



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

June 22, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A4107-01 (OLAW Case 21)

Dr. Daniel T. Jaffe
Vice President for Research
University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box 7996
Austin, TX 78713

Dear Dr. Jaffe,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 6, 2022 letter reporting an adverse event at the University of Texas at Austin (UT). This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the UT Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that an adverse event occurred with respect to: conditions that jeopardized the health/well-being of animals, resulting in harm and death to animals. The final report states on April 14, 2022, a laboratory was notified by the ARC veterinary staff that 4 frogs were found dead from possible Gas Bubble Disease (GBD). It was suspected that a recently replaced air pump was the cause for the incident. Per the report, an additional frog exhibiting GBD symptoms was humanely euthanized, while several other frogs exhibiting less severe symptoms of GBD recovered. In response to the incident, the following corrective actions were implemented:

- A Total Gas Pressure/Dissolved Oxygen/Temperature Meter from Pentair Aquatic Ecosystems was purchased to monitor oxygen levels. Monitoring will occur for two weeks following the event, then once daily indefinitely.
- The water quality procedure will be added to the Standard Operating Procedure.
- The lab is in consultation with the supplier of the frog system regarding the air pump attached to the affected system.
- Lab members have now been familiarized with the symptoms of GBD in both minor and severe cases.

It is understood that oxygen levels have returned to acceptable range in the system and there have been no further deaths in the colony and the remaining frogs appear to be healthy. It is noted that the final report did not include the funding source involving the incident. In the future, please include the source of funding and provide grant numbers for all PHS, NSF, or NASA supported work. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Texas at Austin has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of this type of event.

We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Page 2-- Dr. Jaffe
June 22, 2022
OLAW Case A4107-2I

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by
Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S
Date: 2022.06.22
07:15:13 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact


THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Office of the Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors

P.O. Box 7996 • FAC 426, G1400 • Austin, Texas 78713-7996 • 512-471-2877 • FAX 512-471-2827

May 06, 2022

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

Subject: Report of Adverse event with PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Texas at Austin (UT), Animal Welfare Assurance #A4107-01, submits this report in compliance with section IV.F.3 of the [PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) and with the published guidance document [NOT-OD-05-034](#) "Guidance on Prompt Reporting to OLAW under the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals." This letter is to report an adverse event in which "conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals, including natural disasters, accidents, and mechanical failures, resulting in actual harm or death to animals" per NOT-OD-05-034.

On April 14, the lab was alerted by the ARC veterinary staff that 4 frogs were found dead from what appeared to be a case of Gas-Bubble disease (GBD) that was suspected to be caused by an issue with a recently replaced air pump. After consultation with ARC veterinary staff, another male frog with persisting GBD symptoms was humanely euthanized. Additional frogs were also noticed to be displaying less severe symptoms of GBD and recovered. Frogs in the same location but in a separate stand-alone system appeared to be unaffected.

The following corrective actions have been taken to prevent recurrence of this issue:

1. A Total Gas Pressure/Dissolved Oxygen/Temperature Meter from Pentair Aquatic Ecosystems was purchased so that water quality may be tested to monitor oxygen levels. Monitoring will occur twice daily for two weeks following the event, then once daily indefinitely.
2. This water quality monitoring procedure will be added to the SOP.
3. The lab is in consultation with the Iwaki, the supplier of this frog system, to determine if the air pump attached to the affected system is a requirement for the system or if it can be reduced/removed. The pump is being used intermittently and water quality is monitored as described above.
4. Lab members have now been familiarized with the symptoms of GBD in both minor and severe cases. Increased cognizance will be advantageous in recognizing these symptoms early for quick intervention.
5. Since the incident was reported the oxygen levels in the system have returned to an acceptable range. There have been no further deaths in the colony and the remaining frogs appear to be healthy.

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
May 06, 2022
Re: PHS Assurance Number A4107-01
Page 2

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Daniel T. Jaffe, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
University of Texas at Austin

DTJ:DS

cc: S. John Mihic, Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Glen Otto, Attending Veterinarian, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 8:03 AM
To: IACUC
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: UT Austin Report of Adverse Event

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.

Deputy Director, OLAW

From: IACUC <IACUC@austin.utexas.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 3:36 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Jaffe, Dan <dtj@austin.utexas.edu>; (b) (6) Mihic, S J
<mihic@austin.utexas.edu>; Otto, Glen <gotto@austin.utexas.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] UT Austin Report of Adverse Event

Dear OLAW,

On behalf of Dr. Dan Jaffe, Vice President for Research at the University of Texas at Austin (Assurance #A4107-01), please find attached the Report of Adverse event with PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

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