



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

April 28, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3377-01 [OLAW Case 8L]

Dr. David P. Norton
Vice President for Research
University of Florida
(b) (4) Grinter Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-5500

Dear Dr. Norton,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 13, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Florida. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University of Florida Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: failure to adhere to the IACUC-approved protocol and institutional policies/procedures. The final report states a principal investigator (PI) and study coordinator self-reported incidents that involved a study staff member.

The report states on January 20, 2021, the study staff member inflicted blunt force trauma on a veiled chameleon and failed to conduct immediate pithing to ensure proper euthanasia. The staff member was corrected immediately by fellow laboratory members. The second incident occurred on February 15, 2021 and the same study staff member kicked and prodded a Burmese python with a snake hook to obtain photographs. Photography is not approved on the protocol and laboratory members attempted to stop this behavior. The animal was euthanized via captive bolt and personnel did not conduct immediate pithing to ensure euthanasia. The final incident involving the same individual occurred on February 18, 2021 and involved unsuccessful blood collection from the neck of an American alligator. This method of blood collection is not approved on the protocol.

On April 6, 2021, the IACUC full committee determined the incidents were a noncompliance and implemented the following corrective actions:

- The individual was removed from all animal protocols and no longer works for the laboratory and has resigned from the University.
- The PI submitted a modification to add photography to all protocols.
- The PI will train and oversee all new personnel to ensure compliance within the laboratory.

It is noted these animals were not supported by PHS funds. Although this activity was not PHS funded, the application of the standards of the PHS Policy across the animal care and use program reduces any potential appearance of a double standard.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Florida has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by
Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S
Date: 2021.04.28
07:49:45 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact



Office of the Vice President for Research

223 Grinter Hall
PO Box 115500
Gainesville, FL 32611-5500
352-392-1582

April 13, 2021

Axel Wolff, DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The University of Florida, in accordance with Assurance D16-00244 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of a noncompliance regarding unapproved procedures performed in a veiled chameleon, Burmese python, and an American alligator. A preliminary report was not submitted for this noncompliance.

The following incidents were self-reported by the PI and study coordinator. All incidents involved the same study staff member who has resigned from the laboratory/University.

1. On January 20, 2021, the study staff member inflicted blunt force trauma on a veiled chameleon and then failed to conduct immediate pithing to ensure proper euthanasia. The individual was corrected on the spot by fellow laboratory members.
2. On February 15, 2021, the study staff member mishandled a Burmese python by kicking and prodding it with a snake hook to obtain photographs. Photography is not approved in the IACUC protocol. Fellow laboratory members attempted unsuccessfully to stop this behavior. This animal was then euthanized via captive bolt and personnel did not conduct immediate pithing to ensure euthanasia.
3. On February 18, 2021, the study staff member attempted unsuccessfully to collect blood from the neck of an American alligator, a collection method not approved in the IACUC protocol.

The IACUC full committee voted on April 6, 2021 that this incident was a noncompliance and the following corrective actions have been implemented.

1. The PI has removed the person involved in the incidents from all animal protocols. This individual no longer works for the laboratory and has resigned from the University.
2. The PI has submitted a modification to add photography to all protocols.
3. The PI will personally train and oversee all new personnel to ensure compliance within the laboratory.

The animals involved in this incident are not funded by the PHS.

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

An Equal Opportunity Institution

Report of a Noncompliance
April 13, 2021
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The University of Florida is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Daniel R. Brown, Ph.D., IACUC Chair.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

David Norton, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Institutional Official

(b) (6)

Walker, Keri (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 8:22 AM
To: Research - IACUC
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Reportable Noncompliance (2021Feb02) [ref:_00D412ElGo._5001K11iIL8:ref]

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

Keri

*Keri Walker
Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Dr., Suite 2500
Bethesda, MD 20892
301-435-2390
keri.walker@nih.gov*

From: Research - IACUC <iacuc-crm@research.ufl.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:55 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: drbrown@ufl.edu; (b) (6)
Subject: Reportable Noncompliance (2021Feb02) [ref:_00D412ElGo._5001K11iIL8:ref]

Good morning

Please see the attached report of a noncompliance from the University of Florida (D16-00244). A preliminary report was not sent for this incident.

The protocols involved in this noncompliance are not PHS funded.

Please acknowledge receipt and let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

(b) (6)

