



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

December 9, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3427-01 [OLAW Case I]

Ms. Louise Griffin  
Senior Director for Research  
University of New Hampshire - Durham  
105 Main St., Thompson Hall, (b) (4)  
Durham, NH 03824-3527

Dear Ms. Griffin,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 25, 2019 letter reporting an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of New Hampshire. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on September 6, 2019, equipment failure resulted in the death of 4 rainbow trout. Airline tubing to the control tanks was kinked by another tank when it was replaced following a routine water exchange. The issue went unnoticed through routine checks that day, and fish were found dead the next morning, September 7, 2019. As a result, a study was ended prematurely, and the remaining 56 fish were euthanized. The incident was reported to the IACUC at the next meeting on October 17, 2019.

The faculty member responsible for the facility took measures to ensure the no further accidents will occur while replacing tanks after water exchange. Airline tubing to the control tanks was rerouted to a safer path away from nearby tanks. In addition, double checking all tanks prior to leaving between observations has been instituted as well. No additional mechanical failures have occurred since the reported incident. The letter also states the IACUC will send out a reminder to all PI(s) and vertebrate animal facility managers to report to the AV within 24h any loss of animals, regardless of cause.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understand that the University of New Hampshire has implemented measures to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by UNH's Animal Care and Use Committee to comply with the PHS Policy. OLAW assumes that there is documentation in place to track the additional checking of tanks between observations. In future reports, please state whether activities are PHS/NSF funded.

We appreciate being notified of these matters and find no cause for further actions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs, DVM  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

A3427-I



University of  
New Hampshire

Office of the Senior Vice Provost  
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November 14, 2019

Brent Morse, D.V.M.  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

RE: Equipment Failure Resulting in Loss of Animals

Dear Dr. Morse:

As the Institutional Official for University of New Hampshire (UNH), I am reporting to you a case of equipment failure that resulted in animal loss in a marine facility at UNH.

During the semiannual inspection of the AFAIR building on September 26, 2019, (b) (6) reported to the IACUC inspection team an equipment failure earlier in the month that resulted in a loss of four rainbow trout. Specifically, on September 6, 2019, airline tubing to the control tanks was kinked by another tank when it was replaced following a routine water exchange. The issue went unnoticed through routine checks that day. It wasn't until the next morning (September 7) that the dead fish were discovered. This resulted in a premature end to the study and the euthanasia of the remaining 56 fish. Dr. Elder, UNH's Attending Veterinarian (AV), reported the incident to the IACUC at the next meeting on October 17, 2019.

(b) (6) has taken steps to ensure that this problem does not reoccur. Arline tubing to the control tanks was rerouted to a safer path away from nearby tanks, thus ensuring that no further accidents will occur while replacing tanks after water exchange. Furthermore, he has instigated double checking all tanks to ensure that nothing looks out of the ordinary before leaving between observations. Since this incident no further mechanical failures have occurred.

In addition, the IACUC will send out a reminder to all PIs and vertebrate animal facility managers to report to the AV within 24 hours any loss of animals, regardless of cause.

In accordance with UNH's Assurance, I am reporting this occurrence of animal loss to you. At this point, the IACUC and I have determined that the episode has been addressed and appropriate corrective action taken.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information about this case.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Louise Griffin  
Senior Director for Research

cc: Rebecca Rowe, IACUC Chair  
Dean Elder, IACUC Vice-Chair, Attending Veterinarian, & Director, Animal Resources Office  
Julie Simpson, Director, Research Integrity Services

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