



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 11L]

Mr. Joe Giffels
Associate Vice Provost
University of Washington
Research Administration and Integrity
4000 15th 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 adverse event at the University of Washington following up on an initial August 18, 2021 notification by telephone.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University of Washington Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that an adverse event occurred with respect to: conditions that jeopardized the well-being of animals resulting in death and harm to animals. The final report states a cage containing four female mice were weaned from an isolator to a Tecniplast cage in the gnotobiotic room. The following day, the cage was discovered to have 3 dead mice and one sick mouse. It was determined the air flow was compromised due to a faulty gasket on the rack, obstructing the air supply. It is also stated another cage in the same room housing male mice was discovered to be partially obstructed. However, some air flow was available through a small opening and those animals were stable and survived. Per the report, a mechanical issue was the root cause of these incidents.

In response to these findings, all Gnotobiotic Animal Core (GNAC) facility users received (via email) a detailed infographic explaining the rack malfunction and what it looks like. Users were encouraged to carefully check the air input and output ports before placing cages back onto the racks. If a malfunction was identified, users are instructed to contact GNAC personnel to have the finding assessed. The IACUC reviewed the matter and determined no further action was necessary.

It is noted the animals and principal investigator (PI) are supported by PHS funding and the PI will be contacting the Grants Management Officer. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Washington has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn
T. Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by
Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S
Date: 2021.09.10
07:16:18 -04'00'

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



27 August, 2021

Dr. Brent Morse 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 Mechanical Issue with Cage Rack

Dear Dr. Morse:

This is a final report on an adverse event reported to OLAW by Dr. Stocking in a telephone call on 8/18/21.

A cage of four 5-week-old female mice were weaned from an isolator to a Techniplast cage in the gnotobiotic room. No experimental manipulation was performed. The next day, the cage was found to have three dead and one sick mouse that were euthanized. Upon examination of the cage, air flow was significantly or entirely compromised due to a faulty gasket on the rack, and it was obstructed from air supply. Another cage in that room with the male siblings was also found to be partially obstructed, but some airflow was available through a small opening. Those mice were stable and survived. Personnel adjusted the port and reengaged the cage back on the rack, fixing the problem immediately. Thus, a mechanical issue was the underlying cause of this adverse event.

Corrective Actions: An email was sent to all Gnotobiotic Animal Core (GNAC) facility users with a detailed infographic explaining the rack malfunction and what it looks like. The users are urged to carefully check the air input and output ports before placing cages back onto the racks, ensuring the malfunction is not present. If a malfunction is found, users will contact GNAC personnel to have it assessed.

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

G80 Gerberding Hall Box 351202 Seattle, Washington 98195-10202
206.616.0804

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

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: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Date: 8/18/2021

Time:

Name of Person reporting: Kim Stocking, AV

Telephone #: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: U. of Washington

Assurance number: A3464

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? ?

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened? Four 5-week-old ♀ mice weaned into sealed, Techniplast cage. Three found dead next day. Faulty seal.

Species involved: mouse

Personnel involved: None

Dates and times: ?

Animal deaths: Yes

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

Email sent to warn users.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____