



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

May 11, 2022

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

Dr. Karen Burg  
Vice President for Research  
University of Georgia  
150 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 May 2, 2022 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Georgia, following up on an initial report on March 25, 2022. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a mouse cage, containing one mouse, was not returned to the rack overnight by the laboratory staffer which prevented the animal from accessing water from the lixit. The mouse was checked the next day and found to be alert and active.

The corrective actions consisted of the veterinarian counseling the laboratory staff on double checking the procedure room to ensure that all cages are returned to the rack when activities are completed. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) sent a reminder letter to the Principal Investigator to ensure that staff uses care when handling the mouse cages.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the IACUC to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

 (b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

CC: IACUC Chair



UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA

Office of Research  
500 D.W. Brooks Drive  
147 Paul D. Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
TEL 706-542-5969 | FAX 706-542-5978  
research.uga.edu

May 2, 2022

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 March 23, 2022 and initially reported to OLAW on date March 25, via email. A researcher inadvertently left a mouse cage off of an IVC rack overnight. Because the cage's water source was the rack lixit, the cage had no water supply from approximately 3pm on 3/22 to 9am on 3/23. The cage contained only 1 mouse, and only the 1 mouse was affected. The mouse appeared bright, alert, and responsive when the cage was discovered off of the rack by the animal care staff the next morning.

This work is covered by an IACUC approved protocol and funded by the NIH under grant number RO1 AA026362.

The laboratory animal veterinarian contacted the lab personnel, and the lab personnel reviewed the procedure for double checking a room when tasks are completed, before leaving the room, to avoid this type of mistake.

At its scheduled meeting on April 20, the IACUC discussed the matter, and determined that the response to the incident had been appropriate and no further action was required. The IACUC chose to send a letter to the PI, reminding them to ensure the research personnel are careful when handling mouse cages.

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

*An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution*

Cc: Dr. Leanne Alworth, Attending Veterinarian  
Dr. Gaylen Edwards, IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

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

---

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 7:12 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:** Monday, May 9, 2022 12:30 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Karen JL Burg <kburg@uga.edu>; Gavlen L Edwards <gedwards@uga.edu>;  
(b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Final Report from UGA

Hello,

I am providing a Final Report to OLAW from UGA.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,  
Leanne

**Leanne Alworth, DVM, MS, DACLAM**

Attending Veterinarian | Animal Care and Use

**Office of Research | University of Georgia**

(b) (4) Tucker Hall, 310 East Campus Road, Athens, GA 30602

Office: (b) (6) Fax: (b) (6)

[alworth@uga.edu](mailto:alworth@uga.edu) | <http://research.uga.edu>

**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.

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

A3437-1M

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 7:15 AM  
**To:** Leanne Alworth  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Event to report

Thank you for this preliminary report, Dr. Alworth. We will open a new case file and look forward to receiving the final report from the IO after the IACUC has completed its investigation.

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

**From:** Leanne Alworth <alworth@uga.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 4:48 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Event to report

**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.

Hello

I just wanted to give you an early notice about an incident we had this week.

A mouse cage, housing 1 mouse, was accidentally left off of the IVC rack overnight, without a lixit, so without water. The mouse was behaving normally when it was found the next morning.

A final, written report will be sent after our next IACUC meeting, in April.

University of Georgia

D16-00276

The associated grant is RO1 AA026362

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks  
Leanne

**Leanne Alworth, DVM, MS, DACLAM**

Attending Veterinarian | Animal Care and Use

**Office of Research | University of Georgia**

(b) (4) Tucker Hall, 310 East Campus Road, Athens, GA 30602

Office: (b) (6) | Fax: (b) (6)

[alworth@uga.edu](mailto:alworth@uga.edu) | <http://research.uga.edu>