



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) 480-3387

September 15, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3272-01 (OLAW Case 2M)

Dr. Denis Wirtz
Vice Provost for Research
Johns Hopkins University
3400 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Dear Dr. Wirtz,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 13, 2021 letter reporting an adverse event involving a nonhuman primate at Johns Hopkins University, following up on an initial telephone report on June 18, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a juvenile rhesus monkey became entangled in a door cable and died. The cables were in the process of being replaced and there was slack in the mechanism.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining staff on securing the door cables, which now includes a lock and key system and better visualization. No further adverse incidents have subsequently occurred. Ongoing staff training sessions have been in place that include proper handling of the cable mechanisms.

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

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC contact
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC



September 13, 2021

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910

RE: Summary of findings related File#A3272-2M

Dear Dr. Wolff:

Please accept this letter as a summary of our findings related to the unexpected death of a monkey at our breeding facility on June 16th, 2021 (file#A3272-2M). In accordance with federal guidelines, a prompt report of this incident was made on June 18, 2021 by Dr. Brendan Canning, Chair of the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC).

A cable mechanism controlling the doors between outdoor enclosures at our breeding facility has been in use for decades without incident. During a recent inspection, however, it was surmised that if used improperly, slack in the cable might pose a potential risk. Physical replacement of the cables and equipment has been ongoing and continues currently. While the equipment replacement project was underway, staff were trained to secure the doors in a manner that would prevent any slack developing in the cables. Unfortunately, a juvenile rhesus macaque became entangled in one of the cables that had not been properly secured and was found dead. Necropsy reports indicated that the death appears to have resulted from this entanglement. Staff underwent additional training on methods of securing the cables on the doors immediately following this incident. The additional training included implementation of a lock-and-key system for securing the cables, including a more obvious visual cue for staff to indicate where to attach those cables that have not yet been replaced. Since the incident and after the additional training was provided, there have been no further incidents relating to the cables or doors. This is in keeping with several decades of no similar incidents related to the cables, and longstanding training sessions for care staff that includes proper handling of the cable mechanism.

As mentioned during the prompt report, this matter was reported to USDA inspectors, who had coincidentally arrived for a routine audit the day after the incident. This matter was also reviewed by our ACUC during their June meeting and again during their August meeting after additional information was obtained. A quorum of committee members voted unanimously that this incident was not reflective of any programmatic issues but was instead an unexpected death attributable to a staff member's failure to follow operational procedures.

Neither the animal nor the housing at the breeding facility were at the time of the incident associated with any PHS funding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Denis Wirtz, PhD
Vice Provost for Research and Institutional Official

Office of the Provost

265 Garland Hall 3400 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21218 410-516-8070 <http://web.jhu.edu/administration/provost>

Obtained by Rise for Animals.
Uploaded to Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO) on 07/11/2022

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Brendan Canning
Subject: RE: Final reports for File#A3272-2M and File#A3272-2N

Thank you for these reports, Dr. Canning. I will send responses soon. For future reference, please send all final noncompliance reports to olawdco@od.nih.gov. This allows continuance of work if I am unavailable.
Axel Wolff

From: Brendan Canning <bjc@jhmi.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>; Denis Wirtz <wirtz@ihp.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Final reports for File#A3272-2M and File#A3272-2N

Dear Dr. Wolff,

Attached please find the final reports from Johns Hopkins University in the form of letters from Dr. Denis Wirtz, Vice Provost for Research, addressing the incidents identified in your office in File#A3272-2M and File#A3272-2N.

Let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Regards,

Brendan J. Canning, Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine
Chair, Johns Hopkins University Animal Care and Use Committee
Johns Hopkins Asthma and Allergy Center
5501 Hopkins Bayview Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
Phone: (b) (6)
e-mail: bjc@jhmi.edu



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 6/18/21

Time: 2:00

Name of Person reporting: Brendan Canning

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Johns Hopkins U

Assurance number: A3272

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? No

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened?

Monkey strangled on door cable; too much slack

Species involved: Monkey, juvenile rhesus

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: 2

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

Train staff to prevent slack in cable
Replace cables. Reported to USDA

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

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Case #