



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 9, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3347-01 [OLAW Case 3G]

Dr. Emmanuel Giannelis,
Vice Provost for Life Sciences
Cornell University
(b) (4) Day Hall
Ithaca, NY 14850

Dear Dr. Giannelis,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 14, 2022 letter reporting an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals within the animal care and use program at Cornell University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that seven mice pending euthanasia were found in a procedure room that was not an approved housing location. The mice did not have a water source and were hunched, dehydrated, and some were ataxic. The mice were provided with wet food and water, and the principal investigator (PI) was alerted to attend to the animals. The following day the same cages of mice were found in the same location. The veterinarian alerted the PI a second time and ensured that the mice were euthanized. The mice involved in this incident were supported by NIH funding.

Corrective and preventive measures included counseling of the PI and responsible laboratory member regarding standards of daily animal care and the distinction between housing and procedure spaces. The importance of providing access to water was emphasized. The PI assured that mice will always be provided with water moving forward, that all laboratory members understand the issues related to this incident, and that they will exercise increased diligence with their mice.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by Cornell University which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. It is concerning that the PI required two notifications regarding the situation, and still did not attend to her mice. However, based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Robyn M. Engel -S

Digitally signed by Robyn M.
Engel -S
Date: 2022.03.10 08:16:34 -05'00'

Robyn M. Engel, DVM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact



Cornell University
Office of
Research Integrity and Assurance

395 Pine Tree Road, (b) (4)
Ithaca, NY 14850

(b) (6)

Email: iacuc@cornell.edu
www.oria.cornell.edu

February 14, 2022

Axel Wolff, MS, DVM, DACLAM
Deputy Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

Animal Welfare Assurance Number: D16-00225 (A3347-01) Cornell University – Ithaca
PHS Grant or Contract Number: NIH 2R01NS088448-06A1

Dear Dr. Wolff:

As Institutional Official for Cornell University's animal care and use program, I am reporting an issue of noncompliance involving mice that occurred under our General Assurance. This issue was reported to the IACUC at the December 16, 2021 meeting, and the IACUC agreed that the corrective actions taken were appropriate.

Explanation of the situation:

On 11/18/2021, seven mice pending euthanasia were found in a procedure location that is not an approved housing location. Additionally, the mice were left without a source of water. Mice were hunched, dehydrated, and a few were noted to display ataxic ambulation. Mice were provided with wet food, Nutri gel, and water. The CARE veterinarian contacted the Principal Investigator (PI) and asked the PI to ensure that the mice were attended to immediately.

On 11/19/2021, the same cages of mice were found in the same procedure location. The CARE veterinarian contacted the PI to inform her of the animals' current status, and to remind her of the important distinction between animal housing and procedure spaces. The CARE veterinarian confirmed that the mice were euthanized.

Action taken by the institution:

The PI was reminded to adhere to the provisions of her protocol, including standards of daily care (e.g., access to food and water), and that mice cannot be housed in a procedure location without IACUC approval. The PI was asked to remind her staff of the difference between housing and procedure spaces.

CARE veterinarians and the facility manager met with the PI and one of her lab members. They discussed details of the study and the importance of providing water to mice. CARE veterinarians were assured that mice will always be provided with water going forward, and that mice will never be housed in the procedure location. The CARE veterinarians were assured that the lab understands the issues related to this adverse event and their plans to exercise increased diligence with their mice.

If you have any questions concerning this adverse event that occurred under our General Assurance, please contact (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Emmanuel Giannelis
Vice President for Research and Innovation

cc:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

AAALAC International

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 7:41 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Cornell University Report of Noncompliance

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 4:37 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation <vp_research@cornell.edu>; gborkowski@aaalac.org; (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cornell University Report of Noncompliance

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.

Dear Dr. Wolff,

Please see the attached report from Cornell University's Vice President for Research and Innovation, Dr. Emmanuel Giannelis, describing an issue of noncompliance that occurred under our General Assurance. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)