



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

December 21, 2021

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

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

Dear Dr. Flotte,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 19, 2021 final letter reporting an instance of noncompliance at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. OLAW understands that on June 27, 2021, three cages of mice (15 mice total) were found without food or water by an animal husbandry technician. The mice were weaned the evening prior by research personnel. Food, water and gel packs were immediately provided to the mice and evaluated and no documented concerns of animal health or well-being were noted. The studies were not PHS funded.

As a corrective measure, the Principal Investigator (PI) held a meeting with all animal users to discuss the incident and impact on well-being. Additionally, retraining of laboratory personnel on cage preparation, routine animal observations, weaning procedures along with general training on adherence to IACUC protocols and animal husbandry procedures were conducted. The IACUC also required all animal users to receive hands-on retraining by the Department of Animal Medicine on proper cage preparation during weaning and other activities involving cage manipulation. Lastly, the IACUC required the laboratory to implement a procedure for final observation of cages at the end of the day to ensure provision of food, water and gel packs which must be recorded and documented to allow for evaluation during routine post-approval monitoring audits.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School which is consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. OLAW understands that the protocol involved was not PHS-supported but concurs that the incident was serious and supports the actions taken by the IACUC. The establishment and application of policies and practices that are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at your organization are commendable and avoid the perception of a double standard.

We appreciate being informed of this matter and please contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nicole L. Lukovsky-
akhsanov -S

Digitally signed by Nicole L.
Lukovsky-Akhsanov -S
Date: 2021.12.21 17:09:05 -05'00'

Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov, DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact



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

November 19, 2021

Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Dear members of the Division of Compliance Oversight,

I am writing to inform you of an incident occurring at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Assurance # D16-00196 (A3306-01) related to protocol PROTO202000037.

On June 27, 2021, three cages of mice (15 mice total) were found without food or water by an animal husbandry technician. These mice were weaned the prior evening by research personnel. The condition of the mice was evaluated by Department of Animal Medicine staff, and there were no documented concerns of animal health or well-being. Food, water and gel packs were immediately provided to the mice. Department of Animal Medicine staff provided immediate instruction and retraining to the laboratory staff directly involved.

The IACUC was notified of these concerns by Department of Animal Medicine. The PI was immediately contacted and met with the Director of the IACUC Office to discuss the cause of the incident, animal welfare concerns and steps taken to prevent future reoccurrence. The following immediate actions were taken by the PI:

1. Meeting with all animal users to discuss the incident and impact on animal well-being.
2. Retraining of laboratory personnel on cage preparation, routine animal observations, and weaning procedures.
3. General retraining of laboratory personnel on adherence to IACUC protocols and animal husbandry practices.

On September 27, 2021, the incident and immediate corrective actions were evaluated during a convened meeting of the IACUC. In addition to the training provided by the PI, the IACUC required all animal users to receive hands-on retraining by Department of Animal Medicine on proper cage preparation during weaning or other activities involving cage manipulation, which has been completed at this time. The IACUC also required the laboratory to implement a procedure for a final observation of cages at the end of the day to ensure appropriate preparation and provision of food, water, and gel packs. Records must be maintained to document the daily, final observation to be evaluated during routine post-approval monitoring audits. Implementation of this practice is currently in effect and has been evaluated by the post-approval monitor.

The animals involved in this incident were not supported by NIH funds.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Terence Flotte, M.D.
Institutional Official
Dean, Provost and Executive Deputy Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2021 8:16 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: OLAW Report University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School D16-00196 (A3306-01) PROTO202000037

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

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:25 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: OLAW Report University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School D16-00196 (A3306-01) PROTO202000037

Dear OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight,

On behalf of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School Institutional Official, Dean Flotte, I am submitting a report of noncompliance for your consideration. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me. We appreciate your guidance on these matters.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

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