



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
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Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

July 5, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3049-01 [OLAW Case 1N]

Mr. Thomas Coggins
Director, Office of Research Compliance
University of South Carolina
(b) (4) Byrnes Building
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Mr. Coggins,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 28, 2018 email reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of South Carolina. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on June 12, 2018 a DLAR veterinary technician discovered a sentinel cage containing dead mice and no food. The room's daily observation sheets were signed by both animal care technicians and their supervisor. It was stated the animals were not supported by PHS funding.

Corrective actions included terminating the employment of the supervisor and disciplining both animal care technicians. All DLAR staff members were reminded of their responsibilities.

The prompt consideration of this matter by the University of South Carolina was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the additional actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate. Although this activity was not PHS 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 this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Brent C. Morse, DVM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:25 AM
To: COGGINS, TOMMY
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Report of Non-Compliance - A3049 (D16-00028)

Thank you for this report, Mr. Coggins. We will send a response soon.
 Axel Wolff

From: COGGINS, TOMMY [mailto:TCOGGINS@mailbox.sc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:20 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)@mailbox.sc.edu>; (b) (6)@uscmed.sc.edu>; (b) (6)@mailbox.sc.edu>; (b) (6)@mailbox.sc.edu>
Subject: Report of Non-Compliance - A3049 (D16-00028)

June 28, 2018

Axel Wolff, DVM
 Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
 Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
 National Institutes of Health

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The University of South Carolina (USC), in accordance with Assurance D16-00028 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report regarding a recent case of non-compliance. This incident did not involve federally funded research.

On June 12, 2018, a DLAR veterinary technician discovered a cage containing dead mice. The animals had no food. The animals were sentinels on a DLAR protocol for health surveillance monitoring. This is relevant because it demonstrates that the animals had not been removed to a laboratory and had not been manipulated for research purposes. The animals were too decomposed to collect any useful information at necropsy; however, there is little doubt that the cause of death was starvation.

The room's daily observation sheets were signed by both of the assigned animal care technicians and their supervisor. This indicates either gross negligence by the staff and/or deliberate falsification of the observation sheets by DLAR staff, in either case, a very serious offense.

Of the two animal care technicians involved in this incident, one is a new employee with no history of reprimands. The other animal care technician was previously reprimanded for exhibiting negligence in a similar incident. The building supervisor involved has been reprimanded on three previous occasions for similar incidents.

In consultation with USC Human Resources, the following actions were taken. The newly employed technician was issued a written reprimand. The other technician was suspended for three days without pay and the supervisor was terminated. All disciplinary actions were implemented according to USC policy with guidance from HR. All DLAR staff were reminded of their responsibility to fulfill their duties appropriately and to follow all operating procedures.

The University of South Carolina is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas Coggins
Institutional Official
Director, Office of Research Compliance