



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) 402-7065

November 18, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3775-01 [OLAW Case 10]

Dr. Philip Hinds
Senior Director of Research Compliance
Tufts-New England Medical Center
136 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Dr. Hinds,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your October 18, 2021 final letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Tufts University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that three mice were found dead in a cage with no food in the hopper. The Principal Investigator (PI) confirmed a member of the lab weaned the cage four days prior and forgot to provide food. The study was PHS funded.

As a corrective measure, the PI reviewed the event with the entire lab team to emphasize the importance and seriousness of the event and steps were developed to ensure it does not recur. The plan was then incorporated into the lab's workflow. Additionally, Tufts Comparative Medicine Services (CMS) are responsible for monitoring animals daily which includes health checks and replenishment of food and water. Tufts CMS husbandry supervisors reviewed the concern with the responsible caretaker and was reminded that each cage must be inspected daily including reporting any deficiencies to the husbandry supervisors.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by Tufts University which is consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. OLAW expects continuing post-approval monitoring to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance and potential associated animal welfare concerns. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate steps have been taken to investigate this incident and to attempt to prevent recurrence.

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

Sincerely,

 (b) (6)

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

CC: IACUC contact

Office of the Vice Provost for Research
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

October 18, 2021

Dr. Axel Wolff
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

We are writing to notify OLAW of the circumstances and actions taken with respect to the following issue of non-compliance, as required by the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (section IV.F.3). The Tufts University (Boston Campus) Assurance number is D16-00459 (A3775-01).

Three mice were found dead in a cage with no food in the hopper. The Principal Investigator confirmed a member of the lab weaned the cage four days earlier and forgot to provide the food. To prevent the issue from happening again, the PI thoroughly reviewed the event with the entire lab team to emphasize the importance and seriousness of the event. They developed steps to ensure it never occurs again and the new plan was incorporated into the laboratory's workflow.

In addition, Tufts Comparative Medicine Services (Tufts CMS) husbandry staff are responsible for monitoring animal on a daily basis. This monitoring includes health checks and replenishment of food and water, as needed. Tufts CMS has taken the following corrective actions in response to this event. Husbandry supervisors reviewed the welfare concern with the responsible caretaker, who notably has many years of experience and is known for providing detailed attention to the animals. He was reminded that each cage must be inspected daily for adequate levels of food and water as well as health concerns, and to report any deficiencies of this nature to the husbandry supervisors.

The issue was voted to be significant at the IACUC's most recent meeting on October 6, 2021. The cage in question was associated with the following grant: R01NS100706.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 7:14 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: OLAW Report for Tufts University, D16-00459 (A3775-01)

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

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 10:54 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: OLAW Report for Tufts University, D16-00459 (A3775-01)

Please find attached a report letter regarding a significant issue of non-compliance at Tufts University, D16-00459 (A3775-01).

Regards,

(b) (6)