



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

November 15, 2021

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

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 November 8, 2021 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Florida, following up on an initial report on October 15, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that an iguana on an approved protocol escaped its natural outdoor primary housing enclosure. Gaps in the primary and secondary enclosure fencing were discovered. Despite extensive search efforts, the animal could not be found.

The corrective actions consisted of stopping all work on this project, renovating the enclosures to secure them, updating the relevant standard operating procedure to include frequent inspections of the enclosures, and having the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) inspect the renovated enclosures prior to housing more animals.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. As you and the IACUC noted, this incident also needs to be reported to the USDA funding component and to the local Fish and Wildlife authorities responsible for non-native species control. 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 Chair



**Office of the Vice President for Research**

223 Grinter Hall  
PO Box 115500  
Gainesville, FL 32611-5500  
352-392-1582  
352-392-9605 Fax

November 8, 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 an adverse event regarding an iguana which escaped from its housing enclosure. This is a follow up to a preliminary report sent to OLAW on October 15, 2021 by IACUC Chair Dr. Daniel R. Brown.

On October 13, 2021 it was found that a large iguana was missing from its natural outdoor primary housing enclosure. A sub-surface gap was discovered underneath vegetation where the wall meets the floor mesh. A search of the secondary enclosure was conducted, a gap was found where the fence and the gate meet.

Despite extensive efforts by multiple searchers, the iguana was not located. Video surveillance cameras did not detect any unauthorized personnel passing through the gate during the relevant timeframe.

The IACUC full committee voted on November, 2021 that this incident was an adverse event and was reportable through the IO to regulatory agencies. The following corrective actions have been implemented:

1. All work on this project has stopped; no animals are currently in census.
2. To prevent another escape, facility personnel and the PI are renovating to ensure all primary and secondary enclosures are escape-proof.
3. Before housing any more animals, the SOP for housing at this facility must be revised to require frequent (at least quarterly) inspections and documentation of the structural integrity of the enclosures.
4. Before housing any more animals, the IACUC will re-inspect the renovated primary and secondary enclosures. The PI and lab staff must be present for the inspection.

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

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)

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 7:09 AM  
**To:** Research - IACUC  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Reportable Adverse Event 2021Oct02 [ ref:\_00D412ElGo.\_5001K14eO3l:ref ]

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response shortly.

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

**From:** Research - IACUC <iacuc-crm@research.ufl.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 4:55 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** drbrown@ufl.edu; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Reportable Adverse Event 2021Oct02 [ ref:\_00D412ElGo.\_5001K14eO3l:ref ]

To All Concerned,

I am sending the attached report of an adverse event from the University of Florida (D16-00244). A preliminary report was sent by the IACUC Chair Dr. Daniel R. Brown via email on October 15, 2021.

The protocol involved in this adverse event is not funded by PHS.

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

(b) (6)



**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 7:22 AM  
**To:** Brown, Daniel R  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Potential IACUC Non-Compliance

Thank you for this preliminary report, Dr. Brown. We will open a new case file.  
Axel Wolff

**From:** Brown, Daniel R <drbrown@ufl.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2021 4:58 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Potential IACUC Non-Compliance  
**Importance:** High

To All Concerned,

This is preliminary report of a situation involving housing and husbandry concerns on an IACUC-approved protocol at the University of Florida (Assurance #D16-00244). Briefly, it was found that an iguana was missing from its housing enclosure. The study involved (UF protocol #202111397) is funded by the USDA.

On 10/13/2021 I directed IACUC staff to initiate an investigation. A final report to our IACUC is expected within 30 days.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.



Daniel R. Brown, PhD  
Chairman, UF Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases & Immunology  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Florida  
Gainesville FL 32611-0880 USA

(b) (6)

[drbrown@ufl.edu](mailto:drbrown@ufl.edu)