



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 1W]

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 23, 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 7, 2021, multiple cages were observed with dehydrated mice. A total of 24 mice died. Upon investigation, it was determined that when the mice in this room were on a water restriction study, the watering valves were removed from multiple rows, including those not in use at the time. At the conclusion of the study, watering valves were replaced on the rows with cages but not on the empty rows. At some point, cages were moved from the rows with the replaced watering valves to the empty rows without watering valves. It was not possible to determine who was responsible for moving the cages to the rows without watering valves. The associated animal activity was PHS funded.

The following actions were taken in response to this incident:

- All animals undergoing water restriction studies will be removed from the IVC racks and cages will be placed on a separate shelf or cart in the room. This will be static housing with water bottles or hydro packs.
- The lab will notify the facility supervisor and facility veterinary technician of the study start date/end date when static housing is needed and will be in use.
- Proper signage will be placed on cages at all times and not removed.
- CMR will provide updated "Special Water" cards so that the lab can record daily on water restriction log and daily observations.
- CMR will notify the PI of any significant changes in the location of their cages so that the lab can double check for problems.
- A new policy "Special Food and Water Formulations" was drafted and approved by the IACUC. In an effort to limit handling of watering valves to CMR staff only, it includes the following statement "Under no circumstances should laboratory staff remove water valves for special water studies."

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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. 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 08:45:43 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact



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

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July 23, 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 April 15, 2021. On February 7, 2021, multiple cages were observed with dehydrated mice. A total of 24 mice died. Upon investigation, it was determined that when the mice in this room were on a water restriction study, the watering valves were removed from multiple rows, including those not in use at the time. At the conclusion of the study, watering valves were replaced on the rows with cages but not on the empty rows. At some point, cages were moved from the rows with the replaced watering valves to the empty rows without watering valves. It was not possible to determine who was responsible for moving the cages to the rows without watering valves.

The following actions were taken in response to this incident:

- All animals undergoing water restriction studies will be removed from the IVC racks and cages will be placed on a separate shelf or cart in the room. This will be static housing with water bottles or hydro packs.
- The lab will notify the facility supervisor and facility veterinary technician of the study start date/end date when status housing is needed and will be in use.
- Proper signage will be placed on cages at all times and not removed.
- CMR will provide updated "Special Water" cards so that the lab can record daily on water restriction log and daily observations.
- CMR will notify the PI of any significant changes in the location of their cages so that the lab can double check for problems.
- A new policy "Special Food and Water Formulations" was drafted and approved by the IACUC. In an effort to limit handling of watering valves to CMR staff only, it includes the following statement "Under no circumstances should laboratory staff remove water valves for special water studies."
- At a convened meeting on March 9, 2021, the IACUC reviewed and discussed this incident and unanimously voted to report this matter to OLAW. The IACUC also voted to accept the above noted corrective actions.

Please note that this study was supported by NIH funds.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

(b) (6)

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

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

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]

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)

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? 24 mice died or required euthanasia due to lack of water when water restriction study ended, water bottles removed, and cages moved to rack shelf w/o lixits.

Species involved: Mouse

Personnel involved: unsure at this time

Dates and times: February 2021

Animal deaths: yes

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 #