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To: koker@uwosh.edu
Cc: (b) (6) [Gibbens, Robert - APHIS](#)
Subject: OLAW Case A3564-G
Date: Friday, May 17, 2019 1:19:31 PM
Attachments: [2316_001.pdf](#)

Dear Dr. Koker,

Attached please find Dr. Axel Wolff's final response to OLAW Case A3564-G.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by phone or by e-mail.

Regards,
Joan

*Joan Ward
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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May 15, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3564-01 [OLAW Case G]

Dr. Joh Koker
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
800 Algoma Boulevard
Oshkosh, WI 54901-8622

Dear Dr. Koker,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 10, 2019 letter reporting two adverse events involving gerbils at the University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh (UWO), following up on an initial telephone report on April 16, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following:

- 1) On two separate occasions, a gerbil was placed into an anesthetic induction box and died after exposure to isoflurane. After contacting the manufacturer, it was determined that the machine needed a firmware update.

Corrective action: Use of the anesthetic chamber was stopped, the firmware was updated, the system was tested, two gerbils were successfully anesthetized and recovered, the standard operating procedure was updated with detailed instructions, and the laboratory was allowed to resume animal activities.

- 2) Five breeding pairs of gerbils had been shipped from a vendor to UWO but due to a delay, some pups were born in transit and died or were cannibalized. Airline employees had forgotten to load the shipping boxes onto the connecting flight.

Corrective action: The gerbils were allowed to settle in and the females accepted the pups. The matter was reported to USDA, the airline, and the vendor. Future gerbil shipments will request pregnant females which are earlier in gestation.

Based on its assessment of these explanations, OLAW understands that measures have been taken in each situation to correct and prevent recurrence of the problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by UWO to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC
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