



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

August 28, 2019

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

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

Dear Dr. Huber,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 23, 2019 letter reporting an adverse event involving two nonhuman primates at the University of Pittsburgh. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two monkeys became entangled in each other's chain collars which led to strangulation.

The immediate action taken consisted of animal care staff disconnecting the animals, but one died. The other one was successfully treated. The investigator stopped using chain collars and switched to solid ones and the Attending Veterinarian counseled the investigator on chairing procedures.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been taken to address this issue. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair  
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC



# University of Pittsburgh

*Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Research  
Research Conduct and Compliance Office*

Suite 401, Hiebert Building  
3500 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
Phone: 412-624-2202  
Fax: 412-648-4010  
ghuber@pitt.edu

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

August 23, 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 a violation of Public Health Service (PHS) Policy. At its meeting on May 20, 2019, the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) determined that a violation of the following PHS Policies had occurred:

- PHS Policy IV.C.1.a., requiring that "procedures with animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals, consistent with sound research design."

The incident occurred on April 27, 2019, and was as follows:

Animal care staff discovered two non-human primates that had become entangled together via their chain collars. Both animals appeared to be in severe respiratory distress due to strangulation as a result of the entanglement. While the on-site husbandry staff worked quickly to disentangle them, one of the animals succumbed before it could be released. Emergency vet staff was immediately contacted during the incident and provided care to the surviving animal, which suffered minor physical injuries – bruising to the face – and was treated with Baytril and ketoprofen for three days, after which further intervention was unnecessary.

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

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
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August 23, 2019

1. The investigator and University Attending Veterinarian discussed the use of chain collars, which the investigator used when transporting the animals to and from restraint chairs.
2. The investigator has ceased using chain collars and replaced them with solid ones.
3. The Attending Veterinarian has met with the investigator several times since the incident to discuss their chairing procedures and will assist the investigator with any future refinements.

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

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 5R01EY022854-06 | NEURAL CONTROL OF INTERCEPTIVE<br>MOVEMENTS |
| 5R01EY024831-04 | NEURAL MECHANISMS OF SACCADIC<br>INITIATION |

It should be noted that the USDA visited the University from July 8-10, 2019 to specifically review this incident and found no non-compliant items.

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

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

George A. Huber

**Na, Jane (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2019 4:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: University of Pittsburgh Reportable Event Notice

Dear (b) (6)

Thank you for providing these reports. We will send official responses soon.

Jane

Jane Na, DVM, CPIA  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Phone (301) 402-1922  
E-fax (301) 451-5609

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2019 3:34 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** University of Pittsburgh Reportable Event Notice

Please review the attached documents forwarded on behalf of George A. Huber, Vice Chancellor for Research Conduct and Compliance. Thank you.

(b) (6)



**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

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A3187-8K

**From:** Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 10:32 AM  
**To:** Chapman, Deborah L  
**Subject:** RE: reportable event

Hi Dr. Chapman,

Thank you for the update. This is still within the average timeframe between the preliminary and final report. I will add your note to the file and will await the final report from the IO.

Axel Wolff

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**From:** Chapman, Deborah L <dlc7@pitt.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 10:24 AM  
**To:** Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: reportable event

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I am sorry for our delay in getting a final report to you from the IO regarding this incident. We have moved forward with the investigation and CAP, but do not yet have the letter from the IO which comes down to me checking on this far too late. I am working on this (and another preliminary report for another incident) which I hope to get to you in the next week.

I am very sorry about this delay.

Debbie

—  
Deborah L. Chapman, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences

*Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee*

University of Pittsburgh  
(b) (4) Life Sciences Annex  
Fifth & Ruskin Avenues  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

tel (office): (b) (6)

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**From:** "Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]" <wolffa@od.nih.gov>  
**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 6:53 AM  
**To:** Deborah Chapman <dlc7@pitt.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: reportable event

Thank you for this preliminary report, Dr. Chapman. I will start a new case file and look forward to receiving the final report from the IO after the IACUC has completed its investigation.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

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**From:** Chapman, Deborah L <dlc7@pitt.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:51 PM

To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>

Subject: reportable event

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I wanted to briefly discuss with you an incident that occurred over the weekend in which we lost one NHP due to strangulation. This event is being reported to the USDA and I wanted to make sure that you were aware of the incident.

Institute: University of Pittsburgh

Assurance number: A3287-01 (legacy assurance number) and D16-00118 (current number)

Funding Component: NIH (National Eye Institute) I believe these are the grants impacted: 5R01EY022854-06 5R01EY024831-04

Incident: 2 co-housed Rhesus Macaques became entangled by their chain collars which are used for pole chairing. Once observed, the animal care staff members worked fast to free the animals. Both NHPs were in severe respiratory distress due to strangulation. One NHP succumbed while the other recovered. It should be noted that these were not choke collars.

CAP: The attending veterinarian has set a date of Friday, May 3, 2019 for the PI to remove all such collars on the remaining NHPs (5-6 total). The PI has agreed. These collars will be replaced by solid collars for pole chairing as are used in other labs in the program.

A final report will be submitted after the IACUC convenes at its full meeting at the end of May.

Please let me know when you are available.

Thank you!

Debbie

Deborah L. Chapman, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences

*Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee*

University of Pittsburgh  
(b) (4) Life Sciences Annex  
Fifth & Ruskin Avenues  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

tel (office): (b) (6)

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

AC 187-8K

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**Subject:** RE: reportable event

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Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

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**Incident:** 2 co-housed Rhesus Macaques became entangled by their chain collars which are used for pole charring. Once observed, the animal care staff members worked fast to free the animals. Both NHPs were in severe respiratory distress due to strangulation. One NHP succumbed while the other recovered. It should be noted that these were not choke collars.

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Please let me know when you are available.  
Thank you!  
Debbie

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Deborah L. Chapman, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences

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