



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

August 20, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3158-01 [OLAW Case 1X]

Dr. Kathleen Scotto  
Senior Vice President for Research  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Winants Hall 7 College Avenue, (b) (4)  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

Dear Dr. Scotto,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges your July 29, 2021 letter, reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Rutgers University. Your letter supplements the information in the initial phone report on April 15, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on February 8 and February 22, 2021, members of two labs biopsied the tails of 16 mice over the age of 21 days without following procedures outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Genotyping - Tissue Collection, and not in accordance with the protocols. Anesthesia and analgesia were not provided by the laboratory staff at the time of tail biopsy, and proper hemostasis was not fully achieved. The associated animal activity was PHS funded.

The following actions were taken in response to this incident:

- The PIs and responsible individuals were counseled.
- The protocols were amended to add ear punch as a primary method of obtaining tissue for genotyping, when possible.
- The laboratory members were re-trained on proper and compliant tissue collection for genotyping procedures and the importance of adherence to protocols.
- In an effort to proactively prevent similar incidents in other labs, a new training/instructional video on tissue collection for genotyping has now been developed and has been made mandatory for all animal users performing these procedures.

The prompt consideration of this matter by Rutgers University was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the action taken to resolve the issues was appropriate. OLAW commends your institution's proactive efforts. 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: 2021.08.20 08:46:41 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



RUTGERS

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
IACUC Administrative Office  
675 Hoes Lane West, room 115  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

orad.rutgers.edu  
NewarkIACUC@rutgers.edu  
NewBrunswickIACUC@rutgers.edu  
732.235.6081

July 29, 2021

Brent Morse, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance Number D16-00098 (A3158-01)

Dear Dr. Morse,

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey hereby makes the final report for the following incidents, reported to OLAW via telephone on April 15, 2021. On February 8 and February 22, 2021, members of two labs biopsied the tails of 16 mice over the age of 21 days without following procedures outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Genotyping – Tissue Collection and not in accordance with the protocols. Anesthesia and analgesia were not provided by the laboratory staff at the time of tail biopsy, and proper hemostasis was not fully achieved.

The following actions were taken in response to this incident:

- The PIs and responsible individuals were counseled by the IACUC Executive Committee as well as Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) veterinary staff and the Post Approval Monitor (PAM).
- The protocols were amended to add ear punch as a primary method of obtaining tissue for genotyping, when possible.
- The laboratory members were re-trained on proper and compliant tissue collection for genotyping procedures and the importance of adherence to protocols.
- In an effort to proactively prevent similar incidents in other labs, a new training/instructional video on tissue collection for genotyping has now been developed and has been made mandatory for all animal users performing these procedures.
- At its regular meetings on February 17, 2021 and March 17, 2021, the IACUC reviewed and discussed these incidents and unanimously voted to report this matter to OLAW. The IACUC also voted to accept the above noted corrective actions.

Please note that these animals were supported by NIH funds.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
(b) (6)  
F0200CF05D7C47B...

Kathleen W. Scotto, Ph.D.  
Institutional Official  
Interim Senior Vice President, Office for Research

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: final reports for Rutgers Assurance D16-00098 (A3158-01)

Thank you for these reports, (b) (6) We will send responses soon.

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

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:37 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** final reports for Rutgers Assurance D16-00098 (A3158-01)

Division of Compliance Oversight,

Attached are final reports for two reportable events under Assurance # D16-00098 (A3158-01).

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: Two OLAW reports

Dr. Morse,

We will submit responses for these incidents by 8/20/2021.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

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**From:** Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 10:27 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Two OLAW reports

Hello [REDACTED] (b) (6)

On April 15, 2021 you phoned me with two preliminary reports of noncompliance. One was for 24 mice that died, or were euthanized, due to lack of water after a water restriction study and the animals were not moved to a normal husbandry rack. The second report involved 16 mice that were tail-tipped >21 days-old without anesthesia. I need responses for these, either interim or final by August 20, 2021. Thank you.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 4/15/2021

Time: 10:30

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)  
 Telephone #: (b) (6)  
 Fax #:  
 Email:

Name of Institution: Rutgers Univ  
 Assurance number: A3158

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? yes  
 Funding component: ?  
 Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened? 16 mice, on two different protocols, were tail-snipped >21 d/o w/o anesthesia or analgesia. Procedure not approved on protocols.

Species involved: Mouse  
 Personnel involved: researcher  
 Dates and times: February 7, 2021  
 Animal deaths: no

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

IACUC investigating.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

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Case #