



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
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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 22, 2022

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 #05-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 16K]

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 Office of Research Services/Division of Veterinary Resources resulting in an accidental animal injury. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that during December 25-26, 2021, a small 10-day old guinea pig pup was injured by a vertical metal grate in the back of the guinea pig cage. A gap allowed entrapment and fracture of one of this animal's hind legs. Due to severity of the injury, the animal was euthanized.

Corrective and preventive actions: A temporary solution has been made to the caging to significantly minimize mobility of this cage component such that no gaps are present. This temporary fix has been applied to all occupied cages. DVR is currently working on a design that will stabilize the back rail preventing front to back movement. An equipment specialist is working with a representative of the manufacturer of the caging to be able to provide ideas for modification and avoid future incidents.

The actions taken to temporarily resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and accepted by OLAW. The plans for a more permanent solution are also 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: 2022.04.25 07:51:02 -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

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 (DVR 05-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH Office of Research Services Division of Veterinary Research (DVR) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved a cage-induced injury to a guinea pig which subsequently led to the euthanasia of the animal.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the DVR ACUC Chairman on February 08, 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 15:50:56 -0400

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 the care and housing of laboratory animals with a mechanical injury resulting in need for euthanasia of a guinea pig pup.

Incident Summary:

Date of occurrence: December 25-26, 2021

Reporting: The incident was reported to the ACUC by the Facility Veterinarian on December 27 with investigation beginning that day, and discussion at the ACUC meeting on January 18th.

Summary: A small 10-day old guinea pig pup was injured by an 8-inch vertical grate in the back of the cage. A slight degree of laxity in the attachment of the vertical metal grate in the back of the guinea pig cages created a gap which allowed entrapment and fracture of one of this animal's hind legs. Due to severity of the injury, the animal was euthanized. A temporary solution has been made to the caging to significantly minimize mobility of this cage component such that no gaps are present. This temporary fix has been applied to all occupied cages and a more permanent solution will be investigated.

Additional information: At the time of the incident, the facility had approximately 27 cages with guinea pigs (3 racks/36 cages total in the room with 12 cages containing immature guinea pigs); census as of 12/20/2021 showed 56 animals. These are the only guinea pigs held in DVR facilities, and they were housed in cages designed for guinea pigs received and put into service in February 2021. When the incident occurred, all the back rails were checked, and the staff noticed that they could all move. The moveable back rails are a particular concern for immature guinea pigs.

Corrective actions: The temporary solution involved placing a folded chix wipe outside of the cage, out of guinea pig reach to create a wedge that reduced front to back movement of the rail. All staff has been trained into placing the chix wipes on the outside of the cage when a cage is changed and confirming they have not moved out of place when performing routine observations. DVR is currently working on a design that will stabilize the back rail preventing front to back movement. This involves the possibility of cutting a small portion of the frame and adding pegs to help keep it in place and avoid all movement. Our equipment specialist is working with a representative of the manufacturer of the caging to be able to provide ideas for modification and avoid future incidents.

The ORS ACUC determined that this was an accidental injury caused by the mechanical structure of the cage and that this is a reportable incident. The ORS ACUC feels confident that adequate actions have been taken to prevent the occurrence of a similar incident in the future.

Sincerely,

Joanne M. Smith -S
Digitally signed by Joanne M.
Smith -S
Date: 2022.02.08 11:48:20 -05'00'

Chair, ORS Animal Care and Use Committee

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7:26 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 05-22))

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

From: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E] <stephen.denny@nih.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 8:27 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 05-22))

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH Office of Research Services Division of Veterinary Resources (DVR) ACUC address an animal incident involving an injury to a guinea pig related to a caging defect. The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the DVR ACUC Chairman on February 8, 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** |