



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

May 8, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3645-01 (OLAW Case W)

Dr. Gregory Westergaard  
President and CEO  
Alpha Genesis, Inc.  
95 Castle Hall Road, PO Box 557  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945

Dear Dr. Westergaard,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 4, 2017 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Alpha Genesis, Inc. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that seven macaques were found to be dehydrated during a physical exam. It was determined that the water line to their bank of cages had been disconnected.

The corrective action consisted of treating the monkeys which subsequently recovered. A quick connect water valve which always ensures water flow when in place may be put into use to reduce problems caused by human error. Also, staff must now document when animals are moved to new cages and when water lines are repaired or disconnected. Lixits and water line connections must also be checked. The supervisor will be given the form and will verify that water is flowing. All staff has been trained on this new procedure. Animal care staff verify that animals have water and supervisors ensure that this is done.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight

cc: IACUC Chair



AlphaGenesisInc.com  
 836.789.MONK (6665)  
 Fax 843.589.5290  
 95 Castle Hall Road  
 Yemassee, SC 29945



May 4, 2017

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
 Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
 National Institute of Health  
 6705 Rockledge Drive  
 RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
 Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Director,

This self-report describes an incident that occurred on 3/13/2017 at the Alpha Genesis Incorporated (AGI). AGI IACUC conducted an immediate investigation of the incident and has concluded that it is an issue that should be self-reported to OLAW. This did not affect PHS-supported animals or activities.

On 3/13/2017 seven *Macaca Fascicularis* were sedated for physical examination and the veterinarian noted that the animals were dehydrated. Their home location was checked and it was found the water line to that bank of caging was not connected. The animals were taken to the clinic for treatment and all responded positively and were discharged without further incident.

Animal care technicians are responsible for checking that animals have access to water and supervisors are responsible for checking behind technicians to ensure they are following through with this duty.

The following corrective actions have been implemented. First, we are evaluating a new quick-connect type of water valve that does not shut on and off manually, rather when a water line is removed, the water flow stops, and when the water line is inserted, flow resumes. If this valve is compatible with our watering system then the likelihood of human error will be greatly reduced. The other corrective action is a new form of documentation for checking water lines. Now, whenever any employee moves an animal into a new cage, performs a water line repair, or disconnects a water line for any reason they fill out a form indicating the date and location of the water line involved. They also indicate they checked the lixit as well as the water line for connection. The form is then given to the animal care manager or supervisor and they are then required to go to the location and verify the water line is connected and that the lixit is dispensing water. All AGI personnel have been trained on this procedure.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Greg Westergaard  
 Institutional Official  
 Alpha Genesis Inc  
[gwprimate@alphagenesisinc.com](mailto:gwprimate@alphagenesisinc.com)

## Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 2:19 PM  
**To:** 'Kim Schmidt'  
**Subject:** RE: Self-report AGI PHS Assurance A3645

Thank you for this report, Dr. Schmidt. We will respond soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
OLAW

**From:** [redacted]ndary Indiv@gmail.com [mailto:[redacted]ndary Indiv@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Kim Schmidt  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Dr. Greg Westergaard <gwprimate@alphagenesisinc.com>; [redacted]Secondary Individual [redacted]@alphagenesisinc.com>;  
FrontDesk for Alpha Gen <frontdesk@alphagenesisinc.com>; lisa.k.macelderry@aphis.usda.gov  
**Subject:** Self-report AGI PHS Assurance A3645

Please find attached.

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Kimberly Schmidt, DVM

Attending Veterinarian

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Phone Number

Phone Number

[www.AlphaGenesisInc.com](http://www.AlphaGenesisInc.com)



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