



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

October 10, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A4365-01 [OLAW Case 3S]

(b)(6)

Centers for Disease Control  
1600 Clifton Road NE,  
Atlanta, GA 30333

(b)(6)

Dear (b)(6)

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 25, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that six cotton rats died from an accidental anesthetic overdose. The weight of the animals had been misread and over twice the appropriate drug dosage was given.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of attempting to revive the rats, but this was unsuccessful. The corrective actions consisted of switching to inhalant anesthetic, retraining the veterinary staff on calculating drug dosages, changing the standard operating procedure to have two people approve anesthesia dosages, and amending the protocol to specify the unit of measurement for all weights.

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 institution to comply with the PHS Policy. Please submit all noncompliance reports from or through the Institutional Official. Thank you for informing OLAW about this matter.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Stephan Monroe, Ph.D., Institutional Official



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

September 25, 2018

PHS Assurance #A4365-01

Dr. Brent Morse  
Acting Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse,

On July 24, 2018, the Attending Veterinarian reported to the Animal Care and Use Program Office that six cotton rats had died unexpectedly shortly after a protocol procedure on July 23, 2018. CDC's Deputy Chief veterinarian was notified of the incident and investigated. CDC determined that the rats had entered cardiac arrest following an accidental overdose of Xylazine and perished. The animals' weights had been misread in grams instead of ounces and the rats had received over two times the dose of anesthesia. Atipamezole was administered as an anesthetic reversal for Xylazine, and epinephrine was provided to increase blood pressure as well as heart rate. Oxygen was also provided to aid with hypoxia due to respiratory depression. Unfortunately, reversal attempts in these six animals were unsuccessful.

In response to this incident, the Deputy Chief veterinarian recommended the usage of isoflurane during the protocol procedure instead of injectable anesthetics to avoid potential side effects. Veterinary staff have also been retrained on calculating dosage and the veterinary Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was changed to require two people to approve anesthesia dosages before use. The PI was also asked to amend the protocol to include the units of measurement for all weights.

The CDC-Atlanta IACUC discussed this adverse event at the August 6, 2018 meeting. The committee voted to report this incident to OLAW. Upon the corrective actions outlined above, the committee did not feel that any other actions were needed at this time.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 3:23 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** Monroe, Steve (CDC/OD/OADLSS); Maines, Taronna (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Incident report submission for CDC-ATL (PHS Assurance# A4365-01)

Thank you for reporting this unfortunate incident (b)(6) We will send an official response 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:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 3:15 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Monroe, Steve (CDC/OD/OADLSS) (b)(6); Maines, Taronna (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Incident report submission for CDC-ATL (PHS Assurance# A4365-01)

Dear Dr. Morse and colleagues,  
I am sending an incident report for submission on behalf of the Institutional Official. Please see attached.

Thank you,

(b)(6)