



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

June 6, 2019

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

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 May 24, 2019 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. Your letter supplemented the information contained in an initial telephone report to this office on February 21, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on February 16, 2019 fifteen Watanabe rabbits were not provided their daily amount of rabbit chow. This oversight was discovered on February 17th and the rabbits were given their daily amount of rabbit chow and the rabbits did not show any adverse clinical consequences. The involved animal activity was not funded by the PHS.

The corrective actions were to update the room signage and to provide the weekend husbandry technicians access to the computer shared drive listing the room order for the weekend. The weekend supervisors now verify that rabbits have been fed their daily feed ration.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate and correct the issue. 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
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

May 24, 2019

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 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at 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 rabbits. 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 February 21, 2019.

On February 19, 2019, the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) received a report involving a single incident whereby animal care staff did not provide the daily amount of rabbit chow to fifteen Watanabe rabbits. Specifically, Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care (CLAMC) staff did not provide the daily-required amount of chow to the rabbits on February 16, 2019. Rabbits should be fed chow daily. The rabbits did however receive fresh produce and enrichment items for that specific day. This oversight was discovered on February 17, 2019, and was immediately corrected by providing the rabbits their daily amount of rabbit chow. No adverse clinical consequences resulted from this single incident as rabbits are checked daily by the veterinary technician.

The rabbits had recently been moved from the CLAMC medical school extension vivarium to the CLAMC south campus vivarium. Consequently, the weekend husbandry technicians at the south campus vivarium did not have updated room assignment signage. Following this incident, the room signage was updated and the weekend husbandry technicians were provided access to the computer shared drive listing the room order for the weekend. Additionally, the weekend supervisors now verify that rabbits have been fed their daily feed ration.

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. Diane Bick, IACUC Chair
(b) (6)

713.500.3544 phone 713.500.3059 fax
7000 Fannin St., UCT-1732, Houston, TX 77030

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2019 12:29 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD); Blackburn, Michael R; Bick, Diane L; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Assurance A3413-01

Thank you for sending these final reports. We will send official responses soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

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

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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2019 12:16 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Blackburn, Michael R <Michael.R.Blackburn@uth.tmc.edu>; Bick, Diane L <Diane.L.Bick@uth.tmc.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: Assurance A3413-01
Importance: High

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

Dear Dr. Morse,

Please find the attached four (4) PDFs with regard to the above-referenced.

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

Thanks and regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 4:58 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: Open OLAW cases

Hi Brent,

I have completed the reports and they are currently being reviewed by the IACUC deviation subcommittee for review and comment. I am scheduled to meet with the subcommittee on Wednesday morning so I am anticipating having any comments returned to me then. I will then proceed with obtaining Dr. Blackburn's signature. I should mention that in addition to the three cases below I also drafted a final report for the sheep case first reported to you by my colleague (b) (6) during the recent PRIM&R meeting. This involved performing both the spina bifida injury creation and repair surgery in fetuses because the pregnant ewe was further long in gestation than anticipated. Injury creation and repair surgeries were approved to be ~ 2 weeks apart in the approved protocol. That case has been resolved as well so you will receive the final report. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best Regards,

(b) (6)

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 6:37 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Open OLAW cases

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL ****

Thank you Rene. Yes, that will be fine. We appreciate the effort this takes for you and your institution.

Sincerely, Brent Morse

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

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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Open OLAW cases

Hello Dr. Morse,

All three cases have been resolved. However, I have not submitted a final report for each case. I will begin drafting the final reports tomorrow and once complete obtain Dr. Blackburn's signature so that I can email them to you. I anticipate having these final reports for you by the end of the week. Is this acceptable? Thank you.

Best Regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 1:51 PM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: Open OLAW cases

Importance: High

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL ****

Hello (b) (6)

Your institution currently has three open compliance cases with OLAW including one you called-in around April 25th concerning frogs and another around February 26th concerning Watanabe rabbits not being fed for a day at a new satellite location. The third case was called-in around November 16, 2018 regarding mandibular bone plates not being applied in rabbits. Has this case been resolved? Is there a final report available? Please let me know and thank you for your attention to this.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

National Institutes of Health

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Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: [Signature]Date: 2/26/19Time: VoicemailName of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #:

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: U. Texas Health Sc. Cen. - HoustonAssurance number: A3413Did incident involve PHS funded activity? No

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened? 15 Waterbury rabbits not fed diet on 2/16/19. Fed vegetables. New satellite location caused confusion.

Species involved:

Personnel involved: Care staffDates and times: 2/16/19Animal deaths: NoVet Tech checked, all looked O.K.

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

New signage + assignment access for care staff.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____