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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-2803

February 5, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3589-01 (OLAW Case D)

Dr. Kirk Calhoun
President
University of Texas Health Science Center - Tyler
11937 U.S. Highway 271
Tyler, Texas 75708-3154

Dear Dr. Calhoun,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 30, 2018 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Texas Health Science Center- Tyler. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that five mice died due to lack of food and water.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining the animal care staff and having the Animal Resource Supervisor, Attending Veterinarian, and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) chair double check animal rooms to ensure completion of husbandry tasks. This checking will continue and will be monitored by the IACUC. No further food and water problems have occurred.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the IACUC 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 Chair

A3589- D

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Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

January 30, 2018

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982
Phone: 301-594-2061
Fax: 301-402-2803
E-mail: olawco@mail.nih.gov

This letter is to report an incident that occurred in the vivarium at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (Assurance number A3589-01) on November 29, 2017.

On November 29, 2017, the Animal Resource Supervisor performed routine checks on cages in one of the mouse housing areas to assess vivarium staff compliance with animal husbandry SOPs. During the checks, 1 cage on a breeding protocol was found with no food or water and the 5 mice in the cage were dead. The Attending Veterinarian, the Director of the Vivarium, and the Chair of the IACUC were immediately informed of these deaths.

All vivarium staff were promptly retrained regarding the proper procedures for performing cage checks in animal housing rooms and the levels at which food and water need to be replaced. The vivarium has also implemented a policy in which the Animal Resource Supervisor, the Attending Veterinarian, and the IACUC chair will increase the frequency of their checks on rooms to ensure that vivarium staff are following proper procedures for checking food and water in cages.

The IACUC discussed this incident at the December 7, 2017 meeting. During this meeting the IACUC decided that they would like to have a report at the January meeting to assess the effectiveness of the staff retraining and to determine whether any subsequent problems were noted during the checks performed by the Animal Resource Supervisor, the Attending Veterinarian, or the IACUC Chair. The committee wanted to evaluate the effectiveness of the retraining and more frequent checks of vivarium staff before reporting the incident to OLAW.

During the IACUC meeting on January 11, 2018, the Animal Resource Supervisor and the Attending Veterinarian reported that the vivarium staff had all been retrained in the process

for checking cages and the levels at which food and water need to be replenished. The report also indicated that the checks by the Animal Resource Supervisor, the Attending Veterinarian, and the IACUC Chair were successful in ensuring that the vivarium staff were following proper procedure for animal care and that no cages lacked adequate food and water. The IACUC decided the more frequent checks of vivarium staff compliance with animal husbandry SOPs will continue to be performed and that the Attending Veterinarian will include a summary of the checks in her report to the IACUC each month. In addition, the IACUC decided to report the incident to OLAW.

Sincerely,

(b) (6) [redacted]

Kirk Calhoun, MD, FACP
President
Institutional Official
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

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Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:13 PM
To: (b) (6) [redacted] OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Incident Report

Thank you for this report. We will send an official response soon.

Regards, Brent Morse

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

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From: (b) (6) [redacted] [mailto (b) (6) [redacted] @uthct.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:09 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Incident Report

Hello.

Please find attached a letter from President Kirk Calhoun reporting an incident that occurred in our vivarium during November, 2017.

Thank you,
(b) (6) [redacted]