

**From:** [Ward, Joan \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** ["chris.keane@wsu.edu"](mailto:chris.keane@wsu.edu)  
**Cc:** [iacuc@wsu.edu](mailto:iacuc@wsu.edu); [Gibbens, Robert - APHIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: OLAW Case A3485-U  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 1:04:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [1931\\_001.pdf](#)

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Dear Dr. Keane,

Attached please find Dr. Axel Wolff's interim response to OLAW Case A3485-U.

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

Regards,

Joan

*Joan Ward  
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Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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April 29, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3485-01 [OLAW Case U]

Dr. Christopher J. Keane  
Vice President for Research  
Washington State University  
P.O. Box 646525  
Pullman, WA 99164

Dear Dr. Keane,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) received an allegation of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Washington State University (WSU) from Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN). The allegation stated that the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee suspended an activity with rabbits but failed to report this to OLAW. The incident being cited concerns a bone surgery study in rabbits which took place from July 25, 2018 to August 2, 2018. From the supporting documentation provided by SAEN it appears that bilateral bone implants were being placed in the distal femur which resulted in fractures and required euthanasia of two animals. Problems occurred in the other rabbits as well. SAEN obtained a copy of the IACUC minutes from September 26, 2018 (presumably through a Freedom of Information Act request) which states that the project has been terminated. SAEN has interpreted this action as being a suspension and has therefore contacted OLAW with this complaint and feels that the matter should have been reported to this Office as being noncompliant with IV.F.3.c of the PHS Policy.

Please direct the IACUC, avoiding any conflicts of interest, to address this matter and provide answers to the following questions:

- 1) Was a bone implant study conducted in rabbits at WSU during the time period noted?
- 2) If so, was the study funded by PHS, NIH, NSF, or other federal entity under OLAW jurisdiction? If confirmed please provide the grant number.
- 3) Did the IACUC take any action with this study such as suspension or termination? Was any action taken in accordance with IV.C.6 of the PHS Policy?
- 4) Did any IACUC actions or noncompliance occur with the rabbit study which should have been reported to OLAW? See also NOT-OD-05-034 Guidance on Prompt Reporting to OLAW under the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: "conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals, including natural disasters, accidents, and mechanical failures, resulting in actual harm or death to animals." If so, why was no report made to OLAW?
- 5) If this project was funded by NIH, was the termination reported to the funding component?
- 6) Provide any other pertinent information regarding the rabbit study.

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Please provide the requested information by **May 27, 2019**. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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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