



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
ARKANSAS

RESEARCH
COMPLIANCE

201 Donaghey Avenue, Torreyson West 324, Conway, Arkansas 72035. Phone: (501) 852-7460

December 12, 2019

Courtney Harral Jernigan, DVM, MPH
Veterinary Medical Officer 6124
United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

RE: Animal Welfare Assurance A4179-01 [OLAW Case A]

Dear (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

I am writing to notify you of a temporary suspension of protocols involving USDA-regulated species at the University of Central Arkansas. On July 11, 2019 the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) received from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) an allegation of noncompliance with PHS Policy at UCA. PETA was concerned about activities cited in two routine inspection reports from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services dated July 30, 2018 and May 22, 2019. According to OLAW, PETA's allegations were:

- The position of unaffiliated member on UCA's IACUC was vacant, making the IACUC not properly constituted.
- UCA's IACUC had not reviewed the current or continuing protocol for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) research regarding armadillos at UCA.
- The approval for the investigator, Dr. Jeffery Padberg, to conduct more than one major operative procedure was not granted.

UCA President (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who serves as our Institutional Official, and IACUC members were informed of the allegations by OLAW. We began an investigation into our own processes and engaged in a transparent exchange with OLAW in order to resolve the matter. UCA found that, because the unaffiliated position was open, our IACUC was not properly constituted for a period of approximately one year. As you are aware, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) deviated from an approved protocol in 2018, but UCA's IACUC had reviewed and approved a protocol for him. Following his deviation, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) submitted a modification to his original protocol to the IACUC. The modification was approved by the committee when it was unconstituted. As noted below, it has now been approved by a fully constituted board.

In order to ensure that UCA's animal research program was in full compliance with all regulations, all animal research activities on campus were suspended from September 20, 2019 until November 4, 2019, when the Provost received communication from Brent C. Morse, DVM Director of the Division of

Compliance Oversight of OLAW to reinstate all approved and future research. At no time did OLAW require UCA to suspend all animal research activity.

Further, Dr. Morse found no cause for further action by OLAW. He did advise that we should notify you of temporary suspension of protocols involving USDA-regulated species.

UCA has fully addressed the deficiencies revealed by this process with OLAW. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) a Conway resident who is not affiliated with the university in any way, joined our IACUC in October 2019. All protocols that were approved while the board was not fully constituted were re-reviewed and approved by IACUC on October 10, 2019.

Please let me know if you have any questions at all.

Sincerely,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

University of Central Arkansas

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