



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

November 15, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3383-01 [OLAW Case C]

Dr. Matthew Meyer  
Vice Provost of Research  
University of Massachusetts - Boston  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Dr. Meyer,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 10, 2021 letter reporting an adverse event at the University of Massachusetts Boston. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University of Massachusetts Boston Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that an adverse event occurred with respect to: damage to vivarium rooms from flooding. The final report states a 3" solar collection system waterline suffered a burst creating a flood in the mechanical room located above the vivarium. As a result, damage occurred in two vivarium rooms that contained small colonies of animals. The animals were immediately relocated to unaffected areas of the vivarium. It is stated Principal Investigators were informed and it was confirmed no harm came to any of the animals.

The corrective action plan is being managed by the University's Facilities Department. It is understood that this department will provide a plan to repair the damages. Per the report, the timeline for this work is yet to be finalized. However, corrective actions will include cleaning of areas subjected to the flood, cleaning or replacement of ceiling tiles, cleaning of areas above the ceilings to mitigate the growth of mold, repair to electrical fixtures, painting, and patching. It is also understood that in the event another water related incident occurs, a detection system is scheduled for installation in the mechanical room of the building where the vivarium is located. This system will have an alert feature that signals through the Building Monitoring System which is monitored 24/7 by the Utilities Department.

Please contact this Office with additional information if the proposed corrective actions are not carried out as described, to ensure accuracy of the record. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Massachusetts Boston 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: 2021.11.15 14:32:54 -0500

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

cc: IACUC Contact



**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON  
OFFICE OF RESEARCH & SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

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Director, Division of Compliance  
Oversight Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive

A3383 - C

Re: University of Massachusetts Boston  
Animal Welfare Assurance #A338103-01  
NIH Award: N/A  
UMB Facilities Dept. equipment event: Burst water line and flooding of vivarium

10 November 2021

I am writing to report an event documented on August 16, 2021. The event involved a 3" solar collection system waterline that suffered a burst fitting connection causing a flood in the mechanical room located above the vivarium at approximately 2:15 pm. Damage to two vivarium rooms occurred at this time. The rooms contained small colonies which were immediately relocated to unaffected areas of the vivarium. The Principal Investigators were notified, and they/their representatives confirmed no harm came to any of the animals.

Corrective action in response to this event is managed by the University's Facilities Department. Facilities will provide a plan to repair the damage caused by the water. The timeline for this work is yet finalized but will include, cleaning of areas subjected to the flood, cleaning or replacement of ceiling tiles, cleaning of areas above the ceilings to mitigate the growth of mold, repair to electrical fixtures, painting and patching.

In the event another water related catastrophe occurs, a detection system is scheduled for installation in the mechanical room of the building the vivarium is located. The detection system will have an alert feature that signals through the Building Monitoring System which is monitored 24/7 by the Utilities Department.

We are confident this work will address the compromised areas of the vivarium by the flood and normal operation of this facility as designed to function as a safe, secure, sanitary space for animals will resume. Please feel free to contact me if further information or follow up is needed.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Matthew E. Meyer

Associate Vice Provost for Research and Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125  
[matthew.meyer@umb.edu](mailto:matthew.meyer@umb.edu)

(b) (6)

[www.umb.edu/research/orsp](http://www.umb.edu/research/orsp)

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 10:11 AM  
**To:** ORSP Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: University of Massachusetts Boston event report

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response soon.

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

**From:** ORSP Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee <IACUC@umb.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 9:44 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Matthew L Meyer <Matthew.Meyer@umb.edu>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
**Subject:** University of Massachusetts Boston event report

Dear Director for the Division of Compliance Oversight,  
Please find attached a PDF of an event that occurred at this institution.  
If you require additional information, please let me know.  
Sincerely,

(b) (6)