



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) 402-7065

July 20, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A4023-01 [OLAW Case I]

Dr. Richard S. Larson
Executive Vice Chancellor,
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
1 University of New Mexico – MSC 05 3300
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Dr. Larson,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 12, 2017 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of New Mexico. Your letter supplemented the information contained in the prompt preliminary telephone report followed by an email report on July 12, 2017. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on May 16, 2017 a non-venomous snake escaped from the primary containment while undergoing euthanasia at the University's Museum of Southwestern Biology. It was left unattended in a bag by a graduate student after injection with the euthanasia agent. It was found several days later, deceased, and cut in half, in the tracks of a compactor bin in the same room. It is understood that the animal activity was not funded by the PHS.

Corrective actions included retraining the student and also rewriting the Museum's Amphibian and Reptile Euthanasia SOP. Animals will be euthanized in a smaller, more contained laboratory space and will be placed in a secondary container during euthanasia. Personnel performing euthanasia will remain with the animals until death can be assured.

OLAW believes that the corrective and preventative measures put in place by the University of New Mexico are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We appreciate being informed of this incident and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse, DVM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

July 12, 2017

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

RE: Assurance # D16-00565 - Failure to ensure death of animals after euthanasia procedures

As per our telephonic report in May of 2017 an incident involving failure to euthanize and properly contain a non-venomous snake occurred on May 16, 2017. The incident was reported to the Office of Animal Care Compliance (OACC) by the University of New Mexico (UNM) Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB) Herpetology Collections Manager. The OACC then informed the Attending Veterinarian (AV) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Chair. This project is not funded by PHS.

The incident occurred as follows: A snake was being euthanized for the museum collection. It was injected and returned to the snake bag so that it could have time to succumb to the euthanasia agent. When the individual who was euthanizing the snake returned to check on the snake, it was no longer in the bag. A search was conducted but the snake was not located until it was found several days later, deceased, and cut in half, in the tracks of a compactor bin in the same room in the museum. Because of the escape, we were unable to determine if the snake died subsequent to administration of the euthanasia agent or due to the mechanical injury.

The incident was reported to the Main Campus (MC) IACUC during the convened meeting on May 18, 2017. The committee reviewed the information and voted on corrective measures to be implemented going forward to prevent the incident from happening again:

1. Retraining of the individual (a graduate student)
2. Reporting of the incident to the Museum Director and the graduate student's advisor.
3. Rewriting of the Museum's Amphibian and Reptile Euthanasia SOP
4. Animals will be euthanized in a smaller, and more contained laboratory space where there is much less chance for escape
5. Animals will be placed in a secondary container during euthanasia to ensure that they do not escape

6. Personnel who are performing euthanasia will remain with the animal until death can be assured

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Larson', written over a large, faint circular mark.

Richard S. Larson, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Vice Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for Research

Cc: [Secondary Individual] Executive Research Operations Officer

Kevin O'Hair, D.V.M., DACLAM, Attending Veterinarian

Derek Hamilton, Ph.D., IACUC Chair

[Secondary Individual]

Senior Operations Manager, OACC

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Secondary Individual
Cc: Secondary Individual Kevin C O'Hair
Subject: RE: Emailing - Snake Euthanasia Incident Memo to OLAW_7-12-17)_signed.pdf - Assurance # D16-00565

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

Regards, Brent Morse

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

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From: Secondary Individual [mailto:Secondary Indiv@salud.unm.edu]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:56 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Cc: Secondary Individual @salud.unm.edu>; Kevin C O'Hair <KOHair@salud.unm.edu>
Subject: Emailing - Snake Euthanasia Incident Memo to OLAW_7-12-17)_signed.pdf - Assurance # D16-00565

Good morning, Dr. Morse,

Please see the attached reportable incident for the University of New Mexico **Assurance # D16-00565**.

I have also mailed the original signed copy.

Thank you!

Secondary Individual

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Kevin C O'Hair <KOHair@salud.unm.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 2:40 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]; Katy-Marie Mirowsky-Garcia
Cc: Derek Hamilton
Subject: RE: D16-00565 - Incident Involving Snake

Thanks Brent. ary In is at lunch now.. Time differences and other issues have resulted in phone tag. I hope all is well. Depending on your message to ary In we will likely just finalize a report.
 Kevin.

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] [mailto:morseb@mail.nih.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Secondary Individual @salud.unm.edu
Cc: Kevin C O'Hair <KOHair@salud.unm.edu>; Derek Hamilton <dahamilt@unm.edu>
Subject: RE: D16-00565 - Incident Involving Snake

Thank you for your persistence, I just left you a voicemail. We had a phone glitch that prohibited us from listening to our voicemails. I think it's been fixed. What you have described is acceptable to OLAW. If you want to speak with either Dr. Wolff or myself, we'll be in tomorrow.

Regards, Brent Morse

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

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From: Secondary Individual [mailto:Secondary Indiv@salud.unm.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Cc: Kevin C O'Hair <KOHair@salud.unm.edu>; Derek Hamilton <dahamilt@unm.edu>
Subject: D16-00565 - Incident Involving Snake

Good morning, Dr. Morse,

We wanted to speak to you about a reportable incident involving a non-venomous snake at the Museum of Southwestern Biology here at the University of New Mexico – **OLAW Assurance # D16-00565**.

The incident occurred on May 16, 2017. I first reported this incident to you via voice message the week after it occurred. Since then, we have been attempting to call your office and have attempted to contact yourself and Dr. Wolff as well as Dr. Weick, but have been unsuccessful in reaching anyone. I left a few voicemail messages with you and you did return my call during the week of June 26-30 but I was out on vacation.

We would like to have a discussion with and/or email confirmation from you before we submit a written report of the incident. This incident was reviewed by the IACUC in May and corrective measures were taken.

The incident occurred as follows: A snake was being euthanized for the museum collection. It was injected and returned to the snake bag so that it could have time to succumb to the euthanasia agent. When the individual who was euthanizing the snake, returned to check on the snake, it was no longer in the bag. A search was conducted but the snake was not located until it was found several days later, deceased, and cut in half, in the tracks of a compactor bin in the same room in the museum. Because of the escape, we were unable to determine if the snake died subsequent to administration of the euthanasia agent or due to the mechanical injury.

The corrective measures voted on by the IACUC include:

1. Retraining of the individual (a graduate student)
2. Reporting of the incident to the Museum Director and the graduate student's advisor.
3. Rewriting of the Museum's Amphibian and Reptile Euthanasia SOP
4. Animals will be euthanized in a smaller, and more contained laboratory space where there is much less chance for escape
5. Animals will be placed in a secondary container during euthanasia to ensure that they do not escape
6. Personnel who are performing euthanasia will remain with the animal until death can be assured

If all of this sounds reasonable, we will submit a final written report as soon as we hear from you.

Thank you!

Secondary Individual

Senior Operations Manager

Office of Animal Care Compliance

BRF G37 H, MSC08 4560, 1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Phone Number fax Phone Number

Secondary Individual@salud.unm.edu

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