



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

July 27, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3269-01 [OLAW Case 4P]

Dr. Alison Lakin
Associate Vice Chancellor
for Regulatory Compliance
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
13001 East 17th Place
Anschutz Medical Campus Bldg. 500
Denver, Colorado 80262

Dear Dr. Lakin,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 15, 2021 letter reporting an adverse event within the animal care and use program at the University of Colorado, Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus. Your letter supplemented the information contained in an initial telephone report to this office on July 6, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a 24-day old, runt chinchilla kit escaped from his home cage three times. After the first two escapes, the caging was modified by adding heavy plastic mesh and padding to close gaps and prevent escape. Daily "kit checks" were also instituted to ensure all kits were present in their home cages every morning. Despite these measures, the runt kit escaped a third time. It entered an adjacent cage where it was killed by a pair of adult chinchillas. Necropsy identified bite wounds as the cause of death. The chinchilla involved in this incident was part of a breeding colony unrelated to a specific grant.

Corrective and preventive measures included moving all dams and kits to dog travel crates with screen mesh covering any gap wider than 0.5 inches. The university has contacted a vendor to permanently modify the current chinchilla caging to eliminate any gaps wider than 0.5 inches. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) accepted the actions taken and determined that the adverse event should be reported to OLAW and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Colorado, Denver, which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Robyn M. Engel
-S

Digitally signed by Robyn M.
Engel -S
Date: 2021.07.27 09:20:29
-04'00'

Robyn M. Engel, DVM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact

Dr. Robert M. Gibbens, USDA, APHIS, Animal Care



University of Colorado
Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus
Office of the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)

7 A3269
Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
Office for Research Committee Support
Mail Stop F489
13001 E. 17th Place
Aurora, CO 80045

July 15, 2021

Animal Welfare Assurance # D16-00171

Brent Morse, DVM
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7892
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse;

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus received a report of an adverse event involving the accidental death of a 24-day old, un-weaned, chinchilla kit after it escaped its home cage and entered an adjacent cage where it was killed by a pair of adult chinchillas. This adverse event has been previously reported to OLAW verbally.

Our institution houses chinchillas in cages designed to prevent escape of small mammals (originally for ferrets). These cages have safely housed our chinchillas, without incident, for over 15 years. Breeding was recently started to accommodate research needs.

A litter was born recently with one kit that was runt. This kit escaped from his home cage three times. The first two times the cage was modified by adding heavy plastic mesh and then the gaps between the cage door and cage floor secured with padding to prevent further escape. Also, an additional daily "kit-check" was implemented to ensure all kits were present in their home cage every morning. The day of the third escape, all kits were present in their cage at 8 AM. At 10:15 AM, a technician was unable to find the runt kit in the cage. After a search, the kit was found deceased in the adjacent cage.

Veterinary necropsy identified bite wounds that were deemed the cause of death. As a result, all dams and kits were moved to dog-travel crates and any gaps wider than 1/2 inch were covered with screen mesh. A vendor has been contacted to permanently modify our current caging so there are no gaps wider than 1/2 inch.

At a convened meeting of a quorum of the IACUC, a majority of the quorum present determined to accept the actions as taken. The Committee determined further that the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and the USDA be informed of this adverse event as unrelated to a specific grant. The USDA has been informed and requested a copy of this letter.

Please let me know if you require further information.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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Alison Lakin RN, LLB, LLM, PhD
Associate Vice Chancellor for Regulatory Compliance
University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 9:24 AM
To: Douse, Mark
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: UC Denver (D16-00171) - final animal report

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

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

From: Douse, Mark <MARK.DOUSE@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:18 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: UC Denver (D16-00171) - final animal report

Animal Welfare Assurance D16-00171

Dear Dr. Morse,

Please find attached an animal report of an adverse event for your review.

This is the final animal report that the IACUC determined needed to be reported to OLAR, based on OLAR guidance.

This adverse event has been previously reported to you verbally.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark Douse

Mark A. Douse, PhD
Director

Office for Research Committee Support (ORCS)

University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

Voice: (b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 7/6/2021

Time: 4:25 PM

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: U Colorado - Denver

Assurance number: A3269

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? ?

Funding component:

ADVERSE EVENT

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened?

Runted, baby chinchilla escaped cage, entered cage with mating pair of chinchilla and was killed. No noncompliance. Proper caging was used and animals monitored frequently. Adverse event.

Species involved: Chinchilla

Personnel involved: none

Dates and times: 7/1/2021

Animal deaths: yes

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known):

Have contacted cage manufacturer to see if caging can be modified. Placed remaining chinchilla in alternate caging, temporarily.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

<60 days.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #