



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
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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

May 6, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3718-01 [OLAW Case D]

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 3, 2019 letter reporting an adverse event at CUNY College of Staten Island, following up on an initial report on March 19, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that 17 of 200 mice were unexpectedly found dead. The mice had been receiving Ivermectin in their feed to control mites. This type of mouse will not eat feed dropped on the floor and the hoppers were not fully filled to prevent the medicated feed from becoming toxic when exposed to light. The mice that died were thin while the cage mates were in good condition and it is believed that the heavier mice guarded the minimal amount of food in the cage. Food hoppers in the cages with dead mice were all empty.

The corrective actions consisted of the veterinarian directing that all mice fed twice daily for five days per week. Following this increase in the amount of food provided, there have been no further deaths.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this unusual problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy. In future please submit all final reports with the Institutional Official's signature. Thank you for keeping OLAW apprised on this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair
Michael Parrish, Ph.D., Institutional Official

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 6:36 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Follow-up to Serious adverse event report (03/19/2019) at College of Staten Island - A3718-01

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:49 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Michael Parrish <Michael.Parrish@csi.cuny.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: Follow-up to Serious adverse event report (03/19/2019) at College of Staten Island - A3718-01

Good afternoon,

I am writing to provide follow-up information on an event which occurred in the CSI (College of Staten Island) Animal Facility on March 15 in which 17 mice, of a colony of approximately 200, were found dead by an animal care technician. There have been no subsequent deaths. A necropsy was not possible as the mice had been frozen, thus we are unable to determine with certainty what caused the mouse deaths. A review of the circumstances around the occurrence, and the Animal Care Team's response, are described in the assessment below. The only common denominator found for the incident is that the food hoppers in the cages where the dead mice were found, were all empty.

As of 2/25/19 the mice were being fed *Ivermectin* feed to control mites found on the mice. This specific colony of mice tend to "shred" their food, crumbling it into pieces while eating. They will not, however, recover/ingest the bits of food dropped on the floor. The dropped food is then spread across the floor and quickly can become a hazard as it molds before the next servicing. Ivermectin, the medicated feed fed to this colony, can become toxic once exposed to light. For this reason there has been no excess of food kept in each hopper to ensure that unnecessary food is not being exposed between feedings and potentially poisoning the animals.

The mice are fed three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, while adding a handful of food at a time, if needed, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Staff reported that hoppers were often empty by feeding time warranting additional feed. There are multiple mice in each of the cages. The 17 mice that died appeared underweight while other mice in the same cages were rotund and apparently healthy. It is the Vet's opinion that the larger mice may have been engaged in resource guarding due to the limited amount of food available, thus preventing the smaller or weaker mice access to the food.

Based on these observations, the Vet advised the AFM to increase the number of feedings to twice daily, five days a week to ensure all mice have adequate access to the food decreasing the likelihood of resource

guarding. There have been no additional mouse deaths in this colony since the original reporting and the implementation of the twice per day feedings.

If there are any questions, or if additional information or explanation is needed, do not hesitate to contact me at (b) (6)

Regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:57 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Serious adverse event report at College of Staten Island - Assurance A3718-01
 REPLYREPLY ALLFORWARD Mark as read

Thank you for this preliminary report, (b) (6) We will start a new case file and look forward to receiving the final report from the IO after the IACUC has completed its investigation.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
 Deputy Director, OLAW

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 2:16 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) Michael Parrish
 (b) (6)
Subject: Serious adverse event report at College of Staten Island - Assurance A3718-01 REPLYREPLY ALLFORWARD Mark as read

On Friday evening, March 15, an animal care technician found 17 dead mice, of a colony of roughly 200 mice. Twelve (12) of approximately 100 cages housed on the carousel rack were found to have 1 or 2 dead mice in each. The mice were found to be flaccid, bodies at room temperature, and showed signs of livor mortis.

A thorough examination of the incident is underway and the facility has instituted additional oversight procedures pending the results of the investigation. Once completed, results of the investigation and remedies taken will be reported to OLAW.

As you can imagine the staff of the Animal Care facility are very distressed. The cause(s) and remedy are the highest priority for the staff, the Investigator, and the IO at CSI.

We will keep you informed throughout our investigation of this extremely regrettable event.

Very sincerely,

(b) (6)