



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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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: April 20, 2022

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

FROM: Director
Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigation (NICHD #06-22) – Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 16J]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 1, 2022 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on September 27, 2021, a technician reported to the Research Investigator that an animal on their protocol was at its humane endpoint as described by the veterinary pre-approved treatments. The report indicated that the animal would be euthanized by 2 pm that day unless they heard back from the investigator. The investigator did not respond but the technician failed to perform the euthanasia until the next day.

To correct the issue and prevent recurrence, retraining occurred, and the Facility SOP was amended. Animals requiring euthanasia now receive priority treatment and a room tagging procedure has been implemented to identify animals given an endpoint. The senior tech checks for tags during their PM walk through. Technicians were trained on these new procedures.

The action taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence was appropriate and accepted by OLAW. Please be sure to include the animal species in all reports. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -

Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S

S

Date: 2022.04.20 10:01:43
-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. Karl Pfeifer, Chair, NICHD ACUC



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

April 1, 2022

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 (06-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved the failure to follow veterinary care instructions in a timely manner.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NICHD ACUC Chairman on February 15, 2022.

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: 2022.04.01 15:52:18 -04'00'

Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Pfeifer
Dr. Denny



To: Dr. Michael Gottesman
Deputy Director for Intramural Research

From: Karl Pfeifer
Chair, NICHD ACUC **Karl E. Pfeifer -S** Digitally signed by Karl E. Pfeifer -S
Date: 2022.02.15 14:13:31 -05'00'

Date February 15, 2022

Subject: Failure to Follow Veterinarian's Directive

Incident

On 9/27/21, a technician in the NICHD Shared Rodent Facility reported to the Research Investigator that an animal on their protocol was at its humane endpoint as described by the veterinary pre-approved treatments. Their email indicated that the animal would be euthanized by 2 pm that day (9/27) unless they heard back from the investigator. The investigator did not respond but the technician failed to perform the euthanasia until 9/28/21.

NICHD Investigation and Response

This incident was reviewed by the full ACUC at our October 20, 2021 meeting. To prevent recurrence, we have performed retraining but also amended our Facility Standard Operating Procedures. First, Animal Techs assigned to sick log duty are now allocated time daily (at 2 PM) to review the sick log and health tech emails. Animals requiring euthanasia receive priority treatment. Second, we have implemented an independent system to track critical cases on a room-by-room basis. Briefly, when an animal is given an endpoint, a tag is put on the outside door of its holding room. This tag is only removed when the animal is euthanized. The senior tech checks for tags during their PM walk through.

Technicians were trained on these new procedures which were implemented on October 25, 2021. Our Animal Program Director reported to the ACUC at our January 19, 2022 meeting that implementation was successful.

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7:27 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NICHD 06-22))

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

From: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E] <stephen.denny@nih.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 8:38 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NICHD 06-22))

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH National Child Health and Human Development Institute (NICHD) address an animal incident involving the failure of a technician to follow veterinary care instructions in a timely manner. The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NICHD ACUC Chairman on February 15, 2022.

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** |