



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
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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

DATE: May 31, 2022

TO: Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.  
Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

FROM: Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigation (ORS-DVR #18-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance  
A4149-01 [Case 16V]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 13, 2022 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Office of Research Services/Division of Veterinary Resources. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that an adult Yucatan minipig injured his left hind third toe between Friday night, February 25, 2022, and that Saturday morning. The pig was found limping on his left hind foot during the Saturday morning facility check. Radiographs revealed a fracture of the left third distal phalanx. It was suspected that the pig got its left hind third toe stuck in the elevated, webbed flooring of the cage and fractured the toe as it was trying to get the foot freed. A soft-padded bandage was placed, and pain medication was instituted immediately.

Corrective and preventive actions: The pig and its partner were immediately moved to a pen without the raised flooring and placed on non-slip mats within the enclosure. Raised flooring with a non-slip, easily sanitized surface with gaps that are too small for pigs to entrap toes was ordered and installed March 23, 2022. So far, one run has been funded for the new flooring, and DVR will work to fund and order more flooring as the need arises (i.e., when housing of additional small pigs becomes necessary).

The actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and accepted by OLAW. The plans for the as-needed purchase of new flooring are also accepted by OLAW. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

**Brent C. Morse**

Digitally signed by Brent C.  
Morse -S

-S

Date: 2022.05.31 16:52:07  
-04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: Dr. Stephen Denny  
Dr. Richard Wyatt  
Dr. Joanne Smith, Chair, ORS ACUC



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

[www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)

May 13, 2022

TO: Brent C. Morse, D.V.M.  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigations - Assurance D16-00602 (DVR 18-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH Office of Research Services Division of Veterinary Research (DVR) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved an injury to a Yucatan mini-pig considered related to use of perforated, raised flooring in its pen.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the DVR ACUC Chairman on March 15, 2022.

Please contact me or Dr. Stephen Denny, Director, Office of Animal Care and Use, if additional information or clarifications are required.

Michael M.  
Gottesman -S

Digitally signed by Michael M.  
Gottesman -S  
Date: 2022.05.16 10:42:36 -04'00'

Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt  
Dr. Smith  
Dr. Denny



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

**To:** Michael M. Gottesman, MD  
Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

**From:** Joanne Smith  
Chair, ORS Animal Care and Use Committee

**Subject:** NIH DVR Animal Incident Report

In accordance with Animal Welfare Assurance # D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., the ORS ACUC provides this report of an incident that occurred involving the care and use of animals in biomedical research.

**Incident Summary:**

This incident, involving a Yucatan pig housing incident, was reported by the Facility Veterinarian and Clinical Veterinarian to the ACUC Chair, ACUC Co-Chair, AV, and Facility Manager on 3/2/2022. The ACUC Chair subsequently informed OACU and set up a subcommittee to investigate.

The subcommittee interviewed the Federal and Contract Facility and Veterinary Staff for the housing building, on Friday, March 4, 2022.

An adult Yucatan minipig injured his left hind third toe between Friday night, 2/25 and Saturday morning, 2/26/22. The pig was found limping on his left hind foot during the Saturday morning facility check. Radiographs revealed a fracture of the left third distal phalanx. A soft-padded bandage was placed, and pain medication was instituted immediately. It was suspected that the pig got its left hind third toe stuck in the elevated, webbed flooring of the cage and fractured the toe as it was trying to get the foot freed.

**Corrective Actions and Implementation Schedule:**

The pig and its partner were immediately moved to a pen without the raised flooring and placed on non-slip mats within the enclosure. Raised flooring with a non-slip, easily sanitized surface with gaps that are too small for pigs to entrap toes was ordered on March 8<sup>th</sup>, was received on 3/22 and installed 3/23/2022. So far, one run has been funded for the new flooring, and DVR will work to fund and order more flooring as the need arises (i.e., when housing of additional small pigs becomes necessary). The facility veterinarian will work with contract technical staff to ensure timely hoof trimming, coordinating with scheduled procedures requiring the pigs to be anesthetized.

**ACUC Review:**

The ACUC reviewed this incident at a full committee meeting on 3/15/22 and concluded that the incident was reportable due to accidental injury and conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals resulting in actual harm. The committee feels that the actions taken will prevent the occurrence of a similar incident in the future.

Sincerely,

**Joanne M. Smith -S** Digitally signed by Joanne M. Smith -S  
Date: 2022.03.25 11:22:26 -04'00'

Chair, ORS Animal Care and Use Committee

## Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 7:12 AM  
**To:** Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: 16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 18-22))

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.

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

**From:** Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E] <stephen.denny@nih.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2022 3:22 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** 16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 18-22))

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH National Institute Office of Research Services Division of Veterinary Services (DVR) ACUC address an animal incident involving an injury to a Yucatan mini-pig considered related to use of perforated, raised flooring in its pen. The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the DVR ACUC Chairman on March 15, 2022.

If you have any questions please contact me via email or at the phone number listed below. Thank you, Steve

STEPHEN DENNY, DVM, MS, DACLAM, DACVPM | Director, Office of Animal Care and Use | NIH Bethesda Campus, Building 31/Room B1C37 |  
Phone: (301) 435-2188 | *NIH . . . Turning Discovery Into Health* |