



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

September 10, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3079-01 [OLAW Case 3T]

Dr. Dawn A. Bonnell  
Vice Provost for Research  
University of Pennsylvania  
1 College Hall, (b) (4)  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6303

Dear Dr. Bonnell,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 9, 2019 letter reporting an adverse event affecting research mice at the University of Pennsylvania. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that 37 mice died after their cages flooded due to a water pump leak in the ceiling.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of moving racks to other areas. The surviving affected mice were treated by the veterinary staff and recovered. Maintenance staff fixed the leak, painted the interstitial floor to block water, and installed water sensor alarms.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution 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  
Director of Animal Welfare



**Office of the Vice Provost for Research**

September 9, 2019

Axel V. Wolff, MS, DVM  
Deputy Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

University of Pennsylvania  
A3079-01  
Case BRB19

Dear Dr. Wolff,

The University of Pennsylvania is reporting an adverse building event that affected the well-being of laboratory mice. A water pump in the interstitial space above a rodent vivarium developed a leak. Water leaked through the ceiling and onto the mouse racks wetting them and flooding some cages. As soon as the situation was discovered the husbandry staff addressed all the wet cages and relocated racks to a safe area. The veterinary staff addressed the medical and nursing care needs of the mice. The maintenance staff immediately addressed the leak and building water issues. However, 37 mice died from the flooded cages. All the mice that received nursing care survived. The IACUC Compliance subcommittee was immediately made aware of the event and IACUC was informed at a regularly scheduled IACUC meeting.

To help prevent similar issues in the future, the building maintenance staff has agreed to paint the interstitial floor to help mitigate passage of water to the floor below and to install water sensor alarms that are monitored 24/7 as part of the building's automation system.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

(b) (6)

Dawn Bonnell, PhD  
Vice Provost for Research  
Trustee Professor of Materials Science and Engineering  
Institutional Official

CC: IACUC Chair, University of Pennsylvania  
Attending Veterinarian and ULAR Director, University of Pennsylvania  
Director of Animal Welfare, University of Pennsylvania

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 09, 2019 2:39 PM  
**To:** Reinhard, Gregory R; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: U of Penn Self Reports

Thank you for providing these two reports Dr. Reinhard. 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:** Reinhard, Gregory R [mailto:reingr@upenn.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 09, 2019 12:14 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** U of Penn Self Reports

Dear OLAW,  
Attached please find two self-reports to OLAW regarding an adverse facility event and a documentation oversight by a PI. (Both previously discussed with Axel.)  
Please contact me if you any questions.  
Regards  
Gregory Reinhard

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