



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

February 10, 2021

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

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 February 5, 2021 letter reporting 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 ten mice were found to be restrained in plastic restrainer tubes for ~14 hours. The protocol-approved procedure described restraint in a wire mesh tube for 1- 6 hours as a stressor. The mice were BAR upon release from the tubes. The activity was funded by the PHS and the NSF.

Corrective and preventive actions: The animal user retook Investigator Orientation training online to refresh her understanding of the requirements for rodent handling and experimental use. In addition, the lab developed a buddy system so that each animal user has a backup person directly responsible for their animals in case of emergency.

A second reported incident involved an animal user performing toe clipping on 25-day old mice, which is not an approved method of identification on the associated protocol. No PHS funding is associated with this protocol.

Corrective and preventive actions: The PI was contacted by the IACUC and was told to remind his lab members of the importance of being aware of which procedures are approved on the protocol and only performing approved procedures. The animal user was retrained in the proper method for ear tagging so the tags would stay attached.

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. 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: 2021.02.10 15:25:06 -05'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact

Walker, Keri (NIH/OD) [C]

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Walker, Keri (NIH/OD) [C]
Subject: Letter for signature: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)
Attachments: Case A3290-2D .doc

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please see attached. Please also print the below email for inclusion with the case file. Thank you Keri.

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Morse:

With regard to your questions:

1. The incident involved 10 mice.
2. The animal user retook Investigator Orientation training online to refresh her understanding of the requirements for rodent handling and experimental use. In addition, the lab developed a buddy system so that each animal user has a backup person directly responsible for their animals in case of emergency.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:12 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)
Importance: High

Hello (b) (6)

So that I may be accurate in my reply, please respond to this email with the approximate number of mice involved in the first incident, mice in restrainers. Also, please include a little more information regarding the "suitable contingency plan". 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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 3:21 PM
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)

7A3290-2D



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

February 5, 2021

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 January. The incident and resolution is as follows:

Mice were found to be restrained in plastic restrainer tubes for ~ 14 hours. The protocol approved procedure described restraint in a wire mesh tube for 1 -6 hours as a stressor to study neuropsychiatric disorders. The responsible animal user had a family emergency and left the mice for the extended period. The mice were BAR upon release from the tubes. The IACUC contacted the PI and informed him of the IACUC's concerns regarding welfare and compliance. He was instructed to address the issue with his lab members, ensuring the significance of the protocol violations were understood and to formulate and present a plan to the IACUC to ensure this situation never recurs. The PI complied establishing a suitable contingency plan. (National Science Foundation NSF 194419-01 - National Institute of General Medical Sciences 1 R35 GM124731-01 - National Institute on Drug Abuse 1 R61 DA051529-01 - National Institute of Mental Health 1 F31 MH123130-01A1 & 2 R01 MH084894-10)

An animal user performed toe clipping on 25-day old mice, which is not an acceptable technique for mice of this age. Also, toe clipping is not an approved method of identification on the associated protocol. When asked why ear tagging, which is the approved identification method, was not performed, the animal user stated that the ear tags do not stay clipped and decided to use another method. The PI was contacted by the IACUC and was told to remind his lab members of the importance of being aware of which procedures are approved on the protocol and only performing approved procedures. The animal user was retrained in the proper method for ear tagging so the tags would stay attached. (No PHS funding associated with this protocol.)

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: Monday, February 8, 2021 7:42 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: Friday, February 5, 2021 3:21 PM
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)