



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

December 22, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3316-01 [OLAW Case 2V]

Ms. Kate Mellouk
Associate Vice President for Research Compliance
Boston University
85 East Newton St.
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Ms. Mellouk,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 21, 2021 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Boston University, following up on an initial telephone report on December 13, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that sixteen naked mole rats died due to a temperature spike caused by a malfunction of the heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) system.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of providing supportive care to the remaining 68 mole rats, which all survived. The maintenance staff was notified and restored temperature/humidity, a data logger was placed into the room, hourly room checks are being performed by facilities staff, and additional plans are being developed. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee required an updated telephone tree for emergency contact of animal care and research staff. Facilities maintenance staff will provide a plan for maintaining and monitoring the room.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the action taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Note that it is highly recommended that room alarms are present in animal rooms with remote staff notification capability. Inexpensive units are available commercially, including in local hardware stores, as an interim application. Thank you for keeping OLAW apprised on this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

Boston University Office of Research Compliance
85 East Newton Street, Suite 810
Boston, Massachusetts 02218
T 617-358-7883 F 617-358-7888
www.bu.edu/researchsupport/compliance/



December 21, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Morse:

Boston University, in accordance with Assurance D16-00204 (A3316-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this final report of serious deviation from the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th edition. A preliminary report of this incident was provided to OLAW via voicemail on 12/13/21.

On 12/8/21, the temperature and humidity control in the naked mole rat room malfunctioned resulting in a temperature spike. Sixteen naked mole rats died; all others were treated, provided supportive care, and monitored. One animal was later euthanized by the investigator. A total of 68 animals survived.

The IACUC discussed the incident at its December 14, 2021 meeting. The Committee accepted the following corrective and preventive actions:

- Facilities was notified; temperature and humidity recovered
- Veterinarians, vet techs, and others provided animals with supportive care
- A data logger was placed in the room
- Hourly checks by Facilities of temperature and humidity were put in place with notification to Animal Science Center (ASC) Operations Manager and backup in case of disturbance
- Additional contingency plans are being developed

The IACUC further required:

- Immediate emergency phone tree including ASC, PI, and research personnel to be put in place with existing monitoring system if room deviates from temperature range
- Plan from Facilities for maintaining and monitoring this room
- Follow up report at next IACUC meeting

The animals were supported by: NIH R61 AR078093

Boston University is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Kathryn Mellouk, MPA
Associate Vice President for Research Compliance
Institutional Official
Boston University

CC: Animal Welfare Program
Sponsored Programs
AAALAC International

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 8:06 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Final Report - Boston University

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response soon. Also to let you know, your voicemail reports are very accurate and complete and easy for us to process.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:11 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: AAALAC International <accredit@AAALAC.org>; Mellouk, Kathryn M. <kateski@bu.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6) IACUC <IACUC@bu.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final Report - Boston University

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.

OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight:

Please see attached final report regarding an incident on 12/8/21.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 12/13/21

Time: 3:30

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Boston U

Assurance number: A3316

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

HVAC heat spike, several died + others treated

Species involved: Naked male rat

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

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

Data logger placed in room + hourly checks done.
HVAC problem fixed.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____