



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500 – MSC 6910
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
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 (NIAID-DIR #08-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 16L]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 4, 2022 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Division of Intramural Research (NIAID-DIR). According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on February 22, 2022, the NIAID DIR ACUC was informed that a cage of chickens had been found with two dead chickens and the remaining five chickens in a lethargic state. Over the next 24 hours, two of the remaining five chickens were humanely euthanized. It was determined that the food hopper was in a configuration that precluded access to the food by the chickens. After an investigation, it was determined that both the investigators and the animal care staff had accessed the cage in the previous days and that there was no discernable reason for anyone to put the cage in this configuration. Therefore, it could not be definitively determined who was responsible.

Corrective and preventive actions: In response, the facility staff received immediate hands-on training from the Facility Manager and the investigatory staff was also retrained on operating the caging. Additionally, the chicken caging was altered so that the food hopper could not be put in the position that blocked the food from the chickens without taking the cage apart.

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: 2022.04.25 07:51:55 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: Dr. Stephen Denny
Dr. Richard Wyatt
Kirk A. Cunningham, Ph.D., NIAID-DIR ACUC Chair



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

April 4, 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 Incident - Assurance D16-00602 (NIAID-DIR 08-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases-Division of Intramural Research (NIAID-DIR) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved the failure of technicians to properly stage the food tray for a cage containing seven chickens on an ACUC-approved study.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NIAID-DIR ACUC Chairman on February 22, 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: 2022.04.05 09:17:57 -04'00'

Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Cunningham
Dr. Denny

DATE: 3/25/2022

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

FROM: Kirk A. Cunningham, Ph.D.
Chairman, NIAID DIR ACUC

SUBJECT: NIAID DIR ACUC Incident Investigation

Per the requirements of PHS Policy and NIH Policy Manual 3040-2, I am reporting an incident that occurred within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) involving the care and use of animals in biomedical research.

INCIDENT:

On 2/22/22, the Animal Program Director's office, reported to the NIAID DIR ACUC Chair that a cage of chickens in the Twinbrook animal facility had been found with 2 dead chickens and the remaining 5 chickens in a lethargic state. Over the next 24 hours, 2 of the remaining 5 chickens were humanely euthanized.

It was determined that the food hopper was in a configuration that precluded access to the food by the chickens.

ACTIONS:

After an investigation, it was determined that both the investigators and the animal care staff had accessed the cage in the previous days and that there was no discernable reason for anyone to put the cage in this configuration. Therefore, it could not be definitively determined who was responsible.

In response, the facility staff received immediate hands-on training from the Facility Manager. The investigatory staff was also retrained on operating the chicken caging. Additionally, the chicken caging was altered so that the food hopper could not be put in the position that blocked the food from the chickens without taking the cage apart.

After discussion at a convened meeting on 3/22/22, the ACUC concluded that this was a reportable incident due to lack of compliance with SOP leading to animal mortality.

The ACUC felt that the actions described above should ensure a similar incident will not be repeated.

Kirk A.
Cunningham -S

Digitally signed by Kirk A.
Cunningham -S
Date: 2022.04.04
10:22:27 -04'00'

Kirk A. Cunningham, Ph.D.
OSD/DIR/NIAID/NIH

CC: Stephen L. Denny, D.V.M., Director, NIH OACU
Steven M. Holland, Ph.D., Scientific Director, NIAID DIR

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7:35 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NIAID-DIR 08-22))

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: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 12:25 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NIAID-DIR 08-22))

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases – Division of Intramural Research (NIAID-DIR) address an animal incident involving the failure of a technician to properly stage the food tray for a cage containing seven chickens on an ACUC-approved study. The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NIAID-DIR ACUC Chairman on February 22, 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* |