



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 10, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3464-01 [OLAW Case 11K]

Mr. Joe Giffels  
Associate Vice Provost  
University of Washington  
Research Administration and Integrity  
4000 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Box 351202  
Seattle, WA 98195-6355

Dear Mr. Giffels,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 27, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals within the animal care and use program at the University of Washington. Your letter supplemented the information contained in an initial telephone report to this office on July 13, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that 4 recently weaned mice were found dead in their cage with no food in the hopper or gel present on the cage floor. There were very few fecal pellets on the cage floor and a necropsy revealed no food in the stomach. The lab members had not handled the cage since weaning 6 days earlier and the cage had not been changed. The mice involved in this incident were supported by PHS funding.

Corrective and preventive measures included retraining of the responsible animal technician to detect problems such as low food, water, and other concerns. In the future, all lab members will provide written confirmation via email to the lab member who oversees husbandry that cages of mice have been weaned and food, water, and gel have been placed in the cage as required. In addition, the lab will have a meeting of all mouse users to review protocols for weaning and other husbandry procedures and to emphasize the importance of providing continuous access to food and water for the animals. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee reviewed the incident at a convened meeting and was satisfied with the actions taken.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Washington which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Robyn M. Engel

-S

Digitally signed by Robyn M.  
Engel -S  
Date: 2021.09.10 08:12:01  
-04'00'

Robyn M. Engel, DVM  
Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact

27 August, 2021

Dr. Brent Morse [olawdco@od.nih.gov](mailto:olawdco@od.nih.gov)  
Office of Animal Welfare, NIH  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Re: D16-00292 (A3464-01), Mouse Mortality due to no Access to Food

Dear Dr. Morse:

This is a final report on an adverse event reported to OLAW by Dr. Stocking in a telephone call on 7/14/21. 6 days after weaning, a cage of 4 mice were found dead in their cage with no food in the hopper or gel present on the cage floor. There were very few fecal pellets on the cage floor and a necropsy performed revealed no food in the stomach. The lab members reported having not handled the cage since weaning and the cages had not been changed.

Corrective Actions: The Animal Technician in charge of that room underwent re-training in detection of problems such as low food, water, and other concerns. In the future, all lab members will email the senior lab member who oversees the lab's mouse husbandry to confirm that they have weaned a cage of mice and set food, water, and gel in the cage as required. This will serve to provide written confirmation that the weaning process has been completed correctly. In addition, the lab will have a meeting of all mouse users to review protocols for weaning and other aspects of mouse husbandry and to emphasize the importance of providing continuous access to food and water for its animals.

The IACUC reviewed the incident at its August meeting and found no further action necessary (considers the case closed.) The animals in question were supported by PHS funds and the PI will be informing the Grants Management Officer.

If you have questions regarding this situation or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Joe Giffels  
Institutional Official  
Senior Associate Vice Provost for Research Administration and Integrity

Cc:

(b) (6)

Kim Stocking  
[accredit@aaalac.org](mailto:accredit@aaalac.org)

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2021 7:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Final report of 2 non-compliant events

Thank you for these reports. We will send responses soon.

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

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 27, 2021 4:19 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Kim Stocking <kstock@uw.edu>; Joe Giffels <jgiffels@uw.edu>; accredit@aaalac.org  
**Subject:** Final report of 2 non-compliant events

Please see the attached final report of 2 noncompliant events at the University of Washington. Let me know if you have any questions.

(b) (6)





## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 7/13/2021

Time: 7:00 PM voicemail

Name of Person reporting: Kim Stocking, AV

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Univ. of Washington

Assurance number: A3464

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? ??

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened?

Researcher weaned four mice into cage. Did not supply enough feed. Caretaker didn't notice. Mice dead six days later.

Species involved: Mus musculus

Personnel involved: researcher, caretaker

Dates and times: ?

Animal deaths: Yes

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

Retrained caretaker and researcher.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

< 60 days

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Case #