



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

December 27, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3421-01 [OLAW Case 1A]

Dr. Segundo Rodriguez  
Institutional Official  
University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus  
P.O. Box 365067  
San Juan, PR 00936-5067

Dear Dr. Rodriguez,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of an August 17, 2018 email from Dr. Rivera conveying an incident within the Animal Care and Use Program at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Medical Sciences Campus that is reportable under the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Your letter supplemented the information contained in the original prompt August 9, 2018 email report. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on August 6, 2018 two juvenile Rhesus macaques housed at the Caribbean Primate Research Center Sabana Seca Field Station in Corral QA42 were missing. The padlock and fencing were intact. On August 11<sup>th</sup> four more juvenile monkeys from the same area were apparently removed from the facility during the night. The facility perimeter fence and the corral fence had been cut. These animals have not been located as of the date of your report. The USDA, APHIS, AC has been notified of the incidents.

It is understood that the Medical Sciences Campus' Security Office, the Puerto Rico Police Department and the FBI were notified. Corrective actions included increasing security personnel at the facility and registering every car as they arrive and depart the facility. Security camera system was repaired and new cameras installed. The security protocol is being reviewed.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Medical Sciences Campus, which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-reporting and self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate and correct the issue, and to prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Brent C. Morse, DVM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair  
Dr. Robert M. Gibbens, USDA, APHIS, AC

## Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

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**From:** Elizabeth Rivera Velazquez <elizabeth.rivera11@upr.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2018 12:52 PM  
**To:** K. Bayne; Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]; Navarro, Luis A (APHIS); robert.m.gibbens@aphis.usda.gov  
**Cc:** (b) (6) IDIA V RODRIGUEZ REYES; (b) (6) Segundo Rodriguez Quilinchini  
**Subject:** Incident Update OLAW Assurance D16-00262 (A-3421-01), USDA 94-R-0109 #960, AAALAC 000783  
**Attachments:** CPRC's Perimeter Fence.JPG; Quarantine Corral.jpg

This is to update the reported incidents at the Caribbean Primate Research Center, Sabana Seca Field Station of the Medical Sciences Campus, UPR.

As previously reported; on Monday, August 6, 2018, 2 juvenile animals (*Rhesus macaques*) housed in one of the quarantine areas (Corral QA42) were missing; quarantine entrance padlock was not forced neither the corral fence. On the second incident reported on August 11; 4 more juvenile monkeys, from the same quarantine area, were apparently removed from the facility during night hours; the facility perimeter fence and the corral fence were cut, pictures are included.

Both incident were reported to the Medical Sciences Campus' (MSC) Security Office, the PR State Police Department and the FBI. An investigation is currently taking place by the PR State Police and FBI as well, regarding the 6 animals reported as missing. The location of the animals is still unknown and we are awaiting information from the authorities.

The following immediate corrective actions have been taken:

1. Security has been increase at the facility, placing additional armed guard near the corral (QA42)
2. Every car (employees, visitors, vendors and guards) entering and leaving the premises are being registered as they arrived and as they leave the facility
3. Security camera system is being repaired and new cameras are being installed
4. The facility security protocol is being reviewed by facility administration and the MSC's Security Office director.

Other corrective actions under consideration are as follows:

1. A facility hub for the security camera system is being evaluated so events can be viewed locally as well as at the Security Office located at the main campus
2. A lighting system to be installed around the perimeter fence of the facility

Updates will be provided as information is gathered.









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**From:** Elizabeth Rivera Velazquez [mailto:[elizabeth.rivera11@upr.edu](mailto:elizabeth.rivera11@upr.edu)]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 09, 2018 12:23 PM

**To:** K. Bayne <[kbayne@aaalac.org](mailto:kbayne@aaalac.org)>; Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <[morseb@mail.nih.gov](mailto:morseb@mail.nih.gov)>; Navarro, Luis A (APHIS) <[luis.a.navarro@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:luis.a.navarro@aphis.usda.gov)>; [robert.m.gibbens@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:robert.m.gibbens@aphis.usda.gov)

**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b) (6) Idia Vanessa Rodriguez [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (6)  
[REDACTED] (b) (6) Segundo Rodriguez Quilinchini <[segundo.rodriguez@upr.edu](mailto:segundo.rodriguez@upr.edu)>;  
[REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Incident Report OLAW Assurance D16-00262 (A-3421-01), USDA 94-R-0109 #960, AAALAC 000783

Greetings!!

The Medical Sciences Campus (MSC) IACUC was informed of an incident at the Caribbean Primate Research Center, Sabana Seca Field station; 2 juveniles monkeys (Rhesus macaques) disappeared from the facility.

On Monday, August 6 a veterinary technician noted that 2 juvenile animals housed in one of the quarantine areas were missing. The quarantine entrance padlock was not forced neither the perimeter fence of the corral.

The incident was immediately informed to the MSC's Security Office and the Puerto Rico's Police Department and an investigation was started on Tuesday.

A complete report will be sent to your office before this coming Friday. Updates on the investigation will be reported daily.

Elizabeth Rivera, DVM  
Director and Professor  
Veterinary Technology Program  
School of Health Professions  
Medical Sciences Campus  
University of Puerto Rico  
Phone: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Phone and Fax: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

e-mail: [elizabeth.rivera11@upr.edu](mailto:elizabeth.rivera11@upr.edu)

Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day.—John Grogan, *Marley and Me*

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 09, 2018 12:32 PM  
**To:** 'Elizabeth Rivera Velazquez'  
**Subject:** RE: Incident Report OLAW Assurance D16-00262 (A-3421-01), USDA 94-R-0109 #960, AAALAC 000783

Thank you for this preliminary report Dr. Rivera. We will open a case file and await further information.

Best regards, Brent Morse

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

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

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**To:** K. Bayne <kbayne@aaalac.org>; Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>; Navarro, Luis A (APHIS) <luis.a.navarro@aphis.usda.gov>; robert.m.gibbens@aphis.usda.gov  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Idia Vanessa Rodriguez (b) (6)  
(b) (6) Segundo Rodriguez Quilinchini <segundo.rodriguez@upr.edu>; (b) (6)  
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Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day.—John Grogan, *Marley and Me*