



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

June 26, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3854-01 [OLAW Case K]

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander  
Vice President for Research  
Florida State University  
3012 Westcott North – PO Box 3061330  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1330

Dear Dr. Ostrander,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 19, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Florida State University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that seven guppies died after escaping the tank due to improper connections. The fish had jumped from the filtration sump and landed on the floor.

The corrective actions consisted of checking all tank connections at each feeding.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

June 19, 2019

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institute of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7882

Dear Dr. Gopee:

Florida State University (FSU) [D16-00491, A3854-01] provides notification of a reportable event in accordance with Policy, IV.F.3.

On Friday, March 26, 2019, at least 7 guppies housed in a recirculating aquaculture system were found dead on the floor of an animal housing room. Fish deaths were attributed to two improperly connected tanks that allowed fish to escape the primary enclosure into the sump. Fish likely jumped from the filtration sump onto the floor. To prevent future occurrences, tank connections will be evaluated during each feeding.

Florida State University takes very seriously our commitment to animal care. This incident is in no way indicative of the excellent animal care provided by both the laboratory and husbandry personnel across our program. We trust our response to this matter will eliminate similar occurrences.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Gary K. Ostrander, PhD  
Vice President for Research and  
Institutional Official

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2019 6:24 AM  
**To:** William Hill; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD); Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Florida State University (D16-00491, A3854-01) reportable incident notifications

Thank you for these reports, Dr. Hill. We will send responses soon.

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

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**From:** William Hill <wahill@fsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 3:03 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E] <neera.gopee@nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Florida State University (D16-00491, A3854-01) reportable incident notifications

Dr. Gopee,

Good afternoon. Please see attached. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me directly. Thank you.

William Allen Hill, DVM, MPH, DACLAM, CPIA  
Director, Laboratory Animal Resources and  
Attending Veterinarian  
Florida State University  
107 Chieftan Way  
(b) (4) Biomedical Research Facility  
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-4341  
(b) (6) (office)  
(b) (6) (fax)

*Laboratory Animal Resources is dedicated to advancing the teaching and research missions of the University by maintaining exemplary standards of animal care and providing exceptional support in the use of laboratory animals.*