



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

May 20, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A4107-01 (OLAW Case 2B)

Dr. Alison Preston
Interim Vice President for Research
University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box 7996
Austin, TX 78713

Dear Dr. Preston,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 13, 2020 letter regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at The University of Texas at Austin. Your letter supplements the information in the prompt preliminary email report to our office on April 29, 2020. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that during regular room cleanings, animal care staff discovered multiple soiled, empty cages from voles that had been euthanized. Rather than being empty, one cage contained a live vole. After initial discussion with the investigator, it was determined that a secondary euthanasia method had not been used to ensure death of the animals, and one recovered. The recovered vole was euthanized upon discovery. This activity was supported by PHS funds (5R01MH115267-03) and NSF funds (1457350 and 1827790) and the funding components have been notified of the incident.

Corrective actions included the investigator conducting retraining for laboratory members about the importance of secondary methods in euthanasia. A secondary method will be performed on all animals undergoing euthanasia in the future.

The consideration of this matter by The University of Texas at Austin was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office at this time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC contact

Rebecca Claycamp, Chief Grants Management Officer, NIMH
NSF Animal Welfare Officer



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Office of the Vice President for Research

P.O. Box 7996 • FAC 426, G1400 • Austin, Texas 78713-7996 • 512-471-2877 • FAX 512-471-2827

May 13, 2020

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Subject: Report of Non-Compliance with PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Texas at Austin (UT), Animal Welfare Assurance #A4107-01, submits this report in compliance with section IV.F.3 of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and with the published guidance document NOT-OD-05-034 "Guidance on Prompt Reporting to OLAW under the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals." This letter is to report non-compliance in which the investigator failed to ensure death of animals after euthanasia procedures. The initial report was made on April 29, 2020.

During regular room cleanings, animal care staff discovered multiple soiled, empty cages from voles that had been euthanized. Rather than being empty, one cage contained a live vole. After initial discussion with the investigator, it was determined that a secondary euthanasia method had not been used to ensure death of the animals, and one recovered. The recovered vole was euthanized upon discovery. The investigator conducted retraining for laboratory members about the importance of secondary methods in euthanasia. A secondary method will be performed on all animals undergoing euthanasia in the future.

The protocol this report pertains to is funded by NIH project number 5R01MH115267-03, entitled "The Bonding Brain: Substrates of Social Attachment in Monogamous Voles" and NSF project numbers 1457350 and 1827790, entitled "Inventing monogamy: adaptation and innovation in the epigenome" and "EDGE: Tools for Studying Gene Function in Voles". The grant officers have been copied on this notification.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
(b) (6)
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Alison R. Preston
Interim Vice President for Research
University of Texas at Austin

ARP:cim

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight

May 13, 2020

Re: PHS Assurance Number A4107-01

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cc: S. John Mihic, Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

(b) (6)

Glen Otto, Attending Veterinarian, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

(b) (6)

Janine Simmons, Program Official, NIH

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:53 AM
To: IACUC
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Final report of non-compliance- University of Texas Austin (#A4107-01)

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response soon.

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

From: IACUC <IACUC@austin.utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 11:14 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Alison R. Preston (VPR) <preston@austin.utexas.edu>; Mihic, S J <mihic@austin.utexas.edu>; Otto, Glen <gotto@austin.utexas.edu>; (b) (6) Simmons, Janine (NIH/NIMH) [E] <simmonsj@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Final report of non-compliance- University of Texas Austin (#A4107-01)

Dear OLAW,

On behalf of Dr. Alison Preston, Interim Vice President for Research at the University of Texas at Austin, please find attached the final report involving noncompliance on NIH project number 5R01MH115267-03 and NSF project numbers 1457350 and 182779. The initial report was made on April 29, 2020. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

[The RSC office is physically closed. Staff are working remote and responding to emails and voicemails as usual.]

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 7:06 AM
To: IACUC
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Initial report of noncompliance - University of Texas at Austin

Thank you for this preliminary report, (b) (6). We will open a new case file and look forward to receiving the final report from the IO after the IACUC has completed its investigation.

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

From: IACUC <IACUC@austin.utexas.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 9:49 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: IACUC <IACUC@austin.utexas.edu>; (b) (6) Alison R. Preston (VPR)
 <preston@austin.utexas.edu>; (b) (6) Mihic, S J
 <mihic@austin.utexas.edu>; Otto, Glen <gotto@austin.utexas.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: Initial report of noncompliance - University of Texas at Austin

Good morning OLAW,

On behalf of (b) (6) at the University of Texas at Austin, please accept this initial report of noncompliance for NIH project number 5R01MH115267-03 and NSF award numbers 1457350 and 1827790. The report is made under Assurance number A4107-01.

During regular room cleanings, animal care staff found soiled, empty cages from voles that had been euthanized. Rather than being empty, one cage contained a live vole. After initial discussion with the investigator, it was determined that a secondary euthanasia method had not been used to ensure death of the animals and one recovered.

As per NOT-OD-05-034, failure to ensure death of animals after euthanasia procedures is reportable.

The IACUC will continue to review the matter. After finishing the review, a final report of its conclusions and actions will be submitted to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

[The RSC office is physically closed. Staff are working remote and responding to emails and voicemails as usual.]