



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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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

November 10, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3431-01 [OLAW Case 9P]

Dr. Lisa Muto
Executive Dean for Administration
Harvard Medical School
25 Shattuck Street, Gordon Hall – (b) (4)
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Dr. Muto,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 10, 2022 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals involving the animal care and use program at Harvard Medical School. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on October 11, 2022, five mice were being warmed with a heat lamp prior to a procedure per the protocol. During this warming process, the researcher stepped out of the procedure room and left their ID badge, thus being locked out. The researcher was unable to gain entry for approximately 10 minutes. When the researcher re-entered the room, they removed the mice from the heat source and observed one mouse who appeared to be convulsing. They gave the mice water and observed them for several minutes. The mice appeared to recover but given the longer than typical exposure to the heat source and the seizure induced in one of the mice, the researcher opted to euthanize all five animals. This activity is PHS funded.

Corrective and preventive actions: the IACUC has communicated to the research group that further safeguards must be in place to mitigate recurrence. Such precautions include ensuring that all supplies needed are gathered prior to warming the mice or beginning procedures, supervising animals during the entire period, reducing the intensity or adjusting the angle of the heat lamp, and turning off the heat lamp if animals must be left unattended for any period of time. The researcher self-reported this adverse event and informed other members of their group of this mistake so that they can avoid similar situations in the future.

OLAW agrees with the actions taken by Harvard Medical School regarding this unfortunate matter. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate the incident and to prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Brent C. Morse, DVM
Director

Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S
Date: 2022.11.10 13:39:01 -05'00'

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cc: IACUC contact



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

LISA M. MUTO, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATION
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
25 SHATTUCK STREET, SUITE 408
BOSTON, MA 02115

November 10, 2022

Brent Morse, DVM
Director, 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

FINAL REPORT

RE: Non-Compliance Report: Assurance: **A3431-01**
Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals (HMA IACUC)
Species: *Mus musculus* **Grant:** U19AI133524

Dear Dr. Morse,

This letter serves as a final report on a recent adverse event that has not been preliminarily reported to OLAW by the Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals (HMA IACUC).

On October 11, 2022, five mice were being warmed with a heat lamp prior to a procedure per the protocol. During this warming process, the researcher stepped out of the room to grab a cage card for the mice and left their ID badge in the procedure Room, thus accidentally being locked out. The researcher was unable gain entry for approximately 10 minutes. When the researcher reentered the room, they removed the mice from the heat source and observed one mouse who appeared to be convulsing. They gave the mice water and observed them for several minutes. The mice appeared to recover, but given the longer than typical exposure to the heat source and the seizure induced in one of the mice, the researcher opted to euthanize all five animals.

The Committee has communicated to the research group that further safeguards must be in place to mitigate reoccurrence. Such precautions include ensuring that all supplies needed are gathered prior to warming the mice or beginning procedures, supervising animals during the entire period, reducing the intensity or adjusting the angle of the heat lamp, and turning off the heat lamp if animals must be left unattended for any period of time.

The Committee is satisfied with the corrective actions taken by the laboratory staff and considers this incident to be resolved. The Committee appreciated that this researcher self-reported this adverse event and informed other members of their group of this mistake so that they can avoid similar situations in the future. Please let us know if any additional information is required at this time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Lisa M. Muto, PhD

Executive Dean for Administration

HMA Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee: Institutional Official

CC: **Gerald B. Pier, PhD**

Chairman, Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals

Brian F. Corning, DVM, DACLAM

Executive Director of the Harvard Center for Comparative Medicine, Harvard Medical School:
Attending Veterinarian

(b) (6)