



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

September 13, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3431-01 [OLAW Case 9K]

Dr. Lisa Muto
Executive Dean for Administration
Harvard Medical School
25 Shattuck Street, Gordon Hall – (b) (4)
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Dr. Muto,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 9, 2021 letter reporting an adverse event involving the animal care and use program at Harvard Medical School. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on July 1, 2021, a shipment of mice from the Harvard Medical School was received at another institution wherein 25 of the 133 mice shipped were dead on arrival. The mice were supposed to be on a night flight, but the airline changed the routing and put the mice on a flight that departed when it was 88°F outside. Based on necropsy and histopathology results, the suspected cause of death in these mice was heat stroke. It was stated that this animal activity was funded by the PHS.

Corrective and preventive actions included the courier instituting new guidelines for animal air travel. Animals will not be held at any airport when the temperature rises above 80°F. Animals will be collected by the courier if the temperature rises above this temperature during a connection and put on the next safe flight.

OLAW appreciates the actions taken by Harvard Medical School regarding this unfortunate matter. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate the incident and to prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S Digitally signed by Brent C. Morse -S
Date: 2021.09.13 16:36:13 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC contact



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

LISA M. MUTO, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATION
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
25 SHATTUCK STREET, SUITE 408
BOSTON, MA 02115

September 9, 2021

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

FINAL REPORT

RE: Non-Compliance Report: Assurance: **A3431-01**
Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals (HMA IACUC)
Species: Mouse **Grant:** R01MH119156, R01NS102228

Dear Dr. Morse,

This letter serves as a final report on an adverse event that has not been preliminarily reported to OLAW by the Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals (HMA IACUC).

On July 1, 2021, the University of California, San Francisco received an import of mice from the Harvard Medical School in which 25 animals of the 133 mice shipped were dead on arrival. The mice were supposed to be on a night flight, but the airline changed the routing and put the mice on a flight that departed when it was 88°F outside. Based on necropsy and histopathology results, the suspected cause of death in these mice was heat stroke.

To prevent this from occurring again, the courier has instituted new guidelines for animal air travel. Animals will not be held at any airport when the temperature rises above 80°F. Animals will be collected by the courier if the temperature rises above this temperature during a connection and put on the next safe flight.

The Committee is satisfied with the corrective actions mentioned above and considers this incident to be resolved. Please let us know if any additional information is required at this time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Lisa M. Muto, PhD
Executive Dean for Administration
HMA Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee: Institutional Official

CC: **Gerald B. Pier, PhD**
Chairman, Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals

(b) (6)



Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 7:14 AM
To: HMS-IACUC
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Final Report

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

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

From: HMS-IACUC <iacuc@hms.harvard.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:29 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Final Report