



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: September 29, 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 (ORS-DVR #38-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 170]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 16, 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 after a caretaker mistakenly opened a divider panel latch between two cages, and removed the divider panel, giving the two rhesus macaques access to each other, the two animals fought immediately, resulting in injuries to both animals, which required veterinary intervention. One animal suffered multiple small lacerations requiring sutures, antibiotics and analgesics and recovered well. The second animal sustained severe injuries that required surgical repair and follow-up sedations and treatment by the veterinarian due to infections and complications.

Corrective and preventive actions: The staff directly involved in these events were immediately provided refresher trainings the same day of the incident. As of September 9, 2022, a refresher training had been completed with all staff about current practices in place to prevent unpaired NHP's from accidentally being placed together. Colored permanent markers will be used to mark the IDs on cages as an additional color deviation to help stand out: Black - normal cage writing and rations, Red - Red star (monitor appetite), Blue - Pair, Green- Separate to feed.

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 -S

Digitally signed by Brent C. Morse

Date: 2022.09.29 15:06:34 -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

September 16, 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 38-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH Office of Research Services Division of Veterinary Medicine (DVR) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved the inadvertent pairing of two non-compatible monkeys which contributed to their subsequent wounding of each other.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the DVR ACUC Chair on July 18, 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	Digitally signed by Nina F. Schor -S
-S	Date: 2022.09.16 17:44:32 -04'00'

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

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Denny
Dr. Smith



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

Date: July 14, 2022

Description: NHP Inadvertent pairing with fight injuries

Reported same day to ACUC and AV by the Facility Veterinarian.

Reported to OACU on July 18, 2022, by the ACUC Chair

An ACUC subcommittee investigated the incident through interviews with the Attending Veterinarian, Facility Veterinarian, Facility Manager, Contract Operations Manager, Caretaker involved, and the Principal Investigator for the applicable study protocol.

Findings: The two rhesus macaques involved in this incident are housed in an animal holding room that contains a mixture of singly housed and pair housed animals in rolling quad caging. "Pair" is written on the cages of paired animals to delineate those quads containing paired animals from those containing singly housed animals. Paired animals that should be separated for feedings also have "separate to feed" written on the cages. "Pair" and "separate to feed" designations are based on animal location charts for each room, which are prepared by facility veterinarians and behavior staff. For singly housed animals and for pairs that have orders to be separated for feeding, a divider panel is used to keep the animals separated. Singly housed animals are always kept apart through the addition of a padlock placed on the divider latch mechanism. On the day of this incident animals were jumped to new cages at which time one of the animal caretakers noticed that the latch to the divider to separate for feed was defective. After feeding, the 2 NHP's were jumped into a new quad cage with a functioning latch. A second animal caretaker in the room began the process of re-pairing those pairs of NHP's that had been separated for feeding. Upon arriving at the location where the damaged cage had been removed, the caretaker moved to the neighboring quad which contained singly housed animals and, although the cage did not indicate "pair" or "separate to feed", removed the padlock from the divider panel latch and removed the divider panel, giving the two animals access to each other. The two animals fought immediately, resulting in injuries to both animals, which required veterinary intervention. One animal



suffered multiple small lacerations requiring sutures, antibiotics and analgesics and recovered well. The second animal sustained severe injuries that required surgical repair and follow up sedations and treatment by the veterinarian due to infections and complications. The two animals are on a holding protocol and the PI does not anticipate that the injuries will have research/study implications.

The ORS ACUC reviewed this incident on August 16, 2022, at a convened full committee meeting. The committee concluded that this incident is reportable based on OLAW guidance for "Conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals, including natural disasters, accidents, and mechanical failures, resulting in actual harm or death to animals".

Corrective Actions and Implementation Schedule:

The staff directly involved in these events were immediately provided informal refresher trainings the same day of the incident. As of September 9, 2022, a refresher training had been completed with all staff about current practices in place to prevent unpaired NHP's from accidentally being placed together. The contract management also purchased colored permanent markers. They are going to begin marking the IDs on cages with colored permanent markers as an additional color deviation to help stand out: Black – normal cage writing and rations, Red – Red star (monitor appetite), Blue – Pair, Green – Separate to feed.

The ORS ACUC feels these actions will aid staff in preventing the occurrence of a similar incident in the future.

Sincerely,

Joanne M.
Smith -S

Digitally signed by Joanne
M. Smith -S
Date: 2022.09.15 08:13:50
-04'00'

Chair, ORS Animal Care and Use Committee

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:05 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 38-22))
Attachments: D16-00602 NIH IO Animal Incident Memo (DVR 38-22).pdf; D16-00602 ACUC Incident Report (DVR 38-22).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH Office of Research Services-Division of Veterinary Medicine ACUC address an animal incident involving the inadvertent pairing of two non-compatible monkeys which contributed to the subsequent wounding of each monkey. The incident was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NIA Animal Program Director on July 18, 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: Monday, September 19, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 38-22))

Good morning 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: Monday, September 19, 2022 8:05 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (DVR 38-22))

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH Office of Research Services-Division of Veterinary Medicine ACUC address an animal incident involving the inadvertent pairing of two non-compatible monkeys which contributed to the subsequent wounding of each monkey. The incident was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NIA Animal Program Director on July 18, 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** |