



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 8G]

Mr. George A. Huber  
Interim Vice Provost  
University of Pittsburgh  
(b) (4) Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Mr. Huber,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 8, 2019 letter regarding noncompliance with the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Policy) at the University of Pittsburgh which was not preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW. According to the information supplied, OLAW understands that on May 17, 2019, animal care staff found four mice in two cages that did not have access to water. It was stated that laboratory personnel placed the cages without water bottles on the rack in slots lacking lixits connected to a water supply. The letter indicated that the associated animal work was not funded by the PHS or the National Science Foundation.

The IACUC issued a letter of reprimand to the investigator, and the investigator instituted changes to prevent recurrence of this noncompliance. Specifically, the rows of cages without lixits were rearranged and labeled to enable laboratory staff to more easily identify which rows did not have lixits and therefore required water bottles. Additionally, laboratory staff will check the functionality of lixits prior to placing a cage of animals on the rack.

Based on the information provided, OLAW believes that the described corrective actions are appropriate to address this incident and reduce the likelihood of recurrence of this type of noncompliance. Although the involved animal activities were not PHS or NSF funded, the application of the standards of the PHS Policy across the animal care and use program reduces any potential appearance of a double standard. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office at this time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jane Na, DVM  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



# University of Pittsburgh

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

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

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

July 8, 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 June 17, 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.d., requiring that "the living conditions of animals will be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort."

The violation was discovered by animal care staff on May 17, 2019, and was as follows:

Two cages of mice (four mice in total) covered under the investigator's protocol were found dead and without access to water. Neither cage had been provided with a water bottle when replaced on the rack by laboratory personnel.

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

1. The investigator will assign all cages requiring water bottles to the top one or two rows of the rack, labeling them appropriately, so that it will be easy to identify cages that don't have access to water via lixit.

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Page 2  
July 8, 2019

2. The investigator's laboratory staff will, when replacing cages on the rack, check the lixit for functionality.
3. The investigator's laboratory staff will replace lixits on lower rows that were previously removed when removing boxes (since lower rows will be exclusively provided water via lixit).

The investigator's research is not supported by NIH or NSF grants.

The IACUC has levied the following sanctions:

1. A letter of reprimand was sent to the Principal Investigator and his supervisor regarding this violation. The letter has been placed in our files as evidence of a violation.

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:** Monday, July 08, 2019 4:20 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Reportable Event Notice

Thank you for providing these reports. 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:** Monday, July 08, 2019 2:21 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Reportable Event Notice

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

(b) (6)

