



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
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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) 480-3387

March 25, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A4518-01 (OLAW Case E)

Ms. Rana Smith  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Chimp Haven, Inc.  
13600 Chimpanzee Place  
Keithville, LA 71047

Dear Ms. Smith,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 16, 2021 letter reporting adverse events within the animal care and use program at Chimp Haven related to the severe winter weather experienced on February 15th and subsequent days. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on February 15, 2021, between 11am and 12pm, a 40-year-old male chimpanzee was found down and unresponsive outdoors and determined to be deceased. He had been bright, alert, and responsive as reported by an animal care staff member an hour prior to his death. This chimpanzee had a mild cardiac abnormality and a necropsy was performed on the same date. It was suspected that the cause of death was sudden cardiac arrest which was confirmed by the pathology report. It is further understood that the Attending Veterinarian spoke with the local USDA-APHIS-AC Veterinary Medical Officer regarding this death. In addition to this cardiac event, there were multiple digital amputations of a 38-year-old female chimpanzee as a result of avascular necrosis/frostbite related to the winter storm.

OLAW recognizes that this was an unusual and severe weather event and that Chimp Haven properly activated an effective emergency action plan in advance of the storm, and in response to ongoing events, that mitigated the effects of the weather on the animals.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by Chimp Haven, which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions were taken by Chimp Haven to maximize the health, safety, and well-being of the animals. We also recognize the dedication and commitment of the Chimp Haven staff. OLAW concurs that the incident warranted reporting. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

**Brent C. Morse -S** Digitally signed by Brent C. Morse -S  
Date: 2021.03.25 15:34:08 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact  
Dr. Robert M. Gibbens, USDA, APHIS, AC



March 16, 2021

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982  
Phone: 301-594-2061  
FAX: 301-402-2803  
E-mail: [olawdco@mail.nih.gov](mailto:olawdco@mail.nih.gov)

RE: Reporting of Adverse Event at Chimp Haven, Assurance A4518-01

Dear Dr.'s Morse, Brown and Wolff,

Chimp Haven (and much of the south) experienced an extreme winter weather event on 2.15.21 and in the following days. Temperatures reached record lows of below 20 F, along with ice and heavy snowfall for our area. Chimp Haven has a robust emergency action plan (and standard operating procedures) that went into effect on 2.11.21 prior to the storm's arrival. In anticipation of the storm and unsafe roadways and freezing temperatures, we solicited an overnight crew with representation from every animal care department, husbandry, veterinary, behavior, and maintenance that was deployed on 2.14.21 to maintain basic husbandry and medical needs including use of cannon heaters to maintain indoor temperatures for the chimpanzees. We also instituted a daily Animal Care ZOOM call to discuss day to day operations and future plans. We utilized staff members with 4-wheel drive capabilities to provide transportation to/from facilities to provide relief support and supplies during this time. Our produce supplier was able to provide produce delivery as expected without impact to our feeding or enrichment programs. We are also fortunate to have maintained power supply throughout the duration of the adverse weather; however generators are available on site as needed.

All chimpanzee groups that could be safely locked in (no evidence of extreme aggression) were as of 2.15.21. On 2.20.21, all groups, except those in the multi-acre forested habitats were allowed outside access, as temps were in the mid-40s by noon. Water moats bordering the forested habitats were still frozen. The chimpanzees were locked back inside overnight, since temperatures were freezing or below after dark. On 2.21.21, some of the habitats were released, but moats in some areas were still a concern. Everyone was allowed inside/outside access at all times on 2.22.21.

We did experience the loss of our main water supply on 2.16.21 at approximately 7pm. Staff provided the chimpanzees with hand watering by utilizing water from our onsite wells. The chimpanzees were provided with ½ liter every 3-4 hours. This also allowed staff to complete general cleaning of the chimpanzee's indoor bedrooms and removal of soiled bedding. In addition, a 3,000 gallon water truck was secured and arrived on site on 2.23.21. Water was restored on 2.23.21 at 5pm and all chimpanzee indoor areas were cleaned and thoroughly sanitized on 2.24.21.

Please be advised that we did experience an adverse event, a chimpanzee death, which occurred on 2.15.21 between 11am to 12pm on Chimp Haven's property during this unprecedented weather. A 40 year old male chimpanzee was found down and unresponsive outdoors and determined to be deceased. He had been bright, alert and responsive as reported by an animal care staff member an hour prior to his death. This chimpanzee

had a mild cardiac abnormality and a necropsy was performed on the same date. Our Attending Veterinarian, Dr. Raven Jackson Jewett, suspected the cause of death was sudden cardiac arrest which was confirmed by the pathology report. However, we are reporting due to the presence of the extreme temperatures at the time of death. Dr. Jackson Jewett also spoke with Dr. Tomlinson, Veterinary Medical Officer at USDA-APHIS-AC regarding this death.

In addition to the cardiac event outlined above, we also want to report multiple digital amputation of a 38 year old female chimpanzee as a result of avascular necrosis/frostbite post the winter storm. We will continue to monitor the chimpanzees for adverse clinical signs associated with the extreme cold, ice and snow. As of 2.19.21, the temperatures were again above freezing. We are evaluating our emergency action plan based on what we have learned from this event and will be updating our written standard operating procedures as needed.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Rana Smith  
President and CEO, Institutional Official  
[rsmith@chimphaven.org](mailto:rsmith@chimphaven.org)

CC: Chimp Haven SCCC/IACUC, AAALAC [accredit@aaalac.org](mailto:accredit@aaalac.org)

13600 Chimpanzee Place Keithville, LA, 71047

318.925.9575

[chimphaven.org](http://chimphaven.org)



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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:10 AM  
**To:** Rana Smith  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Chimp Haven Report of an Adverse Event

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

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**From:** Rana Smith <rsmith@chimphaven.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) accredit@aaalac.org  
**Subject:** Chimp Haven Report of an Adverse Event

Good afternoon,

As a follow-up to the phone call placed to your office on 2/17/21 by Attending Veterinarian Dr. Raven Jackson-Jewett, I am submitting the attached written report summarizing an adverse event that occurred at Chimp Haven last month.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Kind regards,

Rana Smith



**RANA SMITH** | President and Chief Executive Officer  
CHIMP HAVEN  
13600 Chimpanzee Place  
Keithville, LA 71047  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Mobile: (b) (6)  
[chimphaven.org](http://chimphaven.org)



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## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: J Tubbs

Date: 02-17-2021

Time: 2:32PM

Name of Person reporting: Jewitt Raven

Telephone #:

Fax #:

Email: rjackson@chimplhaven.org

Name of Institution: chimp haven

Assurance number: A4518-01

Did incident involve PHS funded activity?

Funding component: unknown currently

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

On Monday, during winter storm, temp less than 20F, got notice of a chimp down outdoors. He expired by the time vet arrived and necropsy was performed. Hx of mild cardiac abnormality

Species involved: chimpanzee

Personnel involved:

Dates and times: Monday Feb 15th

- Animal deaths: Y

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

60-90d

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # \_\_\_\_\_