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

January 7, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3280-01 [OLAW Case C]

Dr. David Spector
Director of Research
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
1 Bungtown Road
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

Dear Dr. Spector,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 30, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, following up on an initial report on August 21, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that an investigator used an object to push a mouse through a maze and potentially failed to assess the depth of anesthesia before performing a terminal procedure on a mouse.

The corrective actions consisted of suspending the investigator's animal use privileges. If future animal activities are to be conducted, the individual will be retrained. All individuals proposing to use animals will be trained on following the protocol, appropriate animal handling, and proper surgical technique. The institution has implemented a formal post-approval monitoring program. It was noted that the alleged inappropriate anesthesia application and surgical technique could not be confirmed.

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,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair

Obtained by Rise for Animals.
Uploaded to Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO) on 01/16/2021

A3280-C

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
David L. Spector, Ph.D.
Director of Research

Robert B. Gardner Jr., Professor

November 30, 2018

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982

Dear Director:

This letter is a follow-up to our initial letter of August 21, 2018. The purpose of this letter is to update the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare regarding a potential animal welfare issue at our Institution (Animal Welfare Assurance #A3280-01).

An undergraduate working in a neuroscience laboratory reported that a post-doctoral researcher inappropriately handled mice. The allegations included using a small object to push a mouse down a T-maze as well as inadequate assessment of anesthesia prior to performing a terminal procedure. The post-graduate was suspended from the lab (including from performing any animal work) pending results of an investigation.

We established an inquiry committee of 3 faculty members to look into these allegations. The committee interviewed the complainant and the accused, as well as examined computer files provided by both individuals, and files on a data acquisition computer. The committee found evidence of the accused interfering with animal's behavior during an experimental test and causing them undue stress. However, they found no evidence to evaluate the accuser's surgical practices.

Based on these findings this individual is no longer involved in animal experiments and should he need to be involved in such experiments in the future he will be fully re-trained in the use and handling of animals. We have reviewed our practices to ensure there is minimal risk of incidents like this taking place in the future. The importance of following procedures as described in the protocol as well as animal handling and surgical techniques are required training for all applicable staff. In addition, we have recently introduced a more formal post-approval monitoring program to ensure that protocols are being executed correctly.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

David Spector, Ph.D.
Institutional Official

One Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724
Tel: 516-367-8456

Obtained by Rise for Animals.
Uploaded to Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO) on 01/16/2021

A3280-C

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
David L. Spector, Ph.D.
Director of Research

Robert B. Gardner Jr., Professor

August 21, 2018

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982

Dear Director,

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare of a potential animal welfare issue at our Institution (Animal Welfare Assurance #A3280-01).

An undergraduate working in a neuroscience laboratory reported that a post-doctoral researcher inappropriately handled mice. The allegations included using a small object to push a mouse down a T-maze as well as inadequate assessment of anesthesia prior to performing a terminal procedure. The post-graduate has been suspended from the lab (including performing animal work) pending results of an investigation.

We can assure you that Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory takes research non-compliance and animal welfare concerns seriously and will send further updates as the investigation comes to completion.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

David Spector, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Director of Research

cc: Rachel Rubino, Director of Lab Animal Resources/Attending Veterinarian

One Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724
Tel: 516-367-8456

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