



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

May 12, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3237-01 (OLAW Case 3L)

Ms. Steffani Webb
Vice Chancellor for Administration
Institutional Official
University of Kansas Medical Center
3901 Rainbow Road, MS 2015
Kansas City, KS 66160

Dear Ms. Webb,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 30, 2021 letter reporting an adverse event within the animal care and use program at the University of Kansas Medical Center. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on March 23, 2021 laboratory staff weaned 33 mice into 8 disposable cages. Of these, 9 mice from 5 cages were found dead at 2-3 days after weaning. These mice had previously been housed in disposable caging with their mothers for 4-5 days prior to weaning, pups were of appropriate weaning ages and weights, and lab staff had received training regarding the new caging system. The PI reported that, prior to implementation of disposable caging, similar post-weaning losses have not occurred for this strain of mice. After providing moistened food or diet gel on the cage floor, all remaining animals gained weight and appeared healthy. The animal activity associated with this incident was PHS supported.

Corrective and preventive actions: This incident may have been specific to this strain or cohort of mice. However, because the disposable caging water bottles have flat bottoms and lack sipper tubes, strategies to assist weanlings were considered, such as supplemental diet gel, and food or enrichment under the bottle as a platform. The research community will continue to be educated regarding the new disposable caging during animal user training, post-approval monitoring and additional outreach efforts such as elevator signage and quarterly newsletters or internal "town-hall" events.

OLAW believes that the corrective and preventive measures put in place by the University of Kansas Medical Center are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals for self-monitoring and self-correction. We appreciate being informed of this incident and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse

-S

Brent C. Morse, DVM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Digitally signed by Brent C.

Morse -S

Date: 2021.05.12 09:04:35

-04'00'

cc: IACUC Contact



April 30, 2021

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
 Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
 Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
 Rockledge One, Suite 360
 6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
 Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Regarding: University of Kansas Medical Center -- Assurance #A3237-01

Research Project: Mechanisms underlying pathogenesis of fatty liver disease and liver cancer
 IACUC Number: 2020-2570

Funding Agency: NIH-NIDDK R01DK119131

Dear Dr. Morse:

In accordance with PHS Policy IVF.3b and internal policy, the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is reporting an adverse event.

On March 18, 2021, Laboratory Animal Services (LAR) implemented a new disposable caging system in the vivarium room associated with the Animal Care and Use Proposal (ACUP) listed above. On Tuesday, March 23, 2021 laboratory staff weaned 33 mice into 8 disposable cages. Of these, 9 mice from 5 cages were found dead at 2-3 days after weaning. These mice had previously been housed in disposable caging with their mothers for 4-5 days prior to weaning, pups were of appropriate weaning ages and weights, and lab staff had received training regarding the new system. The PI reported that, prior to implementation of disposable caging, similar post-weaning losses have not occurred for this strain of mice.

Laboratory Staff and LAR Actions:

Laboratory personnel contacted veterinary staff immediately upon finding the dead weanlings, and it was recommended that moistened food or diet gel be placed in the cage floor and to contact vet staff upon observing any signs of decreased activity or dehydration in the remaining mice. In addition, LAR staff also monitored the remaining animals and continued to provide diet gel over the following weekend. All remaining animals gained weight and appeared healthy.

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
April 30, 2021
Page Two

IACUC and Regulatory Affairs for Biological Sciences (RABS) Action:

This information was presented to the convened IACUC on Tuesday, 04/20/21. During discussion, veterinary staff reported that there had been no similar losses for other mice weaned into disposable caging, therefore this incident may have been specific to this strain or cohort of mice. However, because the disposable caging water bottles have flat bottoms and lack sipper tubes, strategies to assist weanlings, such as supplemental diet gel, and food or enrichment under the bottle as a platform, were discussed. Following discussion, the IACUC voted unanimously to report this incident as an adverse event.

This information is also being provided to the Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC).

The IACUC and RABS office, in conjunction with LAR, will continue to educate the research community regarding the new disposable caging during animal user training, post-approval monitoring and additional outreach efforts such as elevator signage and quarterly newsletters or internal "town-hall" events.

If you have questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Steffany Webb
Vice Chancellor for Administration

cc: Nathan Culley, DVM, DACLAM, Chair, IACUC
Douglas Brandt, DVM, Executive Director, Laboratory Animal Sciences, Attending Veterinarian

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 10:02 AM
To: Nathan Culley
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Incident Reports for the University of Kansas Medical Center A3237-01

Thank you for these reports, Dr. Culley. We will send responses soon.

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

From: Nathan Culley <nculley@kumc.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Nathan Culley <nculley@kumc.edu>
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Incident Reports for the University of Kansas Medical Center A3237-01

Dr. Morse,

Please find attached, two (2) animal welfare compliance report letter from the University of Kansas Medical Center (A3237-01). Please let me know if you have any further questions regarding the reports. Hope you are staying safe.

Regards,

Nathan C Culley, DVM, DACLAM
IACUC Chair
Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs for Biological Sciences
University of Kansas Medical Center
nculley@kumc.edu

(b) (6)