

From: [Gibbens, Robert - APHIS](#)
To: [Cody M - APHIS Yager \(cody.m.yager@usda.gov\)](#); [Martha - APHIS Keller \(Martha.Keller@usda.gov\)](#)
Subject: FW: OLAW Case A3823-60
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 9:12:00 AM
Attachments: [0848_001.pdf](#)

FYI

From: Walker, Keri (NIH/OD) [C] [mailto:keri.walker@nih.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 6:22 AM
To: mdickins@bcm.edu
Cc: Gibbens, Robert - APHIS <robert.m.gibbens@usda.gov>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: OLAW Case A3823-60

Dear Dr. Dickinson,

Attached please find Dr. Wolff's final response to OLAW Case A3823-60.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by phone or by e-mail.

Best Regards,
Keri

*Keri Walker
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
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FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

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August 26, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3823-01 [OLAW Case 60]

Dr. Mary Dickinson
Vice President and Dean of Research
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza, (b) (4)
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Dr. Dickinson,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 21, 2020 letter providing the final report under an enhanced reporting schedule for Baylor College of Medicine. According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following:

- The animal activities that were reduced during the pandemic are being slowly reinstated.
- Although the training and evaluation of proficient surgeons had decreased in number, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee continued to require that all potential surgeons are appropriately trained and that proficiency is demonstrated.
- A surgery registration tool was implemented to coordinate and monitor animal surgery.
- The central animal facility training staff and veterinary staff have trained and verified the proficiency of 271 Training Ambassadors; 21 individuals are enrolled to be trained.
- The Training Ambassadors have trained and assessed the proficiency of 613 laboratory members; 212 laboratory surgery personnel are enrolled and being trained.
- No surgery is conducted until staff is deemed proficient. Those found not to be proficient are retrained and re-evaluated.
- Every laboratory current approved to conduct surgery now has a Training Ambassador.
- Ongoing evaluations are conducted to continue to ensure proficiency of the Training Ambassadors and the laboratory surgery personnel they have trained; 35 evaluations have been completed and 143 individuals have been contacted for evaluations. All individuals conducting surgery were found to be proficient.
- The development of surgery training for USDA covered species is ongoing. The veterinary staff will be working with surgeons on role-specific training and assessing competency. A large animal training database has been developed for tracking trainees and verifying training completion.
- Post-approval monitoring visits continue to be conducted to assess compliance with the protocol: 6 comprehensive visits have been conducted since the prior report to OLAW and these are used to provide guidance for improving surgical technique.

- Escalating corrective actions have been implemented to address surgical noncompliance. The Faculty Senate is being kept apprised on matters of animal welfare and the implications of noncompliance.

Based on the success of the program and the ongoing decline in reports of surgical noncompliance, OLAW is hereby ending the enhanced reporting schedule for Baylor College of Medicine. This Office commends your leadership as Institutional Official in supporting the overall training initiative and we commend the efforts of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, the veterinary teams, the trainers and post-approval monitors, and all others who worked diligently to ensure the success of this project. Please continue to carefully monitor the surgical procedures throughout the program in coordination with the overall surgery training and enhancement plan to ensure complete compliance. Also, continue to promptly report any surgical noncompliance as it occurs. We appreciate having been kept apprised of the progress of this project and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

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