



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 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 31, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3079-01 [OLAW Case 4G]

Dr. Dawn A. Bonnell
Vice Provost for Research
University of Pennsylvania
1 College Hall, (b) (4)
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6303

Dear Dr. Bonnell,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 4, 2022 letter reporting an adverse event within the animal care and use program at the University of Pennsylvania (Case 121421). According to the information provided, OLAW understands that during an oral gavage procedure with a gerbil, the tip of the flexible catheter was bitten off and swallowed. The veterinary staff examined and x-rayed the animal, and the tip could not be found. The veterinarians, knowing it was near the study endpoint, felt was acceptable for the animal to continue on the study and the veterinary staff would closely monitor the animal. Within two days, the food consumption decreased, and the animal started losing weight, so it was humanely euthanized. The veterinary staff reviewed the incident with PI and discussed using a metal gavage needle. The study ended but using a different gavage tube will be considered if they have a similar type of study. Additionally, the PI was able to decrease the frequency of oral administration. The associated activity was funded by the PHS.

The prompt consideration of this matter by the University of Pennsylvania was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the actions taken to prevent recurrence were appropriate. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office at this time.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S
Date: 2022.05.31 08:21:12 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC contact
Dr. Robert M. Gibbens, USDA, APHIS, AC

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

A3079-4G

From: [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: UPenn Reporting Adverse Event.

Hi Brent

The grant was PHS funded and it was NIAID 1R21 AI149037-01. (Sorry in the letter I used an internal code number.)

The oral gavage was being performed by a very capable PI. However, the issue occur when the tip of the flexible catheter was bitten off and swallowed. The veterinary staff examined and x-rayed the animal and the tip could not found. The veterinarians, knowing it was near the study endpoint, felt was acceptable for animal to continue on the study and the veterinary staff would closely monitor the animal. Withing two days, the food consumption decreased and the animal starting losing weight so it was humanely euthanized. The veterinary staff reviewed the incident with PI and discussed using a metal gavage needle. The study ended but the using a different gavage tube will be considered if they have similar type of study.

I hope this addresses your questions and I will be happy to assist you if any further questions arise.

Regards

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

From: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:16 PM
To: [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: UPenn Reporting Adverse Event.

Hello [REDACTED] (b) (6)

For completeness of the record, was the activity involving this incident PHS-funded? Also, so we can understand the corrective measures, would you please state what clinically happened to the gerbil and what corrective, preventive measures were implemented? Thank you.

Best regards, Brent

Thank you for this report, [REDACTED] (b) (6) We will send a response soon.

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

From: [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 5:03 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] UPenn Reporting Adverse Event.

Attached please find Penn's report on an Adverse Event incident.

Regards,

(b) (6)



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**Office of the Vice Provost for Research**

Brent Morse DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

University of Pennsylvania
A3079-01
Case 121421

May 4, 2022

Dr. Morse,

The University of Pennsylvania would like to report an adverse incident associated with an oral gavage procedure with a gerbil. Post procedure, the gerbil developed medical complications and it was immediately brought to attention of the veterinary staff. While under medical supervision, the animal's health declined, and it was humanely euthanized. The veterinary staff reviewed the procedure with the technician and recommend some minor improvements. Additionally, the PI was able to decrease the frequency of oral administration. The IACUC compliance committee reviewed the incident and will report it the IACUC. The study was funded by OSP 30517-01.

Sincerely yours,

(b) (6)

Dawn Bonnell, PhD
Senior Vice Provost for Research
Trustee Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Institutional Official

CC: IACUC Chair, University of Pennsylvania
Attending Veterinarian and ULAR Director, University of Pennsylvania
Director of Animal Welfare, University of Pennsylvania

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 7:29 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: UPenn Reporting Adverse Event.

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response soon.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 5:03 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
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Regards,

(b) (6)

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