



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 20892-7982
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: June 1, 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 #19-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 16W]

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 on February 16, 2022, an animal caretaker reported one dead mouse in a breeder cage. Another dead mouse in another cage was later found. It was noticed that the two cages housing the dead mice did not have any food. The animals are presumed to have died as a result. These two cages where the mice were found dead, were missed during several cage observations done by the caretaker between February 7 and February 16, 2022.

Corrective and preventive actions: All the cages in the room were inspected as soon as the problem was identified to ensure no other cages were without food. None without food were found. Other animal rooms assigned to this caretaker were checked and cages confirmed to be adequately provisioned with food and water. The staff was retrained the second day after the incident was discovered on applicable SOPs for daily husbandry and daily health observations. The caretaker assigned to the room was terminated.

The actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and 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: 2022.06.01 09:06:52
-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

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 19-22)

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 failure to provide adequate levels of food and water to research mice and to monitor those levels in accordance with ACUC approved animal program operational procedures.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the DVR ACUC Chairman on February 17, 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 10:42:18 -0400

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 mice which were found dead in cages without feed, was reported by the Facility Veterinarian to the ACUC Chair, AV, Facility Manager and COR for the contract staff on 2/17/22. The ACUC Chair subsequently informed OACU and set up a subcommittee to investigate.

On March 3-4, 2022, the subcommittee interviewed the Facility Veterinarian, Contract Program manager, Weekend Caretaker, and the Investigator working with these animals.

On February 16, 2022, an animal caretaker reported one dead mouse in a breeder cage. The investigator was notified by email. The investigator came to the facility to get more information about the cage where the mouse was found dead. During the visit they found another dead mouse in another one of their cages. It was noticed that the cages housing the dead mice did not have any food. The animals are presumed to have died as a result. On further evaluation it was discovered that these were breeder cages set up by the investigator on 2/7/2022 housing two animals each. The partners may have been cannibalized. The procedure in the Daily Care, Husbandry, and Handling SOP indicates that animal care staff is to check feed and water daily. In addition, health observations are to be performed on all animals by animal care staff in the morning and in the afternoon during weekdays, and once a day in the morning on weekends. The weekend caretaker indicated there were a couple cages low on feed over the weekend, and feed in these cages was refilled. However, these two cages where the mice were found dead, were missed during several cage observations done by the caretaker between 2/7 and 2/16. There also was no notification of low feed reported up so that management could notify the investigator. The investigator noted that consequences would have set the research back by months if they were not able to replace the breeders

Corrective Actions and Implementation Schedule:

All the cages in the room were inspected as soon as the problem was identified to ensure no other cages were without food. None without food were found. Other animal rooms assigned to this caretaker were checked and cages confirmed to be adequately provisioned with food and water. The staff was retrained the second day after the incident was discovered on applicable SOPs for daily husbandry and daily health observations. The caretaker assigned to the room was terminated. The staff have been retrained on how to communicate properly with our customers/PI's.

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 "conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals resulting in actual harm or death to animals". 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 11:26:43
-04'00'

Chair, ORS Animal Care and Use Committee

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 19-22))

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 3:27 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 19-22))

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 the failure to provide adequate levels of food and water to research mice and to monitor those levels in accordance with ACUC approved animal program operational procedures. The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the DVR ACUC Chairman on February 17, 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* |