



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

March 2, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3413-01 [OLAW Case 3G]

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and
Chief Academic Officer
University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston
7000 Fannin St., UCT-1732
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Dr. Blackburn,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 7, 2022 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals within the animal care and use program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Your letter supplemented the information contained in an initial telephone report to this office on January 31, 2022. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that thirteen male mice were delivered to your institution on December 14, 2021, to satisfy an order submitted by a Principal Investigator. Due to the aggressive nature of the male mice, one mouse died on arrival, and an additional four mice died within three days following arrival; one was humanely euthanized, and three succumbed to their fight wounds. The remaining mice were singly housed and treated for fight wounds. The vendor has shipped 13 male mice to replace the aggressive mice, and no issues were noted with the replacement male mice. Similarly, no further problems have been noted with subsequent animal orders received from this vendor. The animals involved in this incident were supported by NIH funding. No significant costs associated with this event were identified, and funds will be returned if associated costs are identified.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW understands that this was an isolated incident that is not expected to be repeated and could not have been predicted, based on the history of the vendor. 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: 2022.03.02 07:53:40 -05'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

A3413-3G
**Office of the Executive Vice President
and Chief Academic Officer**

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President, Chief Academic Officer

February 7, 2022

Brent Morse, D.V.M., DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Re: Assurance A3413-01

Dear Dr. Morse,

The Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) provide this report of unexpected deaths resulting from the shipment of aggressive male mice. In accordance with Assurance A3413-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3.a., a preliminary report was made by the (b) (6) to you on January 31, 2022.

On January 14, 2022, the AWC received a report of unexpected deaths resulting from the shipment of aggressive male mice. Thirteen male mice were delivered to the Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care on December 14, 2021, to satisfy an order submitted by a Principal Investigator. One mouse died on arrival, and an additional four mice died within three days following arrival; one was humanely euthanized, and three succumbed to their fight wounds. The remaining mice were singly housed and treated for fight wounds. The vendor has shipped 13 male mice to replace the aggressive mice, and no issues were noted with the replacement male mice. Similarly, no further problems have been noted with subsequent animal orders received from this vendor.

The animals involved in this incident were supported by NIH funding (1RF1AG072491-01). No significant costs associated with this event were identified, and funds will be returned if associated costs are identified.

The AWC Protocol Deviation Subcommittee has investigated the incident, evaluated the corrective action plan, and determined that the incident has been successfully resolved.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

MRB/tsl

cc: Dr. Juan Herrera, IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

AWC Office

713.500.3544 phone 713.500.3059 fax
7000 Fannin St., UCT-1732, Houston, TX 77030

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 8:05 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: OLAW Response to Final Reports - Case A3413-01

Thank you for these reports. We will respond soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 12:23 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Blackburn, Michael R <Michael.R.Blackburn@uth.tmc.edu>; Herrera, Juan <Juan.Herrera@uth.tmc.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6) Animal Welfare Committee, GM <awc@uth.tmc.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OLAW Response to Final Reports - Case A3413-01
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Sent on behalf of Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.,
EVP & Chief Academic Officer / Institutional Official, UTHealth—

Good Morning, Dr. Morse,

I have attached three PDFs concerning the above-referenced.
Please advise if you have any issues with receiving the attachment.

Thanks and regards,

(b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 2/2/2022

Time: Voicemail

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Univ. of Texas Health (Houston)

Assurance number: A3413

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? yes

Funding component: ?

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened?: 13 male mice received in shipment. One died of fight wounds and 4 more died of wounds within 3 days of arrival.

Species involved: Mus musculus

Personnel involved: ?

Dates and times: ?

Animal deaths: yes

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

No further problems in subsequent shipments.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

< 60 days

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #