



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

October 3, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3290-01 (OLAW Case 1W)

Todd R. Evans, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
1300 York Avenue, Box 5
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Evans,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated September 12, 2019 regarding noncompliance with the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Weill Cornell Medicine. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, our office understands that two incidents occurred during August and September 2019.

One incident involved toe clipping of mice that was not in accordance with institutional policies or with the protocol approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The mice were beyond the maximum acceptable age for the procedure. Corrective actions consisted of the IACUC notifying the Principle Investigator (PI), and requiring the PI to counsel lab members on the importance of following the approved protocol.

The other incident involved a PHS funded activity. A cage of hunched, lethargic mice was identified by veterinary staff and they requested that the mice be euthanized within two hours. The animals were found the next day on the rack for euthanasias that were not time sensitive. Corrective actions included promptly euthanizing the mice. In addition, the IACUC notified the PI, and required the PI to counsel lab members on timely euthanasia for sick animals.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been taken to prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by your institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We appreciate having been informed of this matter and at this time find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Nicolette Petervary, VMD, DACAW
Animal Welfare Policy Specialist
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 1:10 PM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: OLAW Division of Assurances (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)

Hello Ms. Akl,

Your report is in the queue and you will receive a response soon.

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.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 12:13 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: OLAW Division of Assurances (NIH/OD) <assurances.olaw@od.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)
Importance: High

Hi Joan,

Just checking on the status of this incident report.

Thanks,
Jenn

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 11:17 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Assurances (NIH/OD) <assurances.olaw@od.nih.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)

Thank you (b) (6) for this final report. We will respond soon.

Regards,
Joan

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 10:29 AM

To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>

Cc: Andrew C. Nicholson <nicholso@med.cornell.edu>; Todd R. Evans <tre2003@med.cornell.edu>

Subject: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)

Importance: High

Dear OLAW:

Please find a WCM IACUC incident report attached and let me know if any further clarifications are required.

Best regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



Weill Cornell Medicine



Weill Cornell Medicine

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
1300 York Avenue, Box 5
New York, NY 10065

Telephone: 646-962-2981/2
Email: iacucadmin@med.cornell.edu

445 East 69th Street, Olin Hall Rm-423
New York, NY 10065

September 12, 2019

Brent Morse, DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Re: Assurance # D16-00186

Dear Dr. Morse:

We are writing to report two incidents of non-compliance that occurred within the animal care and use program at Weill Cornell Medicine. The incident was presented to and discussed by the IACUC during the months of August and September. The incidents and resolutions are as follows:

Mice in a single cage were observed by the animal care staff to be bleeding following toe clipping. Toe clipping is approved on the protocol for mice up to 17 days of age. These mice were approximately 25 days old. The procedure was not performed in accordance with the protocol or our institutional policy. The PI was contacted by the IACUC and instructed to inform his lab members of the importance of adhering to the protocol and performing only approved procedures as described. (No PHS grants associated with this incident.)

A cage hunched, lethargic mice was found by clinical veterinary staff who requested that the Animal User euthanize the mice within 2 hours. The cage was not found on recheck and it was assumed the mice had been euthanized. However, the cage was subsequently found the next day on the euthanasia rack, which is against institutional policy as 'sick' animals must be euthanized immediately. The mice were promptly euthanized. The PI was contacted by the IACUC and instructed to remind his lab members that sick animals are never to be placed on the euthanasia rack; they must be euthanized by the responsible individual within the provided deadline. The PI addressed this issue at a meeting of all lab members. (National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases 7 R01 AR070234-03)

We believe that these issues have been adequately addressed and that the procedures implemented should prevent recurrence. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (b) (6) or the IACUC Chairman, Dr. Andrew Nicholson, at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Todd R. Evans, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Cornell Medicine

Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
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Importance: High

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Best regards,
(b) (6)

