



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) 402-7065

May 29, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3280-01 [OLAW Case D]

Dr. David Spector
Director of Research
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
1 Bungtown Road
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

Dear Dr. Spector,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 2, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that five mice died from lack of food and water. The mice were on approved water restriction, the cages had been incorrectly labeled with food restriction cards, the room was on reverse light cycle with red lighting which made visibility of animals difficult, and the junior technician on duty failed to provide additional food and water over a three day weekend.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining all husbandry staff on water restriction and signage, on appropriately performing daily health checks, and on removing cages from the rack in red light rooms to observe the mice. The veterinarian counseled the research staff on cage signs, some cage signs were modified for consistency, and mice on water restriction will be more closely monitored. No additional food/water problems have occurred.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to 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. Please submit all future signed noncompliance reports electronically to olawdco@od.nih.gov.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

David L. Spector, Ph.D.
Director of Research

Robert B. Gardner Jr., Professor

E-mail
A3280-D

April 2, 2019

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

Dear Director:

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare of contributing factors leading to the deaths of 5 mice on protocol 18-14-11-08-1.

Mice on this protocol are often water restricted so that drinking water can be used as positive reinforcement for performing desired behaviors. Water intake is closely monitored during task performance and supplemented to meet daily requirements. On weekends when not working, the animals are supplied with water in a gel form (HydroGel cups) with food pellets on the cage floor. These mice often have headgear implanted that make precludes the use of a slanted wire top lid. In addition, these mice are housed in a room with a reverse light cycle, with a red light spectrum lightsource on during the day. Over a long weekend (February 16-18) a junior animal care technician serviced the affected room. In place of typical water restriction cards used by our scientific staff, several cages had mistakenly placed "food restriction". Observation of the animals was made more difficult by the red spectrum lighting. The junior technician did not provide additional food or water to several cages, which resulted in the deaths of 5 mice which was discovered by the laboratory on Tuesday, February 19.

Since that time, Laboratory Animal Resources management have held a full staff training to review water restriction practices and signage. They have also emphasized the importance of checking the health of every animal every day, which now includes taking cages off of the ventilated rack in red light rooms for close examination. Our veterinarian met with the investigator's lab to review the incident, and review signage so that appropriate care is provided by LAR. Some signage was modified to ensure practices are consistent between facilities. LAR management has instituted a quality control process to have additional eyes on the water restricted animals on this protocol. There have been no additional morbidity or deaths related to inadequate water or food provision since these efforts have been implemented.

We assure you that CSHL takes animal welfare very seriously and have followed up as appropriate given the unique care required for these models.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid grey box, covering the signature of David Spector.

David Spector, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Director of Research