



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) 402-7065

January 29, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3314-01 [OLAW Case 1U]

Dr. David Niesel
Associate Chief Research Officer
Senior VP & Dean, Graduate School
of Biomedical Sciences
University of Texas Medical Branch
301 University Boulevard
Galveston, TX 77555-0156

Dear Dr. Niesel,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 22, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Texas Medical Branch, following up on an initial telephone report on November 19, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that five live research rats were found in the carcass cooler due to a failure to apply a secondary physical method to ensure death following exposure to CO2 for euthanasia.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of appropriately euthanizing the rats. The Principal Investigator (PI) and staff responsible were retrained on euthanasia guidelines and hands on methods, a veterinarian will assess competency in performing euthanasia, the PI reviewed the content of the protocol for accuracy, and the PI reviewed the documentation of breeding colony procedures. Instructions at the euthanasia stations were revised to stress the requirement for a secondary physical method of euthanasia to ensure death following CO2 exposure and this requirement will be shared with new employees and during semiannual laboratory visits.

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.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight

cc: IACUC Chair
Douglas Brining, D.V.M.



utmb Health
Research Services
Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

301 University Blvd., Route 0156
Galveston, TX 77555-0156
Office: (409) 266-9427
Fax: (409) 266-9470
Website: <http://research.utmb.edu/iacuc>

January 22, 2019

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

Re: University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston: Animal Welfare Assurance D16-00202 (A3314-01)
case # 1U.

Dear Dr. Morse,

As a follow up to a telephone conversation held on November 19, 2018, we wish to provide the following information.

On November 15, 2018 four (4) adults and one (1) juvenile rat were found alive in the carcass cooler by our Animal Resources Center personnel. These animals had no apparent procedures performed on them. ARC humanely euthanized the animals. An IACUC subcommittee met with the researcher whose laboratory was identified through observation and other reasonable identifiers as the laboratory for the protocol for which the animals were assigned.

At a convened meeting of the IACUC held on December 20, 2018 the committee determined noncompliance by not performing a secondary physical method of euthanasia following CO₂ inhalation and mandated the following:

- 1) The Principal Investigator, and all members listed on the protocol are to retake, complete and pass the final exam for the AALAS training course entitled: AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition.
 - a. All individuals completed the course on or prior to January 2, 2018.
- 2) The Principal investigator, will ensure all personnel listed on the protocol as performing euthanasia schedule with the ARC veterinarians a time that they are to be observed performing a physical method of euthanasia.
 - a. On January 15, 2019, the Attending Veterinarian provided an in depth training on the use of CO₂ for euthanasia of rodent species for the laboratory. Topics covered included considerations for animal wellbeing including cage density, proper CO₂ displacement rates, considerations of rodent olfactory cues, and most importantly the necessity and species/weight appropriate techniques for secondary methodologies to ensure that euthanasia has been achieved. Each of the lab members demonstrated the techniques discussed in the training session.
- 3) The Principal investigator, will coordinate a complete review of their protocol making notes of items that need to be updated and have them submitted to the IACUC for review and approval.
 - a. This was coordinated and overseen through the IACUC Post Approval office and completed on January 7, 2019.



Health

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- 4) The IACUC also recommends that the laboratory review documentation of procedures especially as it pertains to the breeding colony.
 - a. This mentioned as part of the discussion with the IACUC Post Approval office and completed on January 7, 2019.

During the IACUC discussion the Attending Veterinarian informed the committee that the ARC has revised the instructions posted at CO2 euthanasia stations which now prominently display the need to perform a physical method to ensure death. ARC supervisors have also been instructed to stress the need of secondary physical methods of euthanasia following CO2 inhalation during their building orientation instructions. The committee will make this a point of emphasis during laboratory visits as part of the semiannual inspections.

This protocol is funded through the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research/NIH/DHHS award entitled "Neuronal-Glia Interactions in Trigeminal Ganglia as a Basis for Future Therapy", grant # 2R01DE01781307A1 and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke/NIH/DHHS entitled "Injury-induced plasticity of P2X receptor function", grant # 5R01NS03004516

We believe we have taken appropriate and sufficient action in the incidents above. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

Dr. David W. Niesel, PhD
Institutional Official
Associate Chief Research Officer
Senior Vice President and Dean Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 7:10 AM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Niesel, David W.; Brining, Douglas L.; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: OLAW Report Case #1U, UTMB Galveston, D16-00202 (A3314-01)

Thank you for providing this final report (b) (6) We will send an official response soon.

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: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 5:15 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Cc: Niesel, David W. <dniesel@UTMB.EDU>; Brining, Douglas L. <dlbrinin@UTMB.EDU>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: OLAW Report Case #1U, UTMB Galveston, D16-00202 (A3314-01)

Dr. Morse

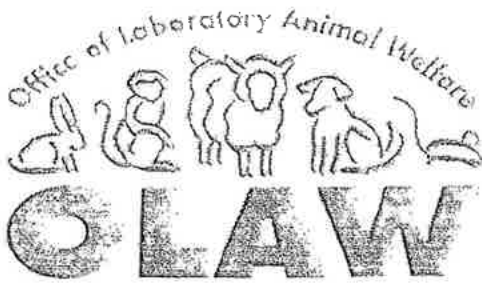
Please accept the above final report concerning Case #1U reported via telephone on November 15, 2018.

Thank you

Confidential IACUC Communication
Texas Health & Safety Code § 161.031 et seq.
Do Not Distribute Without Authorization

(b) (6)





Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *mm*Date: *11/19/18*Time: *1800*Name of Person reporting: *Doug Brining, A/V,*

Telephone #:

Fax #:

Email:

(b) (6)

Name of Institution: *U. Texas - Med. Branch (UTMB)*Assurance number: *A3314*Did incident involve PHS funded activity? *?*

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened? *3 rats found alive in carcass cooler, 2 adults, one juvenile.*Species involved: *Rat*Personnel involved: *Investigator*Dates and times: *11/15/18*

Animal deaths:

No

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

Early in investigation

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____