



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

January 26, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3775-01 [OLAW Case 1P]

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 January 18, 2022 letter reporting two instances of noncompliance at Tufts University School of Medicine. OLAW understands that three recently weaned mice from two cages died as a result of food deprivation. An investigator failed to provide feed to the mouse cages post-weaning and husbandry staff subsequently overlooked the missing feed for three consecutive daily health checks. The associated animal activities in question were not PHS funded.

The corrective actions consisted of husbandry supervisors reviewing the incident with the responsible animal caretaker, emphasizing that cages be inspected daily for the provision of adequate food and water and any animal welfare issues. The caretaker was also reminded to use red flashlights to improve visibility and step stools to access higher level cages while bending down to observe lower rack cages. Signs have been posted on all holding rooms reminding investigators to provide food and water to new cages. In response to a recent increase in similar incidents, a policy on food and water provisions is being drafted and institutional permission is being requested to impose punitive measures for those investigators who fail to do so.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Neera V. Gopee -S

Digitally signed by Neera V. Gopee

Date: 2022.01.26 08:05:55 -05'00'

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

cc: IACUC Chair



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

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

January 18, 2022

Dear Dr. Wolff:

We are writing to notify OLAW of the circumstances and actions taken with respect to the following serious deviation from the provisions of the Guide, 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).

On November 1, 2021, three mice were found dead in cages with no food. They were part of a group of 150 mice weaned by an investigator on October 28, 2021. Two of the cages were returned to housing without providing food in the hopper. Tufts Comparative Medicine Services (Tufts CMS) husbandry staff are responsible for monitoring all animals on a daily basis, which includes health checks and replenishment of food and water, as needed. The missing food was not recognized by the responsible husbandry staff member for three consecutive daily health checks.

Tufts CMS has taken the following measures to prevent this from occurring in the future:

- Husbandry supervisors reviewed the incident with the responsible animal caretaker, emphasizing that each cage must be inspected for adequate levels of food and water, as well as any health concerns, on a daily basis.
- The animal caretaker was reminded to use red light flashlights when needed to improve visibility, step stools to access higher cages, and to bend down or crouch to see all cages on the lower rows of the racks.
- Signs were posted in each animal holding room to remind investigative staff to add food and water to newly created cages.
- In response to a recent increase in similar situations, CMS is drafting a Policy to address food and water provisions and Institutional permission is being sought to implement punitive measures for investigators that fail to provide food and/or water in the cages.

The issue was voted to be significant at the last convened meeting of the IACUC. This letter provides a summary of the issue and resolution to OLAW as voted by the IACUC. There is no NIH funding associated with this incident. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Philip Hinds, PhD
Senior Director of Research Compliance
Institutional Official
Tufts University School of Medicine

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:36 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. We will send a response soon.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 2:20 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Hinds, Philip W. <Phil.Hinds@tufts.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OLAW Report for Tufts University, D16-00459 (A3775-01)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Hello,
Please find attached a report letter regarding a *serious deviation from the provisions of the Guide*. The Tufts University Assurance number is **D16-00459 (A3775-01)**.

Regards,

(b) (6)