



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 2N]

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 a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Johns Hopkins University, following up on an initial telephone report on August 3, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that several rhesus monkeys escaped their cage after it had been inadvertently left unlocked. The animals entered the hallway and one juvenile went into a drain, as the cover was off for cleaning.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of returning the monkeys to their primary enclosure. The drainage system was dug up and the dead body of the juvenile was recovered. To prevent a recurrence, a second grate was added to the drain to prevent an animal from entering it even with the cover off. The caretaker responsible was disciplined, given a work suspension, and assigned to a work area with direct supervision.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of the 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,

(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 to File#A3272-2N

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 July 30th, 2021 (file#A3272-2N). In accordance with federal guidelines, a prompt report of this incident was made on August 3rd, 2021 by Dr. Brendan Canning, Chair of the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC).

A cage was inadvertently left unlocked at the facility while one of the staff was in the process of cleaning it, and several rhesus macaques were able to get out of their primary enclosure and move into the secondary containment of the interior hallway of a building on the property. The protective drain covers in the hallway had been removed by the staff member for cleaning before he noticed the animals were out of their primary enclosure. He quickly returned the group to their primary enclosure, except for a juvenile monkey, who fled down an uncovered drain (~6 inches in diameter). After many hours of rescue attempts, including digging up both ends of the sewer main, the juvenile monkey was unfortunately found dead.

Corrective actions included installation of a second grate over the drain that would prevent an animal from falling down into the sewer whether or not drain covers had been removed. As the staff member involved in this incident was also involved with the incident in June (file#A3272-2M), disciplinary actions for the staff member were also implemented, including a work suspension and reassignment to a work area better suited to more direct supervision.

This matter was reviewed by our ACUC during their August meeting. 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

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@jhu.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: 8/3/21

Time: 1:45

Name of Person reporting: Dr. Canning

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Johns Hopkins U

Assurance number: A3272

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? _____

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

On JHU farm a cage was left unlocked, monkeys
 got out + entered hallway. All monkeys put back until
 no problem but 1 juvenile crawled into open floor drain.
 Species involved: Monkey
 Personnel involved: caretaker
 Dates and times:
 Animal deaths: 1
 Dig up drainage pipe + monkey
 found dead.

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

Discipline caretaker, put in drain grates

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____