



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
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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) 402-7065

February 12, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3343-01 (OLAW Case 2O)

Dr. Christian R. Abee
Doctor R. Lee Clark Professor and Chair
Veterinary Sciences
Director, Michale E. Keeling Center for
Comparative Medicine and Research
University of Texas MD Anderson Center
650 Cool Water Drive
Bastrop, Texas 78602

Dear Dr. Abee,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 8, 2018 letter reporting an adverse event involving a chimpanzee at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, following up on an initial telephone report on February 1, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a male adult chimpanzee died from injuries sustained from fighting with another male adult chimpanzee in the same social group. This incident was not caused by any violations of institutional policies or of the protocol. Although fighting is not unusual, deaths due to it are rare.

Although there was no noncompliance involved, the institution will review the social housing management practices to see if any changes are necessary.

OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution in response to this unfortunate event. Thank you for keeping OLAW apprised on this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel V. Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC

February 8, 2018

Axel Wolff, D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
National Institutes of Health
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

olaw@mail.nih.gov

Dear Dr. Wolff:

This letter is a follow up to our recent telephone conversation informing you of a tragic event that occurred within the National Center for Chimpanzee Care (NIH U42OD011197-17).

On Sunday morning, January 28, 2018 between 5:10 am and 7:00 am, one adult male chimpanzee within an established social group died as a result of injuries from fighting with another adult male chimpanzee within his social group. All aspects of the approved IACUC protocol and our Standard Operating Procedures were being followed at the time of this tragic event.

It is not uncommon for socially housed chimpanzees to occasionally fight as a part of normal social behavior, but fighting that results in injuries severe enough to cause death is extremely rare. In fact, this is the first death of this type that we have experienced. We have interviewed the caregiver staff and the behavioral staff to determine whether there were any warning signs that such an event might occur and there were none. Nevertheless, we will search to determine whether there are any modifications in our social housing management practices that we can implement that might increase the safety of chimpanzees in our care.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Christian R. Abee, D.V.M., M.S., DACLAM
Doctor R. Lee Clark Professor and Chair, Veterinary Sciences
Director, Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research

Cc: Gaylen Howell, Director, Research Oversight and Integrity

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 8:34 AM
To: 'cabee@mdanderson.org'
Subject: FW: Notice of chimpanzee death
Attachments: OLAW Notice Letter (2-8-18).pdf

Thank you for this report, Dr. Abee. We will respond shortly.
Axel Wolff

From: Abee, Christian [mailto:cabee@mdanderson.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2018 4:19 PM
To: Laboratory Animal Welfare, Office of (NIH/OD) <OLAW@OD.NIH.GOV>
Cc: Howell, Gaylen W <gwhowell@mdanderson.org>
Subject: Notice of chimpanzee death

To: Axel Wolff, D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I am following up on our recent telephone conversation regarding an incident that occurred with a chimpanzee on January 28, 2018.

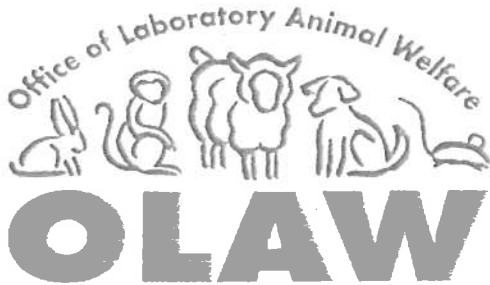
Thank you for your guidance. Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Chris

Christian R. Abee, D.V.M., M.S., DACLAM
Doctor R. Lee Clark Professor and Chair
Department of Veterinary Sciences
Director, Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
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Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *aw*

Date: *2/1/18*

Time: *12:00*

Name of Person reporting: *Chris Abee*

Telephone #: *(b) (6)*

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: *U of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Ctr - Bastrop*

Assurance number: *A3343*

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? _____

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

*Chimp subjected to trauma from other chimps and died.
Young male. Throat injury and subcutaneous hematoma*

Species involved: *Chimp*

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

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

Wait for full necropsy

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____