



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 21, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3437-01 (OLAW Case 1L)

Dr. Karen Burg
Vice President for Research
University of Georgia
(b) (4) Paul D. Coverdell Center -
500 D.W. Brooks Drive
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dr. Burg,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 23, 2021 final letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Georgia. OLAW understands that on November 11, 2021, a researcher inadvertently placed a mouse cage into a rack backwards causing the lixit to activate continuously and flood the cage below. The mistake was quickly discovered because the watering system sent an automatic alarm that water was running continuously however 1 mouse died and 3 mice were originally treated by the veterinarian however the animals were subsequently euthanized. The studies were PHS funded.

As a corrective measure, a University Research Animal Resources Director veterinarian discussed the incident with the Principal Investigator (PI) and guided the PI to develop a plan to address the incident which included a review of the event with all staff members and verification of understanding that animal welfare is a priority including following facility standards, IACUC approved protocols and policies.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by the University of Georgia which is consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. OLAW assumes that in addition to the described corrective actions, retraining on proper cage placement on racks was provided individuals responsible for this task. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate steps have been taken to investigate this incident and to attempt to prevent recurrence.

We appreciate being informed of this matter and please contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nicole L. Lukovsky-
akhsanov -S

Digitally signed by Nicole L.
Lukovsky-akhsanov -S
Date: 2021.12.21 16:59:28 -05'00'

Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov, DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

CC: IACUC contact



**UNIVERSITY OF
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Office of Research
Animal Care and Use

November 23, 2021

Brent Morse, D.V.M.
Acting Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892-6910

RE: University of Georgia, PHS Assurance Number: D16-00276/A3437-01

Dear Dr Morse,

I am writing to provide a final report of a serious deviation from the PHS Policy that was identified on November 11, 2021. On November 11, a research inadvertently placed a mouse cage into a rack backwards, causing the litix to activate continuously and flood the cage below. In the flooded cage, 1 mouse died, and 3 mice were subsequently euthanized.

This work is covered by an IACUC approved protocol and funded by the NIH under grant numbers R01HL136707-01A1, R21AI147097-01A1, and R01AI146857-A01 (this grant is shared by another PI, who was not involved with the incident).

On the evening of November 11, a cage was inadvertently placed into the IVC rack slot backwards, flooding the cage below. The mistake was quickly discovered, because the watering system sent an automatic alarm that the water was running continuously. Before the problem could be corrected, 1 mouse died. The other 3 mice in the cage survived and were initially treated by the veterinarian on call, however, the lab then elected to euthanize them. The University Research Animal Resources (URAR) Director and the Attending Veterinarian were notified the next morning.

A remedial action plan was established to address the issues, and has been completed, as follows:

- A URAR veterinarian discussed the incident with PI, and guided the PI to develop a plan to address the event. The PI would review the event with all members of the lab who work with animals. The lab members would each sign a statement verifying that they understand that animal welfare is a priority, that they will follow the facility standards, and that they have read and will follow the IACUC approved protocol, and IACUC policies.

Completed November 22.

The IACUC was notified about this event and the remedial action plan at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 17.

The University of Georgia is committed to a high-quality animal care and use program and the welfare of animals used in instruction and research. We take very seriously our institutional responsibility for the evaluation, monitoring, reporting, and correction of our animal care and use program that is the foundation of the PHS Policy. Please contact me if further information or additional corrective actions are needed.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Karen J. L. Burg, PhD, MS, FNAI, FBSE, FAIMBE
Vice President for Research
Institutional Official

Cc: Dr. Leanne Alworth, AV

(b) (6)

Dr. Gaylen Edwards, IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2021 7:51 AM
To: Leanne Alworth
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Final Report from UGA

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

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

From: Leanne Alworth <alworth@uga.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 3:40 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Karen JL Burg <kburg@uga.edu>; (b) (6) Gaylen L Edwards <gedwards@uga.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: Final Report from UGA

Hello,

Please find attached a Final Report regarding a recent event at the University of Georgia.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

And have a good Thanksgiving!

Thank you,

Leanne

Leanne Alworth, MS, DVM, DACLAM

Attending Veterinarian | Animal Care and Use

Office of Research | University of Georgia

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