



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

June 10, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3248-01 [OLAW Case 2C]

Dr. Elizabeth Cantwell
Senior Vice President for Research
University of Arizona Health Sciences Center
P.O. Box 210066
Tucson, AZ 85721-0066

Dear Dr. Cantwell,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 3, 2022 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Arizona. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that seven mice died, one required euthanasia, and 30 others required supportive care and recovered after not having access to water. The cause was due to a disconnected water line to the rack.

The corrective action consisted of retraining the individual responsible and emphasizing the requirement for checking the top cages on the rack for water flow. Secondary checks will also be performed by the facility manager when racks are changed out. The relevant standard operating procedure was updated to indicate that water connections are to be checked daily.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



6/3/22

Axel Wolff, MS, DVM
Deputy Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff,

The University of Arizona, in accordance with Assurance D16-00159 (A3248-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of an improperly connected IVC rack which had a negative effect on the health and wellbeing of animals. This incident was first reported to OLAW, on 11/30/21 via a telephone call by the Assistant Director of the IACUC Office. It should be noted that the animals affected were funded with NIH funds, however the PI in this case was not the cause of the incident.

On 11/5/21, the IACUC Program was informed by the Attending Veterinarian that a single mouse IVC rack was not connected to the water source. All animals were evaluated by University Animal Care (UAC) vet staff on 11/5/21 AM and treated if possible. Ultimately 13 cages were affected, totaling 38 mice, with 7 found dead, 1 requiring euthanasia, and 30 provided supportive care and recovered.

The following corrective action plan was implemented after the incident:

- UAC management expressed regret for the incident and that improper connection was an oversight.
- The UAC staff member who changed out the rack was retrained on procedures, including a mandatory check of the top 2 rows of caging to ensure water flow is present before repopulating the rack.
- A secondary check will be done during rack change (once per year), the facility's husbandry manager to double check the set up prior to use.
- UAC updated room servicing SOPs to include a visual check of all rack connections during daily animal observations.

At their meeting on 5/5/22, the IACUC approved the corrective action plan implemented by UAC and determined that this was an isolated incident and not a programmatic failure.

The University of Arizona 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 case, please contact (b) (6)

(b) (6) (voicemail only) or ORCR-IACUC@email.arizona.edu.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Elizabeth Cantwell, PhD
Senior Vice President, Research and Innovation
Institutional Official
The University of Arizona

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 10:55 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: 2 Final reports needed

Good morning,

There are two preliminary reports that were sent to us in November 2021. The first, sent on 11/5, was regarding a bat that escaped during feeding and the other, sent on 11/30, was regarding a disconnected mouse rack. At your earliest convenience, can you please have the final reports for these two cases sent to us?

Thanks,

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA
Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
301-435-2390



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 11/30/21

Time: 1:40

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #:

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: U of Arizona

Assurance number: A3248

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component: NIA

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened?

Rack not connected to air, water and 8 mice died

Species involved: Mice

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: 8

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

Update SOP to check water flow

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #