



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

March 30, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3226-01 (OLAW Case 2R)

Dr. Elizabeth Boyd
VP for Research Administration
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1101 Fairview Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109-1024

Dear Dr. Boyd,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated March 26, 2021 reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Your letter supplements the information in the prompt telephone preliminary report on February 25, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on February 16, 2021, a research team member discovered a mouse carcass trapped between the cage wire bars and the lid. The Comparative Medicine (CM) husbandry technician had performed a routine cage change earlier in the day, and no one else had opened the cage until the mouse was discovered later that day. The CM technician was questioned and did not remember noticing any issues when placing a cage lid. It is likely the mouse crawled between the wire bars on its own and was accidentally crushed when the lid was placed. Based on the position of the mouse carcass, the mouse likely died instantly.

Corrective and preventive actions included: The technician involved was reminded to double check wire bars before closing a cage lid. Additionally, the CM veterinarians will discuss the incident in a staff meeting with all the CM technicians. Staff will be reminded of the importance of being diligent and focused during routine cage changes and ensuring the number of mice in each cage is accounted for in the cage base before placing lids.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center to investigate this incident, provide corrective measures, and prevent recurrence. OLAW concurs that the incident warranted reporting. Although this activity was not PHS funded, the application of the standards of the PHS Policy across the animal care and use program reduces any potential appearance of a double standard. 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: 2021.03.30 09:46:49 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact



FRED HUTCH
Institutional Review Office

Elizabeth Boyd, PhD
Vice President for Research Administration and Faculty Affairs
1100 Fairview Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98109-1024
Tel [REDACTED] (b) (6)
eboyd@fredhutch.org

March 26, 2021

Brent Morse, DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

RE: Reportable Event

Animal Welfare Assurance Number:	D16-00142 (Legacy #A3226-01)
Name of Institution:	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
	No PHS Funding for this project

Dear Dr. Morse:

This letter serves as follow-up to an initial verbal notification made by Meghan Scott, Director of the Institutional Review office (IRO), on February 25, 2021, regarding a reportable event.

On March 2, 2021, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (Fred Hutch) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) reviewed a Reportable Event submitted on February 17, 2021. The report described an event in which a mouse died after being accidentally crushed by a cage lid. On February 16, 2021, a researcher team member discovered one mouse carcass trapped between the cage wire bars and the lid. The Comparative Medicine (CM) husbandry technician had performed a routine cage change earlier in the day, and no one else had opened the cage until the mouse was discovered later that day.

The CM technician was questioned and did not remember noticing any issues when placing a cage lid. It is likely the mouse crawled between the wire bars on its own and was accidentally crushed when the lid was placed. Based on the position of the mouse carcass, the mouse likely died instantly.

The Committee reviewed the event and the corrective and preventive action plan. The technician involved was reminded to double check wire bars before closing a cage lid. Additionally, the CM veterinarians will discuss the incident in a staff meeting with all the CM technicians. Staff will be reminded of the importance of being diligent and focused during routine cage changes and ensuring the number of mice in each cage is accounted for in the cage base before placing lids. After reviewing the reportable event and speaking directly with the CM veterinarians about the event, the IACUC determined the corrective and preventive action plan was adequate and that no further action was required.

If you have any suggestions for further improvements to our program, please do not hesitate to share them with us.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Elizabeth Boyd, PhD
Vice President for Research Administration and Faculty Affairs
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

cc: Meghan Scott, Director, Institutional Review Office
Bruce Busby, IACUC Chair
Gordon Roble, DVM, Attending Veterinarian
Office of General Counsel, Fred Hutch

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:33 AM
To: Scott, Meghan K
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: OLAW reporting letter_ D16-00142-Legacy #A3226-01-Fred Hutchinson Research Center

Thank you for this report, Ms. Scott. We will send a response soon.

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

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2021 12:45 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: FW: OLAW reporting letter_ D16-00142-Legacy #A3226-01-Fred Hutchinson Research Center

From: Scott, Meghan K <msscott@fredhutch.org>
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2021 6:56 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: OLAW reporting letter_ D16-00142-Legacy #A3226-01-Fred Hutchinson Research Center

Dear Dr. Morse:

Attached please find the final report as follow-up to an initial verbal notification that was provided on February 25, 2021 regarding a reportable event.

If you have any questions, please contact me. We would appreciate a confirmation via email that you have received the attached document.

Sincerely,

Meghan Scott
Director
Institutional Review Office
O (b) (6)
msscott@fredhutch.org



Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
1100 Fairview Ave. N., Mail Stop J2-100
Seattle, WA 98109
fredhutch.org

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Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 2/25/21

Time: Noon

Name of Person reporting: Megan Scott

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution:

Fred. Hutchinson Cancer Resch. Cen.

Assurance number:

A3226

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? No

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened? Dead mouse trapped between cage lid + wire bar feeder.

Species involved: Mouse

Personnel involved: Care staff

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: Yes, one mouse

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known):

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

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Case #