



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 2L]

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 an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, following up on an initial report on December 23, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two pigs were placed in a housing room following surgery and for 12 subsequent days the lights were on for 24 hours. This occurred because the timers had been shut off. Although the constant light cycle had not been approved in the protocol, no adverse effects were reported with the animals.

The corrective actions consisted of notifying the Attending Veterinarian who reset the timer. The light cycle was verified to be operating properly. To prevent a recurrence, the timers will no longer be disabled to save money, light cycles will be verified with data loggers, and timers will be documented on the husbandry checklist for each housing room. Standard operating procedures have been revised to reflect these changes.

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



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

**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 modifications to housing parameters resulting in animals being exposed to a continuous light cycle not approved on the AWC protocol. In accordance with Assurance A3413-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3.a., a preliminary report was made by the [REDACTED] (b) (6) to you on December 20, 2019.

Two pigs underwent an approved surgical procedure on November 11, 2019. Following surgery, the two pigs were housed in a housing room that had been previously unoccupied since August 31, 2019. Because the housing room was unoccupied, the on/off "trippers" on the 24-hour dial time switch had been disabled as an energy cost-saving measure. At the time the pigs were placed in the housing room by the Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care (CLAMC) surgical staff, the lights were manually turned on, not knowing the on/off "trippers" had been disabled. Because the husbandry supervisor was off on this day the disabled "tripper" information was not communicated to the surgical staff. Consequently, this exposed the animals to a 24-hour continuous light cycle not approved on the AWC protocol. Exposure to the continuous light cycle occurred between November 11 and November 23, 2019, when it was discovered by the weekend supervisor that the "trippers" were disabled. The attending veterinarian was notified and immediately reset the on/off "trippers" to the appropriate 12-hr light cycle. Proper function of the 24-hour dial time switch was verified and continues to operate normally providing the appropriate 12-hr light cycle. The animals did not experience any clinical consequences from the continuous light cycle as the animals were noted as being bright, alert, and active with normal food and water intake noted during the daily observations by the CLAMC and laboratory staff.

Corrective actions include no longer disabling the "trippers" as a cost-saving measure. Light cycles will be verified with the use of data loggers with weekly visual verification of the "trippers" being documented on the CLAMC husbandry checklist for each housing room with a 24-hour dial time switch. Applicable CLAMC standard operating procedures will be updated.

[REDACTED] (b) (6)
7000 Fannin St., UCT-1732
Houston, TX 77030

Brent Morse, D.V.M., DACLAM
Re: Assurance A3413-01 | RCR-19-025 OLAW Final Report
January 22, 2020
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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

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)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *[Signature]*

Date: *12/23/19*

Time: *Voicemail*

Name of Person reporting: *[Redacted]*

(b) (6)

Telephone #: *[Redacted]*

(b) (6)

Fax #: *[Redacted]*

Email: *[Redacted]*

Name of Institution: *U. Texas - Health*

Assurance number: *A3413*

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? *Yes*

Funding component: _____

USDA

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened? *2 pigs. Surgery on 11/11/19. Pigs*

moved to room not set-up properly. Lights
not set to automatic + stayed on from

Species involved: *Sus*

Personnel involved: _____

Dates and times: *11/11 - 11/23.*

Animal deaths: *No clinical consequences.*

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

Timer fixed + confirmed.
Data loggers being used

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____