



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

June 28, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3306-01 [OLAW Case 3F]

Dr. Terence Flotte
Dean, Provost and Executive Deputy Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655

Dear Dr. Flotte,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 15, 2021 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Massachusetts. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that eight mouse pups had been weaned and placed into cages without food, only hydrogel.

Upon discovery, the corrective actions consisted of contacting the Principal Investigator (PI), veterinarian, and the research associate responsible. The PI euthanized the mice because of possible effects of stress on the study. The laboratory staff was retrained on weaning and husbandry procedures and will now provide food immediately upon weaning and double check all cages. The PI and staff were counseled by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) chair.

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



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
Office of Research
University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655-0002

6/15/2021

Dear members of the Division of Compliance Oversight,

The University of Massachusetts Medical School, in accordance with Assurance #D16-00196 (A3306-01) provides this report for your consideration, associated with IACUC protocol A-1506-18.

On March 2, 2021, four cages of mice (8 mice total) were identified without food, only hydrogel. Two days prior (February 28, 2021), mouse pups were weaned by a research associate. The research staff provided bedding materials and hydrogel to the first four cages, intending to provide food to all cages when weaning was completed, prior to returning cages to the rack. After mice in the first four cages were weaned, the researcher provided food to each subsequent cage at the time of weaning and failed to return to the original four cages. The cages were inadvertently returned to the rack only with hydrogel.

On March 2, 2021, an animal care technician identified the cages without food and immediately contacted a veterinarian, PI and the research associate involved. The animals were evaluated and although they did not appear to be in distress or unhealthy, they were euthanized by the PI as they could not be used for future studies due to possible effects of stress on the outcome of experiments.

The PI and research associate discussed in the incident with the husbandry supervisor and subsequently met with all animal users in the laboratory for retraining on weaning and husbandry practices. To prevent future reoccurrence, the laboratory has changed their practice to provide food immediately at the time of weaning and double check cages when returned to the rack for all necessary materials.

The IACUC evaluated the incident and corrective actions by full committee on March 22, 2021, and while the proposed corrective actions were determined to be appropriate to prevent future reoccurrence, the IACUC also requested the IACUC Chair to meet with the PI and laboratory to discuss the incident as an additional corrective action.

The 8 mice involved in this incident were paid for 50% from NIH R01 DA035224 and 50% from NIH R21 DA049057.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Terence R. Flotte, M.D.

Institutional Official

Dean of the School of Medicine, Provost and Executive Deputy Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 7:15 AM
To: Moran, Casey
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: OLAW reports University of Massachusetts A3306 (D16-00196); A-1506-18 and Legacy1910-18

Thank you for these reports. We will send responses soon.

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

From: Moran, Casey <Casey.Moran@umassmed.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 12:52 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: OLAW reports University of Massachusetts A3306 (D16-00196); A-1506-18 and Legacy1910-18

Dear members of the Division of Compliance Oversight,

Re: Assurance #A3306 (D16-00196); A-1506-18 and Legacy1910-18

On behalf of the University of Massachusetts Medical School Institutional Official, Dean Flotte, I am submitting two final reports for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding these reports, please contact me.

We appreciate your guidance and assistance.

Thank you,
Casey

Casey Moran
Director, IACUC/IBC Office
<http://inside.umassmed.edu/iacuc/>
<http://inside.umassmed.edu/IBC/>



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