



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR U.S. 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

June 25, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3180-01 (OLAW Case 6D)

Dr. Robert Nobles
Vice President for Research Administration
Emory University
1599 Clifton Road NE – 1599-001-1BE
Atlanta, GA 30322

Dear Dr. Nobles,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 15, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Emory University following up on an initial May 26, 2021 notification by telephone.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Emory University Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: three cages of hamsters found without food in an ABSL3 suite. The final report states the cages were discovered lacking food on April 27, 2021 and euthanasia was elected due to weight loss of the animals. In response, the corrective actions to prevent recurrence of this incident include the following:

- Animal care staff/supervisors have been coached/reminded to be vigilant in making sure all cages have food when housing animals and in daily checks.
- Lab staff has been coached/reminded that food and water need to be observed when performing daily checks. If food and water is difficult to observe due to the animal being in an environmental chamber, the chamber should be opened and small flashlights, provided by either the lab or animal care, can be used.
- Before animals are transferred to ABLS3 housing and lab staff takes over husbandry care, animal care staff should check the cages and top off food/water. Lab staff should double check before moving animal into ABLS3. For this step to occur effectively, lab staff should communicate and arrange transfer date/time with animal care staff.

It is noted that this research is funded by PHS funds. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the Emory University 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: 2021.06.25 15:05:22
+04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact
Robert M. Gibbens, DVM, Director, Animal Welfare Operations



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

June 15, 2021

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM
Veterinary Medical Officer
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Re: Emory University, Animal Welfare Assurance #A3180-01

Dear Dr. Tubbs,

The Emory University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), through the Institutional Official, is reporting the results of an event as required by section IV, F, 3a of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy). A preliminary report was provided via phone call to your office on 5-26-21. This is the final report regarding animal welfare. The associated NIH-funded grant is NIH HHSN272201400004C.

Situation and Assessment

On April 27th, 2021, it was discovered that 3 cages of hamsters were left without food in an ABL3 suite. Due to animals' weight loss, euthanasia was elected.

The corrective actions to prevent recurrences are detailed as follows:

- Animal care staff/supervisors have been coached/reminded to be vigilant in making sure all cages have food when housing animals and in daily checks.
- Lab staff has been coached/reminded that food and water need to be observed when performing daily checks. If food and water is difficult to observe due to the animal being in an environmental chamber, the chamber should be opened and small flashlights, provided by either the lab or animal care, can be used.
- Before animals are transferred to ABL3 housing and lab staff takes over husbandry care, animal care staff should check the cages and top off food/water. Lab staff should double check before moving animal into ABL3. For this step to occur effectively, lab staff should communicate and arrange transfer date/time with animal care staff.

The IACUC believes its investigation of this incident was thorough and the corrective actions appropriate to prevent a similar occurrence. If you have questions regarding this incident, please contact me or Dr. David Martin, Director, IACUC Office.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

Robert Nobles, DrPH, MPH, CIP
Vice President for Research Administration
Emory University
1599 Clifton Road NE

Atlanta, GA 30322

Office: (b) (6)

Email: Robert.e.nobles@emory.edu



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: J Tubbs

Date: 05-26/2021

Time: 1:54pm

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email: (b) (6)

Name of Institution: Emory University

Assurance number: A3180-01

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Y

Funding component: unknown currently

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

Hamsters came in on 04-20-21, were moved to ABSL-3 on 04-23-21 by the lab and then under lab care. Lab performed daily checks, however when animals were removed for approved procedures, it was determined, significant weight loss had occurred, requiring euthanasia of animals.

Species involved: Hamsters

Personnel involved:

Dates and times: 04-27-2021

Animal deaths: 0

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

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____