



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) 480-3387

January 24, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3208-01 [OLAW Case 1H]

Dr. G. Don Taylor
Interim Vice President for Research
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University – Blacksburg
(b) (4) Burruss Hall, (Mail Code 0244)
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0244

Dear Dr. Taylor,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 6, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Virginia Tech.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Virginia Tech Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: mice that were not euthanized in a timely manner once they reached their humane endpoints. The IACUC office was notified on September 11, 2019 that the graduate student failed to euthanize mice after receiving notification that humane endpoints had been reached and the animals were found dead. The IACUC discussed the incident on November 21, 2019 at a convened meeting and approved the following corrective actions taken by the PI. Also, it is noted that this project is PHS funded. The corrective actions were as follows:

- 1) Husbandry technicians now have permission to euthanize animals on behalf of the PI or graduate student to ensure that humane endpoints are followed.
- 2) The incident occurred because of a communication error (per the final report). The husbandry staff emailed all lab personnel alerting them of the mice, the graduate student replied stating that she would euthanize the mice, and the PI assumed that she had. Moving forward, lab personnel will only reply to these notification emails once the task has been completed.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that Virginia Tech has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs, DVM
Veterinary Medical Officer
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



AB208-1H

Division of Scholarly Integrity and
Research Compliance
Institutional Animal Care and Use
Committee (IACUC)
North End Center
300 Turner St NW, Suite 4120
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
P: (540) 231-0931 F: (540) 231-
0959
Email: IACUCadmin@vt.edu
www.research.vt.edu/iacuc

January 6, 2019

Brent Morse, DVM
Director, Divisions of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Final report regarding protocol noncompliance at Virginia Tech [Assurance #A-3208-01]

Dear Dr. Morse:

Virginia Tech, in accordance with Assurance A-3208-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of an adverse event on an IACUC approved protocol in which mice were not euthanized in a timely manner.

On September 11, 2019, the IACUC office was notified that a PI's graduate student had failed to euthanize mice after being notified that they had reached their humane endpoints, and therefore the animals had been found dead. The IACUC discussed the incident at the November 21, 2019 convened meeting and approved corrective steps taken by the PI:

1. The PI and graduate student met with the husbandry staff who oversee his animal colony. Husbandry technicians now have permission to euthanize animals on behalf of the PI or graduate student to ensure that humane endpoints are followed.
2. This incident occurred because of a communication error. The husbandry staff had emailed all lab personnel alerting them of the mice, the graduate student had replied stating that she would euthanize the mice, and the PI assumed that she had. Moving forward, lab personnel will only reply to these notification emails once the task is completed.

The funding source for these mice is the National Institute of Health (R1001505). Per PHS requirement, the PI has been informed that he must work with his grant administrator to determine any funding related actions that must be taken.

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Virginia Tech is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact (b) (6)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Dr. G. Don Taylor/
Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation
Institutional Official
Virginia Tech

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 3:55 PM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Final Report

Thank you for this final report (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: Friday, January 10, 2020 1:45 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Final Report

To Whom It May Concern,

Attached, please find a final noncompliance report.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call (b) (6)

Thanks,
(b) (6)

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(b) (6)

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