



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) 480-3387

May 26, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3290-01 (OLAW Case 2A)

Todd R. Evans, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research, WCM
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
1300 York Avenue, LC-708
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Evans,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 15, 2020 letter reporting a non-compliance with the PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Weill Cornell Medicine. According to the information provided it is understood that in two separate instances involving two investigators, the veterinary staff found two cages with dead or moribund mice. In both cases the water bottles were not sitting flush against the wire bars so the animals could not access the water.

Corrective and preventive actions included counseling of the animal care technician involved about being vigilant in checking for improperly placed water bottles. Both PIs were asked to address this issue with their laboratory members and make sure that they understand their responsibility with regard to assuring access to food and water. It is further understood that you have begun a multi-year process to replace the bottles with sipper bottles to prevent these incidents.

Lastly, Veterinary Services staff requested immediate euthanasia of a lethargic and hunched mouse. They received no response from the responsible animal user. An animal care technician found the animal dead the next morning.

Corrective and preventive actions included the IACUC reaching out to the PI and requesting that he address the issue with his staff and remind them that they need to respond to these requests in a timely manner to prevent suffering. The IACUC also requested that the veterinary services review with their staff their responsibility to euthanize sick and/or moribund animals when the PI and/or lab members cannot be reached.

OLAW believes that the corrective measures put in place by Weill Cornell Medicine are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. These activities were funded by the PHS. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S
Date: 2020.05.26 08:15:19 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact



Weill Cornell Medicine

A3290 - 2A

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

May 15, 2020

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 incidents of non-compliance that occurred within the animal care and use program at Weill Cornell Medicine. The incidents were presented to and discussed by the IACUC during the month of May. The incident and resolution is as follows:

In two separate instances involving two investigators, the veterinary staff found two cages with dead or moribund mice. In both cases, although the water bottle was placed with the drilled hole from which the mice access water, positioned downward, the bottles were not sitting flush against the wire bars so the animals could not access the water. The animal care staff assumes the primary responsibility for making sure that all cages have food and water. Investigators should be observing their animals on a regular basis and share the responsibility of assuring that cages have food and water and that mice have access to both. The animal care technician involved were counseled about being vigilante in checking for improperly placed water bottles. Both PIs were asked to address this issue with their laboratory members and make sure that they understand their responsibility with regard to assuring access to food and water. We have begun a multi-year process to replace the bottles with sipper bottles to prevent these incidents. These bottles will be replaced by late summer in the vivarium with the highest incidence of water bottle issues. We anticipate replacing the bottles in our other large vivaria, barring financial limits resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, in phases next year.

Lastly, Veterinary Services staff requested immediate euthanasia of a lethargic and hunched mouse. They received no response from the responsible animal user. An animal care technician found the animal dead the next morning. The IACUC reached out to the PI and requested that he address the issue with his staff and remind them that they need to respond to these requests in a timely manner to prevent suffering. The IACUC also requested that the veterinary services review with their staff their responsibility to euthanasia sick and/or moribund animals when the PI and/or lab members cannot be reached. (National Cancer Institute 1 R01 CA231283-01; 1 U01 CA233056-01)

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

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 7:55 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response soon.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:47 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)

