



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

October 29, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3596-01 (OLAW Case 4E]

Dr. Harry Orf
Senior Vice President for Research
Massachusetts General Hospital
(b) (4) 55 Fruit Street
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Dr. Orf,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your October 21, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Massachusetts General Hospital. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Massachusetts General Hospital Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: improper animal handling resulting in a mouse escaping into a room. The final report states on July 27, 2020 a research fellow removed a mouse from a cage to perform a procedure. The individual did not have a firm grip on the animal, and the mouse escaped their hold into the room. The animal was not recovered despite traps being utilized to aid recovery.

The principal investigator (PI) and fellow reviewed the incident with the IACUC compliance lead and facility veterinarian on August 3rd. The incident was also reviewed by the compliance subcommittee and the convened IACUC. The committee acknowledged the laboratory manager installed Building and Grounds block gaps and door sweeps on the doors leading into the room. The IACUC approved the following additional corrective actions:

- PI worked with the animal program training manager and organized mouse handling training for all members of the research team.
- Laboratory manager added the phone number for pest control service to the emergency contact sign in the lab with instructions to users.

It is noted that the final report did not include the funding source involving the incident. In the future, please include the source of funding and provide grant numbers for all PHS, NSF or NASA supported work. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that Massachusetts General Hospital 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.

Page 2 – Dr. Orf
October 28, 2020
OLAW Case A3596-4E

Sincerely,

**Jacquelyn
T. Tubbs -S**

Digitally signed by
Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S
Date: 2020.10.29
09:12:48 -04'00'

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs, DVM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



55 Fruit Street, Bul240E
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: 617-724-9079
Fax: 617-724-3307
Email: horf@mgh.harvard.edu

Harry W. Orf, PhD
Senior Vice President for Research
Massachusetts General Hospital
Principal Associate in Genetics
Harvard Medical School

October 21, 2020

Brent Morse, DVM
Acting Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Room 3615, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Subject: Serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide*
Institution: The Massachusetts General Hospital
Animal Welfare Assurance #: D16-00361 (A3596-01)

Dear Dr. Morse:

This letter is to provide you with a full explanation of the circumstances and actions taken by the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) as required by Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy) Section IV.F.3 following an incident that occurred. The incident was determined by the IACUC to constitute serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide* and is therefore reportable.

The incident involved a protocol studying non-invasive therapeutic interventions for treating obesity. The incident occurred on July 27. A research fellow removed a mouse from a cage to begin a procedure. They did not have a firm grasp on the mouse, and it escaped from their hold into the room. Traps were placed to try and capture the mouse, but it was not recovered.

The Principal Investigator (PI) and fellow met with the IACUC compliance lead and the facility veterinarian on August 3 to review the incident. A compliance subcommittee of the IACUC reviewed the incident on August 6 and the convened IACUC reviewed the event at its monthly meeting on August 19. The IACUC recognized that the laboratory manager, responsible for the room where the incident occurred, had Buildings and Grounds block gaps in the walls and cabinetry into which rodents could escape and install door sweeps on both doors into the room. The IACUC approved the following additional corrective actions:

- The PI worked with the animal program training manager and arranged mouse handling training for all members of the research team.
- The laboratory manager added the pest control service phone number to the emergency contact sign in the lab and provided instructions to users.

Brent Morse Letter
October 21, 2020
Page Two

The Massachusetts General Hospital 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 me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)



Harry W. Orf, PhD
Senior Vice President for Research
Institutional Official
The Massachusetts General Hospital

cc: W. Zapol MD, Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
cc: A. Clancy PhD, Director, Animal Welfare Assurance
cc: D. Jarrell DVM, Attending Veterinarian and Director, Center for Comparative Medicine

Walker, Keri (NIH/OD) [C]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Walker, Keri (NIH/OD) [C]
Subject: FW: Report of Serious Deviation with the Guide_Massachusetts General Hospital_AWA # D16-00361 (A3596-01)
Attachments: OLAW Report-2020-18_MGH_10 21 2020.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Keri,

Please use this email and the attached file to open a new case. Please assign it to Jai. Thank you. Brent

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 3:45 PM
To: Clancy, Anne <ACLANCY1@mgm.harvard.edu>
Cc: Orf, Harry W., Ph.D. <HORF@mgm.harvard.edu>; Jarrell, Donna M. <DJARRELL@mgm.harvard.edu>; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Report of Serious Deviation with the Guide_Massachusetts General Hospital_AWA # D16-00361 (A3596-01)

Thank you for providing this report Dr. Clancy. 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

From: Clancy, Anne <ACLANCY1@mgm.harvard.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 10:51 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Orf, Harry W., Ph.D. <HORF@mgm.harvard.edu>; Jarrell, Donna M. <DJARRELL@mgm.harvard.edu>
Subject: Report of Serious Deviation with the Guide_Massachusetts General Hospital_AWA # D16-00361 (A3596-01)

Dear Dr. Morse,
Please find attached a report submitted on behalf of Dr. Harry Orf, Senior Vice President for Research and Institutional Official, The Massachusetts General Hospital, in accordance with PHS Policy IV.F.3.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Kind Regards,

Anne Clancy

Anne Clancy, PhD | Director, Animal Welfare Assurance

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (b) (6)

aclancy1@mgh.harvard.edu

For 24/7 assistance with critical research matters, call 617-726-HOW2 (4692)

Have an idea or a suggestion on how we can improve? Please submit a suggestion to Isuggest !
Isuggest

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