



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

January 20, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3354-01 (OLAW Case 1Z)

[REDACTED]
Executive Director of Regulatory Support
Institutional Official
State University of New York - University of Buffalo
[REDACTED]
Buffalo, NY 14260

Dear [REDACTED],

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 7, 2022 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University at Buffalo, State University of New York Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: failure to adhere to the IACUC-approved protocol. The final report states that rabbits underwent stereotaxic surgery and post-operative (post-op) analgesia doses were not administered. The Principal Investigator (PI) stated the incident occurred due to staff illness, a missing animal room key and locked animal room. As a result, 4 animals did not receive post-op analgesia as described in the protocol. Following self-report by the PI, a clinical veterinarian assessed the animals. In response, additional treatment under veterinary care was provided to one rabbit, as the other animals did not present post-op issues from the missed analgesic. Per the report, the rabbit is doing well following additional veterinary care.

The PI's report to the IACUC included a corrective action plan which included the following:

- The lab has established a new working procedure for post-operative care following rabbit surgery.
- The responsible members of the lab will contact the Laboratory Animal Facilities (LAF) vet staff to outline a post-operative plan to ensure analgesics are administered as outlined in the protocol.
- The lab received a new animal room key, and it is available to all protocol team members.
- Two protocol team members will be specifically assigned to the administration of post-operative medication.
- The lab will use Slack messaging software to confirm that post-operative medications have been given.
- The PI will review these messages and will contact protocol team members as needed to ensure medication has been administered.

The IACUC reviewed the incident and corrective action plan on December 20, 2021. The committee accepted plan and determined no additional actions were necessary. It is noted that the study is supported by NIH funding.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University at Buffalo, State University of New York 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: 2022.01.20 13:34:40 -05'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact

Robert M. Gibbens, DVM, Director, Animal Welfare Operations