



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) 480-3387

January 24, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3413-01 [OLAW Case 2M]

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and
Chief Academic Officer
University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston
7000 Fannin St., UCT-1732
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Dr. Blackburn,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 22, 2020 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, following up on an initial telephone report on December 23, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that one pig was not fed on one day. The pig did receive food enrichment and was not adversely affected due to the missed feeding.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of providing the required daily feed. The animal caretaker responsible was counseled and removed from weekend duty.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and 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 Contact
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC



**Office of the Executive Vice President
and Chief Academic Officer**

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President, Chief Academic Officer

January 22, 2020

Brent Morse, D.V.M., DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Re: Assurance A3413-01

Dear Dr. Morse,

The Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) provides this report of non-compliance involving a single incident whereby animal care staff did not provide the daily feed ration to a single pig. In accordance with Assurance A3413-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3.a., a preliminary report was made by the (b) (6) to you on December 20, 2019.

On December 16, 2019, the AWC received a report involving a single incident whereby animal care staff did not provide the daily amount of feed ration to a single pig. Specifically, Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care (CLAMC) staff did not provide the daily required amount of feed to the pig on December 14, 2019. Per the approved AWC protocol, the pig should be fed daily. The pig did, however, receive food enrichment on December 14 and December 15 when this incident was discovered. This oversight was immediately corrected on December 15, by providing the pig the daily amount of feed required. No adverse clinical consequences resulted from this single incident as the pig was bright, alert, and active at the time of the incident.

Although the active facility room list included the specific house room where this incident occurred, the weekend CLAMC husbandry attendant still failed to feed this pig. The husbandry attendant was counseled by the CLAMC assistant director and will no longer be assigned to weekend duty in the future.

The animals involved in this incident were supported by NIH funding (1R01HL135092-01). No significant costs associated with this event were identified. Funds will be returned if associated costs are identified.

The AWC Protocol Deviation Subcommittee has investigated the incident, evaluated the corrective action plan, and feels that the incident has been successfully resolved.

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

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

MRB/tsl

cc: Dr. Christophe Ribelayga, IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

AWC Office

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

7000 Fannin St., UCT-1732
Houston, TX 77030

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 7:19 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: OLAW Final Reports - Assurance A3413-01

Thank you for these reports, (b) (6) We will send replies soon.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 6:48 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Blackburn, Michael R <Michael.R.Blackburn@uth.tmc.edu>; Ribelayga, Christophe P <Christophe.P.Ribelayga@uth.tmc.edu>; (b) (6) Animal Welfare Committee, GM <awc@uth.tmc.edu>
Subject: OLAW Final Reports - Assurance A3413-01
Importance: High

*Sent on behalf of Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.,
EVP & Chief Academic Officer/Institutional Official, UTHealth—*

Good Evening, Dr. Morse –

Please find attached four (4) PDFs concerning the following:

- RCR-19-023;
- RCR-19-025;
- RCR-19-026; and
- RCR-19-027.

Please advise if you should have any issues with receiving the attachments.

Thanks and regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *[Signature]*

Date: *12/23/19*

Time: *Voicemail*

Name of Person reporting: *[Redacted]*

Telephone #: *[Redacted]*

Fax #: *[Redacted]*

Email: *[Redacted]*

Name of Institution: *U. Texas - Health*

Assurance number: *A3413*

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? ☐

Funding component: *USDA*

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): ☐

What happened? *Caretaker did not service room on 12/14/19. Did not feed.*

Species involved: *Sw*

Personnel involved: *Caretaker*

Dates and times: *12/15/19*

Animal deaths: *Pig examined*

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

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____