



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

December 14, 2020

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

Dr. Todd Evans
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Cornell Medical College
1300 York Avenue, LC710
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Evans,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 9, 2020 letter reporting two instances of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Weill Cornell Medical College. According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following about the incidents and the corresponding corrective actions:

- 1) Four live research mice were found in the carcass refrigerator after being exposed to a reduced CO₂ flow caused by a faulty gas line in the euthanasia chamber. The mice had been subjected to cervical dislocation following CO₂ exposure but death was not confirmed.

Corrective action: The CO₂ line was fixed and the veterinary technician responsible was counseled and retrained on cervical dislocation and verification of death.

- 2) Two adult mice were subjected to unapproved toe clipping. The procedure was not approved in the protocol and was prohibited by institutional policy.

Corrective action: The mice were euthanized and the laboratory staff was counseled to read the protocol and only perform approved procedures.

Based on its assessment of these explanations, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented in both situations to correct and prevent recurrence of the problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



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

December 9, 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 December. The incident and resolution is as follows:

Four moribund mice were euthanized with CO₂ followed by cervical dislocation. They were placed in a refrigerator prior to a scheduled post-mortem evaluation. When the mice were removed, approximately 15 minutes later, the mice were found alive. Upon inspection, an issue was found with the CO₂ line resulting in reduced CO₂ flow. The veterinary technician that performed the euthanasia was counseled and retrained on cervical dislocation and verification of death and the CO₂ line was corrected.

Two adult mice underwent toe clipping for identification and were observed shortly afterwards. The procedure was not described in the protocol and is not permitted in adult mice. The mice were immediately euthanized as requested by Veterinary Services. The IACUC contacted the PI and had her meet with her lab members reminding them of the need to carefully read the protocol, be aware of which procedures are approved and to only perform approved procedures as described. (National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases 7R01AI123284-02; 7R01AI127658-02 & 1R21AI154294-01 - National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases 1R01DK111862-01)

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, December 11, 2020 7:21 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: Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:33 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) 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)

