



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

January 3, 2019

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

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 a December 21, 2018 email from Dr. Rodriguez reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Medical Sciences Campus. Your letter supplemented the information contained in the original prompt November 22, 2018 email report. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on November 15, 2018 two animals escaped from a corral at the Caribbean Primate Research Center Sabana Seca Field Station. One of the animals was quickly recaptured but animal 4C8 escaped from the Primate Center. Authorities were notified and 4C8 was seen on November 17<sup>th</sup> and again on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Animal 4C8 was captured on December 13<sup>th</sup> and due to the concern regarding potential pathogen exposure to the colony, it was euthanized. The USDA, APHIS, AC has been notified of the incidents.

It is understood that a plan has been implemented to monitor the integrity of the corrals and repair any corral that may present a risk for animal escape. This plan includes coordination between the colony manager and the operations manager for assessments by the construction maintenance personnel at the time of the scheduled periodic corral health routines.

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

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Do not hesitate to let us know if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

On Thu, Nov 22, 2018 at 8:49 AM Idia Vanessa Rodriguez <idia.rodriguez1@upr.edu> wrote:

Dear all,

The Medical Sciences Campus (MSC) IACUC was informed of the following incident at the Caribbean Primate Research Center, Sabana Seca Field station; Thursday of last week (November 15, 2018) two animals, a male and a female, escaped from corral A47 from the SPFA colony due to a break in the cyclone fence of the corral caused by normal wear and tear. A census of the corral was performed at the time and revealed no more animals missing. The corral was immediately repaired and examined closely for further damage. The female was able to be trapped immediately but the male (identified as 4C8) moved outside of the CPRC perimeter. During the day and the next day the animal was observed around the perimeter fence but since Saturday November 17th the animal has not been seen. A trap has been set near the area where the animal was last seen and the local authorities are being notified.

Updates will continue to be provided as information is gathered.

Sincerely,

Idia Vanessa Rodríguez, DVM  
Clinical Veterinarian / Associate Director  
Animal Resources Center  
Unit of Comparative Medicine  
AND  
Institutional Veterinarian  
Medical Sciences Campus  
University of Puerto Rico  
PO Box 365067  
San Juan, PR 00936-5067  
(b) (6) Office  
Fax  
[idia.rodriguez1@upr.edu](mailto:idia.rodriguez1@upr.edu)

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Idia Vanessa Rodríguez, DVM  
Clinical Veterinarian / Associate Director  
Animal Resources Center  
Unit of Comparative Medicine  
AND  
Institutional Veterinarian  
Medical Sciences Campus  
University of Puerto Rico  
PO Box 365067

San Juan, PR 00936-5067

(b) (6) Office

Fax

idia.rodriguez1@upr.edu

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

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**From:** Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 23, 2018 7:24 AM  
**To:** 'Idia Vanessa Rodriguez'; Luis A. Navarro DVM  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Rivera; (b) (6)  
 (b) (6) Segundo Rodríguez Quilinchini  
**Subject:** RE: Incident Report OLAW Assurance D16-00262 (A-3421-01), USDA 94-R-0109 #960, AAALAC 000783

Thank you for this prompt preliminary report Dr. Rodriguez. We will open a case file. Please update us as soon as the animal is recaptured or at 60 days with a plan to prevent future escapes. Thank you.

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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**From:** Idia Vanessa Rodriguez [mailto:idia.rodriguez1@upr.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 22, 2018 7:50 AM  
**To:** Kathryn Bayne M.S., Ph.D., D.V.M., DACLAM <kbayne@aaalac.org>; Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>; Luis A. Navarro DVM <Luis.A.Navarro@aphis.usda.gov>; robert.m.gibbens@aphis.usda.gov  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Rivera <elizabeth.rivera11@upr.edu>; (b) (6)  
 (b) (6) Segundo Rodríguez Quilinchini <segundo.rodriguez@upr.edu>  
**Subject:** Incident Report OLAW Assurance D16-00262 (A-3421-01), USDA 94-R-0109 #960, AAALAC 000783

Dear all,

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Updates will continue to be provided as information is gathered.

Sincerely,

**Idia Vanessa Rodríguez, DVM**  
**Clinical Veterinarian / Associate Director**  
**Animal Resources Center**  
**Unit of Comparative Medicine**  
**AND**

**Institutional Veterinarian**  
**Medical Sciences Campus**  
**University of Puerto Rico**  
**PO Box 365067**  
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(b) (6) Office

Fax

[idia.rodriquez1@upr.edu](mailto:idia.rodriquez1@upr.edu)