



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

DATE: August 16, 2021

TO: Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.
Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

FROM: Director
Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigation (ORS-DVR #20-21) – Animal Welfare Assurance A4149-01 [Case 15L]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 3, 2021 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Office of Research Services/Division of Veterinary Resources. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on July 1, 2021, two male rhesus macaques were found to have gained access to each other's cages, due to a padlock not securing a dividing panel, and had fought, with both animals sustaining injuries. Both animals recovered and the wounds appeared to be healing properly. An investigation was unable to confirm how the lock became dislodged and the dividing panel opened.

Corrective and preventive actions included refresher training wherein staff were retrained on the need to pull on every lock to ensure it is secure, along with why it is important (providing this recent issue as an example). Discussion included that rhesus are intelligent animals and will eventually discover an open lock given time. Pulling on every lock will mitigate the risk associated with unsecured locks.

The actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and accepted by OLAW. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S
Date: 2021.08.17 10:00:30 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: Dr. Stephen Denny
Dr. Richard Wyatt
Dr. Joanne Smith, Chair, ORS ACUC



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

August 3, 2021

TO: Brent C. Morse, D.V.M.
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigations – Assurance D16-00602 (ORS-DVR 20-21)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH Office of Research Services, Division of Veterinary Research (ORS-DVR) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The animal incident involved an unsecured or malfunctioning lock which allowed the commingling of two incompatible rhesus monkeys and the subsequent wounding of one of the animals.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the ORS-DVR Attending Veterinarian on July 2, 2021.

Please contact me or Dr. Stephen Denny, Director, Office of Animal Care and Use, if additional information or clarifications are required.

Michael M.
Gottesman -S

Digitally signed by
Michael M. Gottesman -S
Date: 2021.08.04
14:26:52 -04'00'

Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Smith
Dr. Denny



To: Michael M. Gottesman, MD
Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

From: Joanne Smith
Chair, ORS Animal Care and Use Committee

Subject: NIH DVR Animal Incident Report

In accordance with Animal Welfare Assurance # D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., the ORS ACUC provides this report of an incident that occurred involving NHP fight wounds when a quad cage divider was able to be opened due to a missing lock.

Incident Summary:

On Thursday afternoon July 1, 2021 two male rhesus macaques were found by the Animal Caretaker (ACT) to have gained access to each other's cages and had fought with both animals sustaining injuries. One animal required extensive surgical wound repair, while one had only minor injuries. This was reported to the AV and ACUC by the lead NHP veterinarian on July 2nd. Both have been monitored since that time by the facility veterinarian who stated that the animals were doing well, and all wounds appeared to be healing properly.

A subcommittee of two ACUC members conducted their investigation July 8 & 9 through on-site evaluation of the caging and animals and interviews with the responding veterinarian, the Contract Program Manager, the Contract Facility Supervisor, and the Animal Caretaker.

It was reported that there had been an unlocked padlock found hanging from a squeeze bar of the bottom left cage of the rack; this lock was apparently from the upper cage's pairing door which serves to separate these animals. Examination of the animals showed them to be active and alert with the more injured animal's injuries healing well. The subcommittee observed the pairing door lock location where the lock had been missing and was informed of the location where the lock had been found.

The ACT described having completed morning activities in the room including early feeding and later provision of enrichment to the animals in the room. During the AM check no problems were noted, and the locks were noted as being secure. When the ACT entered the room for the PM check the two animals were noted to have fought recently but were quiet in their respective cages. The cages in the room were changed previously on June 28th. According to the supervisor, the ACT reported that the pairing door padlock was in place when he finished his AM husbandry procedures and that when he reported back after lunch to do his PM tasks, the pairing door was open and the trauma had already taken place with the animals present and quiet in their respective cages.

The room log indicated that the cage locks had been checked and were noted as being secure. The investigator confirmed that these macaques were naïve, had not been experimentally manipulated nor



infected, and that the research team had not recently interacted with these macaques. No clinical procedures had been conducted in the room that day. The lock in question was determined to be working properly but was taken out of service. It was reported that the ACT has several years of experience and has worked successfully in multiple DVR nonhuman primate facilities. The investigative team and staff were unable to confirm how the lock became dislodged and the dividing panel opened.

The ORS ACUC reviewed this report on July 20, 2021 and concluded that this was a reportable incident due to accidental injury to animals affecting animal welfare.

Corrective Actions and Implementation Schedule:

In response to the incident, refresher training was held July 7th. Staff were refreshed on the need to pull on every lock to ensure it is secure, along with why it is important (providing this recent issue as an example). Discussion included that rhesus are intelligent animals and will eventually discover an open lock given time. Pulling on every lock will mitigate the risk associated with unsecured locks.

The ORS ACUC feels these actions will prevent the occurrence of a similar incident in the future.

Sincerely,

Joanne M. Smith -S

Digitally signed by Joanne M. Smith
-S
Date: 2021.07.26 08:24:44 -04'00'

Chair, ORS Animal Care and Use Committee

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 7:50 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (ORS-DVR 20-21)

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

From: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E] <stephen.denny@nih.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:37 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (ORS-DVR 20-21)

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached reports from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH Office of Research Services-Division of Veterinary Resources (OIR-DVR) ACUC address an animal incident involving an unsecured or malfunctioning lock which allowed the commingling of two incompatible rhesus monkeys and the subsequent wounding of one of the monkeys.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the ORS-DVR Attending Veterinarian on July 2, 2021.

If you have any questions please contact me via email or at the phone number listed below. Thank you, Steve

STEPHEN DENNY, DVM, MS, DACLAM, DACVPM | Director, Office of Animal Care and Use | NIH Bethesda Campus, Building 31/Room B1C37 |
Phone: (301) 435-2188 | **NIH . . . Turning Discovery Into Health** |