



Research & Innovation  
Office

tel ORS 192.345(30)  
OHSU Medical  
Researcher  
fax

ORS 192.345(30) OHSU

Vice President of Research  
Administration & Senior  
Staff Officer

ORS [@ohsu.edu](mailto:ors@ohsu.edu)  
[www.ohsu.edu/research](http://www.ohsu.edu/research)

Mail code: ORS  
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson  
Park Rd.  
Portland, OR 97239-  
3098

January 27, 2022

Dr. Brent Morse  
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

Dear Dr. Morse:

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), in accordance with Assurance D16-00195 (A3304-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of a serious deviation from the standards of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

Two mature male Rhesus macaques, approximately 8 years of age, were housed individually in adjoining cages. The two males had been housed adjacent to one another for approximately 32 months and had been co-housed previously. The caging system, configured to keep the monkeys separated at the time of the incident, was designed to allow for pair or group housing when a sliding separator was in the opened position. On October 15, 2021, a bolt on the back of the slide mechanism failed and allowed the animals to push the slide open and co-mingle. The two males fought and inflicted injuries upon each other. When found that morning the animals were immediately provided veterinary care. Both animals were treated for lacerations and abrasions.

One of the animals was released from veterinary care after seven days with a full recovery. The lacerations on the other animal were more severe and affected the ability of the animal to fully extend three digits of its right forelimb. Clinical treatment was continued for an additional week for this animal. The animal then entered a regimen of daily physical therapy to encourage extension of the digits. Physical therapy with the animal continues to date. The animal is being evaluated regularly by veterinary and Behavioral Sciences Unit staff members. The animal is expected to remain in physical therapy for another two to three months and to regain full extension of the affected digits. Additional enrichment has been provided through physical therapy, novel object manipulation, food rewards, and enhanced interactions with the animal care and veterinary teams.

Actions to prevent a recurrence included immediately removing this cage from service and examining all other cages in the area for defective mechanisms. All cages known to use this bolt mechanism have been welded to ensure the bolts cannot fail and to prevent the ability of the slides to be pushed open unintentionally. The cage manufacturer has indicated that the tongue and groove design of the slide and bolt mechanism presents a potential weakness for excessive wear. The cage manufacturer no longer uses this design and we are working with the

manufacturer to identify any other caging on our premises that may include this slide and bolt mechanism design.

The OHSU West Campus IACUC reviewed the incident at its convened meeting on January 18, 2022. The IACUC determined that the immediate repair of the defective cage, the welding of all known cages having this bolt mechanism, and follow-up with the manufacturer to identify any other caging systems that used this design were appropriate steps to prevent recurrence. The IACUC had no further requirements.

It was determined there were no impacts on research outcomes from this incident and no expenditures were assigned to PHS research funding. OHSU is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Dr.

ORS 192.345(30) OHSU Medical Researcher

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

ORS 192.345(30) OHSU Medical Researcher

Vice President of Research Administration & Senior Staff Officer  
Institutional Official  
Oregon Health & Science University

cc: IACUC Chair  
Attending Veterinarian  
Director, Animal Care and Use Program

# Redaction Log

Reason	Page (# of occurrences)	Description
ORS 192.345(30) OHSU Medical Researcher	<b>1</b> (4) <b>2</b> (2)	OHSU faculty and employee animal worker exemption.