



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

April 4, 2018

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

Dr. Segundo Rodríguez-Quilichini
Acting Chancellor
University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus
EPS Building, [REDACTED]
San Juan, PR 00936-5067

Dear Dr. Rodríguez-Quilichini,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 28, 2018 letter reporting an adverse event at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that the lid to one of the water tanks was removed and a juvenile rhesus macaque accidentally fell into the tank and drowned.

The corrective actions consisted of immediately removing the animal, sanitizing the tank and securing the tank lid with a padlock. In addition, all water tanks around the island were checked to ensure that the lids were secured with a padlock.

The establishment and application of policies and practices that are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus are commendable and avoid the perception of a double standard. We appreciate having been informed about this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

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



Oficina del Rector
Chancellor's Office

Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Ciencias Médicas
University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus

March 28, 2018

Dr. Axel Wolff
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, NIH
RKL 1, Suite 360 – MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892 – 7982

ANIMAL WELFARE ASSURANCE D16-00262 (A3421-01); USDA CERTIFICATION 94-R-0109 CUSTOMER 960; AAALAC FILE #000783

Dear Dr. Wolff:

This is to report an adverse incident at the Caribbean Primate Research Center, Cayo Santiago Field Station., Medical Sciences Campus, University of Puerto Rico. The incident resulted in one animal death. The event was identified on March 14, 2018, reported to IACUC by phone on March 15, 2018. The written report was submitted on March 20.

One employee noticed the lid of one of the water tanks that supplies water to the drinking troughs around the island was removed. Immediately personnel started restoring the lid in place, but noticed one juvenile rhesus female (ID 1X5 from Group P) had, unfortunately, fall inside the tank and accidentally drowned.

The animal was removed immediately, the tank was emptied, sanitized and refilled with water. The tank lid was placed and secured with a padlock.

To prevent future incidents like this, all the water tanks around the island were verified to be certain all haves their lids secured with a padlock.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Segundo Rodriguez-Quilichini, MD, FACS, FASCRS
Acting Chancellor & Institutional Official

C: USDA
AAALAC

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Equal Employment
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Employer M/W/V/H

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

To: Elizabeth Rivera Velazquez
Cc: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: Assurance D16-00262 (A3421-01)

Thank you for this report, Dr. Rivera. I will send a response shortly. Please note that we still have an open case from September 15, 2017 involving a monkey which escaped from Cayo Santiago. Shortly thereafter the hurricane hit and we never received a final report. Please send me a report as to whether the animal was recaptured or not.
Thank you.

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

From: Elizabeth Rivera Velazquez [mailto:elizabeth.rivera11@upr.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 2:59 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>; Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) Segundo Rodriguez Quilinchini
(b) (6)

Subject: Assurance D16-00262 (A3421-01)

Enclosed you will find an incident report

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Elizabeth Rivera, DVM
Director and Professor
Veterinary Technology Program
School of Health Professions
Medical Sciences Campus
University of Puerto Rico
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e-mail: 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*