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**To:** [Dana - APHIS Miller \(dana.miller2@usda.gov\)](#); [Michael F - APHIS Neafsey \(michael.f.neafsey@usda.gov\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: OLAW Case A3597-2U  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 1:44:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [1927\\_001.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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fyi

Robert M. Gibbens, DVM  
Director, Animal Welfare Operations  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
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**From:** Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E] [mailto:wardjoa@od.nih.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:14 PM  
**To:** fred.king@mail.wvu.edu  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Gibbens, Robert - APHIS  
<robert.m.gibbens@usda.gov>  
**Subject:** OLAW Case A3597-2U

Dear Dr. King,

Attached please find Dr. Axel Wolff's initial response to OLAW Case A3597-2U.

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

Regards,  
Joan

*Joan Ward*  
*Program Specialist*  
*Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare*  
*National Institutes of Health*  
*6700B Rockledge Dr., Suite 2500*  
*Bethesda, MD 20892*  
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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:

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6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500  
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April 29, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3597-01 (OLAW Case 2U)

Dr. Fred King  
Vice President for Research  
West Virginia University  
886 Chestnut Ridge Road, (b) (4)  
P O Box 6216  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6103

Dear Dr. King,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has received a complaint from Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN) about sheep studies performed at West Virginia University (WVU). Under the Freedom of Information Act, SAEN obtained internal WVU memoranda from Dr. Robert Goodman to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) on three separate occasions (6/26/17, 8/8/18, 8/25/18) outlining problems encountered during sheep experiments. Reported problems included fever, convulsions, internal bleeding, and seizure. SAEN's complaint alleges that there was poor surgical technique, inadequate asepsis, improper animal handling, inadequate veterinary care, and unqualified personnel. Also, SAEN states that in their opinion the matter should have been reported to OLAW.

In order for OLAW to have a better understanding of the matter please direct the IACUC, avoiding any conflicts of interest, to address the following questions:

- 1) Were the sheep studies supported by NIH, NSF, or any other entity under OLAW's jurisdiction?  
If so, please provide the grant number.
- 2) Was a root cause found for the adverse effects experienced by the sheep?
- 3) Did any of the events with the sheep require reporting to OLAW?
- 4) Did any noncompliant actions occur with this study?
- 5) Is staff adequately trained to conduct the procedures under this protocol?
- 6) Is daily prompt veterinary care available? The June 26 memo states that the veterinarian was on vacation and therefore a veterinary technician was contacted on the weekend.
- 7) Are humane endpoints in place for this study to ensure prompt euthanasia if treatments are unsuccessful?
- 8) Describe any corrective actions taken to ensure survival of the sheep and success of the study.

9) Provide any additional information on these sheep studies which addresses the complaint.

Please provide this information by **June 3, 2019**. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

 (b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair  
Animal Welfare Program Director  
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC

