



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

March 14, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3187-01 [OLAW Case 9R]

Dr. Bill Yates  
Acting Vice Chancellor for Research Protections  
University of Pittsburgh  
3500 Fifth Avenue, (b) (4) Hieber Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Dr. Yates,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 4, 2022 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Pittsburgh. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that one improperly euthanized rat was found alive in the carcass cooler in the animal facility. The rat was humanely sacrificed following its discovery. The origins of the rat could not be determined.

Preventive actions included a notice being sent to all users of the facility describing the event, and the importance of verifying euthanasia as complete by using a secondary method as described in the approved IACUC protocol.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. OLAW concurs that the incident warranted reporting. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

**Brent C. Morse -S**

Digitally signed by Brent C.  
Morse -S  
Date: 2022.03.15 07:46:57 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact



University of  
Pittsburgh

Office of  
Research Protections

A3187 - 9R

*Bill J. Yates, PhD  
Vice Chancellor for Research Protections  
Professor of Otolaryngology & Neuroscience &  
Clinical and Translational Science*

Suite 401, Hieber Building  
3500 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
Phone: 412-647-9614  
Fax: 412-648-4010  
Email: vcorp@pitt.edu

March 4, 2022

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse:

As the Institutional Official responsible for the University of Pittsburgh's Animal Care and Use Program (Assurance number D16-00118), I am writing to advise your office of a reportable incident<sup>1</sup>.

One improperly euthanized rat was found alive in the carcass cooler in the animal facility. The rat was humanely sacrificed following its discovery. Because the origins of the rat could not be determined, a notice was sent to all users of the facility describing the event, and the importance of verifying euthanasia as complete by using a secondary method as described in the approved IACUC protocol.

Because the responsible PI could not be identified, the IACUC noted this as a programmatic issue and determined the actions taken to notify all users of the facility were sufficient.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Bill J. Yates, PhD

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<sup>1</sup> PHS Policy IV.C.1.g

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 7:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Reportable Event Notices

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

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

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 6, 2022 8:41 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reportable Event Notices

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Please review the attached correspondence forwarded on behalf of Bill J. Yates, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research Protections. Thank you.

(b) (6)

