. A senior technician will assist with new cage setup and weaning.
6. A new technician will be trained with the assistance of a veterinary technician for animal care and handling issues.
7. Animal care technicians were retrained.

<sup>1</sup> PHS Policy IV.C.1.d

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Page 2  
December 19, 2019

The investigator's research is supported by the following NIH grants:

- THE ROLE OF ACOD1 IN IMMUNOMODULATION IN INTRAPULMONARY KLEBSIELLA PNEUMONIAE INFECTION
- HOST CONTROL MECHANISMS AGAINST K. PNEUMONIAE INFECTION IN THE LUNGS
- MECHANISMS OF HOST PROTECTION AGAINST PATHOGEN-SECRETED PROTEASES IN ACUTE LUNG INJURY

The IACUC has levied the following sanctions:

1. A letter of reprimand was sent to the Principal Investigator, the Executive Director of the animal care program, and their supervisors regarding this incident of non-compliance. The letter has been placed in our files as evidence of the same.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

George A. Huber

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Reportable Event Notice

Thank you for providing these final reports (b) (6) 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

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 2:59 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Reportable Event Notice

Please review the attached correspondence forwarded on behalf of George A. Huber, Vice Chancellor for Research Protections. Thank you.

(b) (6)

