



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

September 27, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A4367-01 [OLAW Case X]

Dr. Stephan Monroe
Associate Director for Laboratory Science and Safety
Office of Laboratory Science and Safety
Centers for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Road NE, Clifton Building
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Monroe,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 16, 2019 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- Morgantown site. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a live research rat was found in the carcass freezer due to a failure to ensure death by applying a secondary physical method of euthanasia following exposure to CO₂.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of appropriately euthanizing the animal. All other rats that had been euthanized during the same session were checked to ensure that they were dead. The technician responsible was disciplined, placed on probation, and must work under supervision when performing euthanasia. The technician and husbandry staff were retrained and when large numbers of animals are euthanized, more than one person may be involved and additional supervision may be required.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

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

cc: IACUC Contact



PHS Assurance #D16-00687 (A4367-01)

Dr. Brent Morse
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 the afternoon of June 21, 2019 at the CDC NIOSH-Morgantown animal facility, the Attending Veterinarian (AV) received a report that a rat had been found alive in a carcass freezer. By the time the AV arrived to respond, an animal care technician had properly euthanized the rat and performed bilateral thoracotomy as a secondary method to confirm death. This rat was from a NIOSH breeding protocol and was uninfected and had been euthanized along with a large number of rats mid-to-late morning that day. As an additional measure, all of the additional rats euthanized that morning were closely checked and verified to have expired. CDC identified the animal care technician that had unsuccessfully euthanized the rat in the morning and further investigated. This animal care technician reported to the AV that the animal had been euthanized individually with a Euthanex/AIMS countertop system and that it had remained in the CO₂ until all movement and breathing had ceased. The AV and Animal Facility Manager checked the CO₂ euthanasia equipment in the animal facility and confirmed that the equipment was in good working order. They both determined that this technician had failed to perform the secondary method of bilateral thoracotomy although the technician had been trained on this technique in two previous training sessions.

In response to this incident, the CDC-Morgantown IACUC recommended the following corrective actions to prevent recurrence of this type of error:

- 1) The technician received disciplinary action for failure to follow proper procedure and has been placed on a 90 day probation by their contract manager;
- 2) The technician and all of the husbandry staff received refresher training on how to properly perform CO₂ euthanasia and perform bilateral thoracotomy on July 15, 2019;
- 3) The technician is required to have direct supervision for performing euthanasia until the technician's supervisor decides the technician is capable of performing this task independently;
- 4) When large numbers of animals are scheduled for euthanasia by animal husbandry staff, the AV or animal facility supervisor may assign at their discretion more than one person to perform the euthanasia, and close supervision or cross-checking will be done by a second technician to assure that the approved procedure is being followed.

The CDC-Morgantown IACUC discussed this adverse event at the July 18, 2019 IACUC Meeting and voted to report this to OLAW. Upon the corrective actions outlined above, the committee did not feel that any other actions were needed at this time.

Sincerely,

9/16/2019

X

Stephan S. Monroe

Stephan S. Monroe, PhD
Assoc Dir Lab Science & Safety
Signed by: PIV

Stephan S. Monroe, PhD
Institutional Official
Associate Director for Laboratory Science and
Safety
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 7:11 AM
To: Monroe, Steve (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Reportable incident, CDC-Morgantown

Thank you for this report Dr. Monroe. Dr. Morse will respond soon.

Regards,
Joan

From: Monroe, Steve (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 4:55 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>

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Monroe, Steve (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD)

(b)(6)

Subject: Reportable incident, CDC-Morgantown

Dr. Morse,

Attached is a report of an incident that occurred at the CDC-NIOSH facility in Morgantown, WV on 21 June 2019. The Morgantown IACUC reviewed the incident and recommended corrective actions, as described in the memo.

Please contact me if you require any additional information regarding this incident.

Best,
Steve

Steve Monroe, PhD
Associate Director for Laboratory Science and Safety
Director, Office of Laboratory Science and Safety
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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<http://www.cdc.gov/labs/>

OLSS Office of Laboratory
Science and Safety

Strengthening the culture of laboratory science and safety at CDC