



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

September 28, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3021-01 (OLAW Case 4T)

Ms. Jennifer Lassner  
Senior Assistant Vice President for Research  
The University of Iowa  
Office for the Vice President for Research  
2660 University Capitol Centre  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Dear Ms. Lassner,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 16, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Iowa. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University of Iowa Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: the deaths of 19 fish. The final report states a lab member did not properly place the baffles on two fish tanks. As a result, 19 fish were found dead in the system filter and 4 fish were found alive in the filter and placed in an isolation tank. Per the report, retraining of all lab staff on proper baffle placement is in progress. The IACUC discussed the matter and voted to report the incident.

It is noted that this research is supported by PHS funding. OLAW assumes the IACUC determined retraining was acceptable and required no additional corrective actions. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Iowa 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: 2021.09.28 14:31:28 -04'00'

Jacquelyn 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**

2660 University Capitol Centre  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-5500  
319-335-2119

September 16, 2021

Brent Morse, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance and Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive  
Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Morse:

This letter is to report an incident involving fish. The University of Iowa PHS Assurance Number is D16-00009 (A3021-01). The grant numbers affected are AR062547 and DE023575.

August 10, 2021: A lab member did not correctly place the baffles on two fish tanks, resulting in 19 fish found dead in the system filter and 4 additional live fish found in the filter and placed in an isolation tank.

The IACUC Office was promptly notified. Retraining of all lab staff on proper baffle placement is in progress.

September 8, 2021: The IACUC members discussed the incident at a convened meeting and voted to report to the appropriate agencies.

I have reviewed the event and believe it was appropriately managed and fully addressed.  
If you have any questions pertaining to this report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jennifer Lassner  
Institutional Official  
Associate Vice President for Research

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** IACUC  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Report of non-compliance incident

Thank you for these reports, (b) (6) We will send responses soon.

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

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**From:** IACUC <iacuc@uiowa.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** accredit@aaalac.org  
**Subject:** Report of non-compliance incident

Please see attached reports of non-compliance at the University of Iowa.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

