

Executive Summary – Case Title – Neonate Macaque**Date of Occurrence** – Saturday 1/23/2021, AM**Location** WC: [REDACTED] ORS [REDACTED] group housing**Report to IO** 4/9/2021**Summary**

An Operations Technician discovered dried blood on the floor of a group-housing run where pregnant female Rhesus macaques were being monitored for parturition. The Operations Technician reported to a Certified Veterinary Technician that he believed there was an infant in the group housing of [REDACTED] ORS [REDACTED]. The Operations Technician, who had years of experience and was very familiar with the group of animals, called the CVT and asked that [REDACTED] stay by the room while [REDACTED] entered. [REDACTED] entered the run cautiously but promptly in case there was a life and death emergency. [REDACTED] distracted the adults in the run with cookies and they did not object to [REDACTED] entry.

[REDACTED] found an infant behind the highway barrier. The animal had dried blood on it, its color was non-vital, its fingers had been injured, presumably by the other monkeys in the group, and its eyes were closed. It did not look alive and its spine did not bend when [REDACTED] reached down and partially lifted the animal from the floor. [REDACTED] removed [REDACTED] hand from the infant to reduce the risk that the adult monkeys would become defensive and used a shovel to gently scoop under the animal and remove it from the run. [REDACTED] described the animal's condition as cold and rigid. The CVT who saw the infant also considered it non-viable but did not confirm death through assessment for a heartbeat or respiration. The operations technician placed the infant in a red plastic biohazard bag for delivery to the necropsy freezer. Approximately two hours later, when the technician was ready to take the infant to the freezer, it was discovered that the animal was moribund but was not dead. The technician immediately called for veterinary assistance and the veterinarians began fluid and heat therapy. The infant underwent seizures while veterinary staff were attempting to revive it. Efforts were unsuccessful and the infant was euthanized. The body was submitted to necropsy which revealed common signs of dystocia and uninflated lungs.

The clinical veterinarian who attempted to revive the infant felt that more could have been done to support the animal's life had the veterinarians been alerted earlier. The pathologist who conducted the necropsy did not believe the animal could have been saved based on the signs of severe dystocia and the uninflated lungs. The critical point was when the animal was believed to be dead but was in fact moribund.

The CVT did not confirm the absence of vital signs even though it appeared the animal was dead. Although a long-standing and trusted employee, the CVT was reprimanded as the confirmation of death is an expectation of professional training in the certification process.

The SOPs were reviewed and refined to include confirmation of the absence of vital signs as a necessary step any time an animal is suspected to be dead. The CVT has been reprimanded through the HR system. The unit has retrained employees on the necessity of verifying death.

Recommendation to the IO

The case was discussed by the ILT. It is recommended that this incident is unfortunate, but is not a reportable incident to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare as it was a natural death associated with a difficult birth. The event was not associated with non-compliance of an approved protocol. There is a low likelihood, based on the results from the post-mortem exam that earlier or additional veterinary

care would have resulted in a more positive outcome. It is not known if the animal was in a state of seizure when originally discovered by the technician, or if the cold from the concrete had affected its physical appearance and led to the presumption of death. To prevent such an event from happening in the future, death will be confirmed by the CVTs who will specifically examine the animal for signs of vitality.

■ with concurrency by the ILT 4/9/2021.

Redaction Log

Reason	Page (# of occurrences)	Description
ORS 192.345(30) OHSU Medical Researcher	1 (12) 2 (1)	OHSU faculty and employee animal worker exemption.