



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

October 19, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3158-01 [OLAW Case 2A]

Dr. Michael Zwick  
Senior Vice President  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
33 Knightsbridge Road, 2nd Floor East, (b) (4)  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Dear Dr. Zwick,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 29, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey following up on an initial September 28, 2021 notification by telephone.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Rutgers Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: failure to euthanize animals as instructed. The final report states an overcrowded mouse cage marked for euthanasia on May 24, 2021 was discovered the following morning with several deceased pups. Upon discovery, the remaining animals were euthanized immediately. Investigative results determined a laboratory member combined pups from multiple cages into a single cage for euthanasia because they could not locate additional cages.

It is understood the Principal Investigator (PI) was counseled by the IACUC Chair and Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) veterinary staff. The PI counseled the lab member and acknowledged the individual was responsible for a large amount of work. In response, arrangements were made for an additional lab member to share animal facility related responsibilities to ease the burden. The IACUC voted the incident reportable and to accept the corrective actions taken.

It is noted that these animals were supported by PHS funding. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy.

We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,  
Jacquelyn T.  
Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by Jacquelyn T.  
Tubbs -S  
Date: 2021.10.19 13:59:40 -04'00'

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM  
Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
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  
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September 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 incident, reported to OLAW via telephone on September 28, 2021. An overcrowded mouse cage flagged for euthanasia on May 24, 2021 was observed on the morning of May 25, 2021 with several deceased pups.

The following actions were taken in response to this incident:

- The remaining animals were immediately euthanized.
- Investigation indicated that a lab member combined approximately 40 pups from multiple cages into a single cage for euthanasia when they were unable to locate additional cages.
- The PI was counseled by the IACUC Chair and Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) veterinary staff.
- The lab member was counseled by the PI, who is also an IACUC member.
- Although this PI and lab member have been very responsive and there has never been any issues with this lab previously, the PI acknowledged that at the time of the incident the lab member was the only individual responsible for a very large amount of work, including all of the animal colony duties; therefore, arrangements were made for an additional lab member to take on shared animal facility related responsibilities to ease the burden.
- At its regular meeting on June 8, 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,

(b) (6)

Michael E. Zwick, Ph.D.  
Institutional Official  
Senior Vice President for Research

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 4, 2021 7:03 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:** Friday, October 1, 2021 5:00 PM  
**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)

(b) (6)



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 9/28/2021

Time: 4:50

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Rutgers Univ

Assurance number: A31585

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened? Lab combined approx. 40 mouse pups into one cage for euthanasia and left them overnight. Some found dead next morning. The rest were properly euthanized.

Species involved: Mus

Personnel involved: Lab staff

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: yes

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

Retraining lab staff and hiring help for lab.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

< 60 days

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Case #