



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

May 11, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3314-01 [OLAW Case 2A]

Ms. Sharon Comvalius-Goddard
Associate Vice President
Research Regulations and Compliance
University of Texas Medical Branch
301 University Boulevard, Route 0156
Galveston, TX 77555-0156

Dear Ms. Comvalius-Goddard,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 3, 2021 letter reporting a non-compliance with the PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston. Your letter supplements the information provided in the initial telephone report to our office on April 27, 2021. According to the information provided it is understood that on April 8, 2021, animal care staff used a squeeze mechanism of a housing cage to assist in movement of quail to the front of the cage. While doing so, a bird suffered a leg injury that eventually required euthanasia. The related research activity is PHS funded.

Corrective and preventive actions included discontinuing the use of the squeeze mechanism when avian species are being housed in these cages. Personnel have been trained and counseled to not use this cage feature in the future.

The consideration of this matter by the University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the action taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and should prevent future incidents. We appreciate you reporting this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse - Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S

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Date: 2021.05.11 13:06:14 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC contact

May 3, 2021

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

Re: University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston: Animal Welfare Assurance D16-00202) case (A3314-2A).

Dear Dr. Morse:

As a follow up to our telephone report provided on April 27, 2021, a description of the incident and follow up actions by the IACUC are presented.

On 8 April 2021, personnel used the squeeze mechanism of the housing cage to assist in movement of avian species to the front of the cage. While doing so the upper-left portion of the squeeze mechanism jammed resulting in a leg injury to an individual animal. A veterinarian was contacted immediately and provided analgesics to the animal within 10 minutes. The research lab was contacted, and a decision to humanely euthanize the animal was made.

It was determined that the best course of action is to discontinue the use of the squeeze mechanism when avian species are being housed in these cages. Personnel have been trained and counseled to not use this cage feature in the future.

This project is funded through an NIH grant. We believe we have taken appropriate and sufficient action in the incidents above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Sharon Conyallus-Goddard, MPH
Institutional Official
Associate Vice President, Research Regulations & Compliance

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 7:21 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: UTMB case A3314-A2

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response soon.
Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Comvalius-Goddard, Sharon A. <sacomval@UTMB.EDU>; Brining, Douglas L. <dlbrinin@UTMB.EDU>; (b) (6)
Subject: UTMB case A3314-A2
Importance: High

Dr. Morse:

Please find our final report in regards to our conversation last week.

Thank you very much.

Confidential IACUC Communication
Texas Health & Safety Code § 161.031 et seq.
Do Not Distribute Without Authorization

(b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 4/27/2021

Time: 3:30

Name of Person reporting: Doug Brining, AV; (b) (6)

Telephone #:

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: UTMB

Assurance number: A3314

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): No

What happened?

Cages have squeeze-back design that husbandry used to move quail to front of cage. One quail had leg trapped in squeeze-back and had to be euthanized.

Species involved: Quail

Personnel involved: husbandry personnel

Dates and times: 4/8/2021

Animal deaths: euthanized

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

Considering using different caging. Advised, no need to contact funding component.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #