



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
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
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

October 10, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3350-01 [OLAW Case T]

Dr. Richard S. Larson
Executive Vice Chancellor
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
MSC 4640 1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-5126

Dear Dr. Larson,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 19, 2018 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, following up on an initial telephone report on September 5, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a new animal technician failed to provide food and water to two cages which resulted in the deaths of seven mice.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining the animal care staff and having a second individual observe cages changed by new staff for the first four weeks of employment. No further issues have occurred with the new employee.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to 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.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



Office of Animal Care Compliance

September 19, 2018

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982, 6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982
Phone: 301-594-2061
FAX: 301-402-2803
E-mail: olawdco@mail.nih.gov

Attn: Axel Wolff, DVM, Director

RE: Assurance # D16-00228 (A3350-01) – Failure to place food and water in two animal cages resulting in death (e.g., unexpected animal deaths due to human error)

As per our telephonic report to Dr. Axel Wolff on September 4, 2018, a new animal technician failed to place food and water in two mouse cages on Thursday August 30th. The omission was not identified until Saturday September 1st and this failure resulted in the death of 7 mice.

Consequently, additional staff training was conducted and a plan was implemented to require a secondary observer to check all cages after cage changes by new animal care staff for a minimum of four weeks. If no errors are identified during the four-week secondary observation period, we will consider new animal care staff to be competent and secondary observations will cease.

Secondary observations have been occurring for two weeks and currently no errors have been identified for the individual that was involved in the incident. The secondary observation period for this individual will cease after two additional weeks if no further errors are observed.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Richard S. Larson, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor,
Vice Chancellor for Research

cc: Kevin O'Hair, D.V.M., DACLAM, Attending Veterinarian
Laura Gonzalez Bosc, Ph.D., IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 10:01 AM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Laura Gonzalez Bosc; Kevin C O'Hair
Subject: RE: Assurance # D16-00228 (A3350-01) – Failure to place food and water in two animal cages resulting in death (e.g., unexpected animal deaths due to human error)

Thank you for providing this final report. We will send an official response soon. Unless you desire to do so, there is no need to send the original.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2018 5:41 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Laura Gonzalez Bosc <LGonzalezBosc@salud.unm.edu>; Kevin C O'Hair <KOHair@salud.unm.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Assurance # D16-00228 (A3350-01) – Failure to place food and water in two animal cages resulting in death (e.g., unexpected animal deaths due to human error)

Good afternoon, Dr. Wolff,

Please see the attached, signed final report as previously discussed. I am also mailing the original.

Thank you!

(b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *aw*

Date: *9/5/18*

Time: *11:45*

Name of Person reporting: *Kevin O'Hair*

Telephone #: *(b)(6)*

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: *U of New Mexico Science Ctr*

Assurance number: *A3350*

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? _____

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

8 mice died from no food or water, new animal care employee

Species involved: *Mice*

Personnel involved: *ANIMAL caretaker*

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: *8*

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____

Retrain, enhanced supervision

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____