



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

May 19, 2022

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

Dr. Bill Yates
Acting Vice Chancellor for Research Protections
University of Pittsburgh
3500 Fifth Avenue, 401 Hieber Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Dr. Yates,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 2, 2022 letter reporting two similar instances of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Pittsburgh. IT was not stated if the associated activities were PHS supported. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that:

For incident 1: On March 28th, 2022, one box containing one mouse was discovered without food during daily rounds in the animal facility. The mouse was given wet food and supportive care but was found deceased the next morning. The animal facility technician performing daily checks missed this box for at least 48 hours.

For incident 2: On February 15, 2022, one box containing three deceased mice was discovered without access to water in the animal facility. The box was housed on an automatic water rack, but the wrong type of box was employed, preventing mice from obtaining water.

OLAW understands that the IACUC approved the corrective action plan submitted by the animal facility director for the incidents, which included the following items:

1. Animal facility technicians were reminded to ensure all cages have food, a lixit or bottle present, as part of the daily health check.
2. The specific flat grommet boxes not to be used on most automatic water racks have been marked to distinguish them from the normal boxes.

The IACUC levied the following sanction:

- Letters for these incidents were sent to the animal facility director regarding these events.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate these incidents and prevent recurrences, but OLAW also notes the similarities of these incidents to those reported by you in your March 4, 2022 letter. OLAW views instances of lack of basic living requirements such as food, water, and a proper cage environment with great concern. OLAW concurs that the incidents warranted reporting. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this office, at this time.

Page 2 – Dr. Yates
May 19, 2022
OLAW Case A3187-9W

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -

Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S

S

Date: 2022.05.19 15:15:14 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact

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: 412-383-0131
Fax: 412-648-4010
Email: vcorp@pitt.edu

May 2, 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 two similar reportable incidents¹.

Incident 1: On March 28th, 2022, one box containing one mouse was discovered without food during daily rounds in the animal facility. The mouse was given wet food and supportive care, but was found deceased the next morning. The animal facility technician performing daily checks missed this box for at least 48 hours.

Incident 2: On February 15, 2022, one box containing three deceased mice was discovered without access to water in the animal facility. The box was housed on an automatic water rack, but the wrong type of box was employed, preventing mice from obtaining water.

The IACUC approved the corrective action plan submitted by the animal facility director for the incidents, which included the following items:

1. Animal facility technicians were reminded to ensure all cages have food, a lixit or bottle present, as part of the daily health check.
2. The specific flat grommet boxes not to be used on most automatic water racks have been marked to distinguish them from the normal boxes.

The IACUC levied the following sanction:

- Letters for these incidents were sent to the animal facility director regarding these events.

¹ PHS Policy IV.C.1.d

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
May 2, 2022
Page 2

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

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Bill J. Yates, PhD

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, May 6, 2022 7:47 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Reportable Event Notice

Thank you for these reports, (b) (6) We will send responses soon.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 1:38 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reportable Event Notice

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

(b) (6)



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.