



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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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: August 22, 2022

TO: Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

FROM: Director
Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigation (NICHD # 29-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 17H]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 10, 2022 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on July 12, 2022, the ACUC was notified that a dish of 30 zebrafish fry were discovered deceased in an incubator on July 1, 2022 (they were apparently not fed, nor did they receive water changes). One staff member assigned to the room was not trained to check incubators, and the other trained staff assigned to the room failed to check the incubators.

Corrective and preventive actions:

1. All staff with duties in procedure rooms have been re-trained on working with incubators and reminded to check incubators.
2. The room log has been updated to add incubator checks to one of the daily checks that must be signed-off on.
3. The aquatics facility is in the process of adapting the technical service request procedure. Until this is fully implemented, the facility manager will follow up on all requests to ensure that they are completed.
4. The committee recommends that the NICHD zebrafish facility should operate at a consistent and sustainable staffing level.

The actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and accepted by OLAW. OLAW agrees that appropriate staffing levels are necessary to properly care for research animals and guard their welfare. We find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Digitally signed by Brent C.

Morse -S

Date: 2022.08.22 12:13:37 -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. Dax Hoffman, Chair, NICHD ACUC



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

August 10, 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 (NICHD 29-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved a lapse in appropriate zebrafish husbandry.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the DVR ACUC Chairman on July 13, 2022.

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

Nina F.
Schor -S

Digitally signed by Nina F.
Schor -S
Date: 2022.08.10
12:37:35 -04'00'

Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Denny
Dr. Hoffman



Date: August 10, 2022

To: Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D., Deputy Director for Intramural Research

From: Dax Hoffman, Ph.D., Chair, NICHD Animal Care and Use Committee

Subject: Animal Incident Report: Zebrafish Fry

Hoffman, Dax (NIH/
NICHD) [E]
Digitally signed
by Hoffman, Dax
(NIH/NICHD) [E]
Date: 2022.08.10
09:47:15 -04'00'

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

Summary of incident:

On July 12, 2022, the attending veterinarian informed the ACUC chair that a dish of zebrafish fry (spawned 6/29) was requested by the PI via technical service request to be put "on the system" when 5-7 days old (which would have been 7/4-6). But they never were put on the system. Instead, they were discovered deceased on 7/11 (they were apparently not fed, nor did they receive water changes). Thirty fry in total were affected.

NICHD investigation and response:

The ACUC chair informed OACU via email of the incident on July 13, 2022. The investigative team was formed to include the ACUC chair and attending veterinarian.

SOP for the facility require that care staff check all fish once per day. One staff member assigned to the room was not trained to check incubators, and the other trained staff assigned to the room failed to check the incubators. Room logs were found completed but there is nothing in the logbook to check for incubators. So, there were two missed checks: 1. Whoever received the email for the technical service request did not arrange the transfer to the system; 2. The staff that checks the procedure room were either not trained to check the incubators or failed to check the incubators.

The full NICHD ACUC discussed the incident and investigation at their July 20, 2022, meeting. In addition, to the proposed corrective actions below, the committee recommends that the NICHD zebrafish facility should operate at a consistent and sustainable staffing level.

Corrective actions:

1. All staff with duties in procedure rooms are trained on working with incubators. All staff have been re-trained and reminded to check incubators.
2. The room log has been updated to add incubator checks to one of the daily checks that must be signed-off on.
3. The aquatics facility is in the process of adapting the technical service request procedure to a successful, standardized procedure already in use in NICHD rodent facilities. Until this is fully implemented, the facility manager will follow up on all requests to ensure that they are completed.

The IC ACUC feels these actions will prevent the occurrence of a similar incident in the future.

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:55 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NICHD 29-22))
Attachments: D16-00602 NIH IO Animal Incident Memo (NICHD 29-22).pdf; D16-00602 ACUC Animal Incident Report (NICHD 29-22).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) ACUC address an animal incident involving zebrafish. The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NICHD ACUC Chairman on July 13, 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** |

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NICHD 29-22))

Good afternoon Dr. Denny,

Thank you for sending us this report and we will send an official response soon.

Best,
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA
Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
301-435-2390

From: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E] <stephen.denny@nih.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:55 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NICHD 29-22))

Dear OLAW/DCO,

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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 |
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