



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
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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: October 3, 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 (NINDS #42-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 17T]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 29, 2022 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two similar incidents regarding animal deaths due to lack of food. On June 6, 2022, the institute was notified of an incident in which a cage of four mice was found with no food in the hopper. Two mice had died, and two mice recovered with supportive care. While this incident was being investigated, another incident was reported in which a cage of three mice was found with no food in the hopper. All three mice had died. It was determined, that in both cases, a new cage was inadvertently set up without food late in the week, and in each case the oversight went undetected until the following Monday.

Caretaker Staff received retraining and staffing issues appear to have stabilized. Investigators were reminded to confirm the completeness of any new cage setups. No additional incidents have occurred.

The conclusions and actions by the NINDS ACUC are reasonable and accepted by OLAW. OLAW agrees that this incident was reportable. It is understood that no additional problems have occurred since the incident. OLAW views instances of lack of basic living requirements such as food, water, and a proper cage environment with great concern and reminds the IRP that, at a minimum, daily animal observation is a requirement of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. 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 -S

Date: 2022.10.03 16:23:52 -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. Marsha Merrill, Chair, NINDS ACUC



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

September 29, 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 (NINDS 42-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved a failure to prepare and monitor two mouse cages containing seven mice in accordance with facility SOPs. The failure contributed to the death of five mice.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NINDS Animal Program Director on June 6, 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: 2022.09.29 15:09:09 -04'00'
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Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D.

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Denny
Dr. Merrill



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Neurological
Disorders and Stroke**
Bldg. 35A, Convent Dr.
Bethesda, MD 20892

Date: Sept 23, 2022

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

From: Chair, NINDS/NIDCD/NCCIH ACUC

Subject: Animal Incident Report

In accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., the NINDS/NIDCD/NCCIH ACUC provides this report of two similar incidents that occurred involving the care and use of animals in biomedical research.

Summary of the Incidents:

On June 6, 2022, the APD notified me and OACU of an incident in which one cage of four mice was found with no food in the hopper. Two mice had died and two mice recovered with supportive care. This incident was initially reported to the ACUC at a convened meeting on June 9, 2022. Additional information was requested. On July 25, 2022 the APD notified me and OACU of another incident in which one cage of three mice was found with no food in the hopper. All three mice had died.

The Chair met with the Facility Manager and Facility Veterinarian to discuss the incidents. It was determined that in both cases a new cage was inadvertently set up without food late in the week, and in each case the oversight went undetected until the following Monday. In both cases, unforeseeable personnel issues, resulting in reduced staffing, were thought to be a contributing factor.

Both incidents were discussed at a convened ACUC meeting on August 11, 2022. The Committee concluded these were both reportable incidents involving a husbandry failure resulting in the death of five mice in total.

Corrective Actions:

Caretaker Staff received retraining and staffing issues appear to have stabilized. Investigators were reminded to confirm the completeness of any new cage setups. No additional incidents have occurred. The ACUC believes appropriate corrective actions have been taken.

(b) (6)

Marsha Merrill, Ph.D.

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:04 PM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NINDS 42-22)

Good afternoon Dr. Denny,

Thank you for sending us this report and we will send a 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: Thursday, September 29, 2022 4:17 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NINDS 42-22)

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) ACUC address an animal incident involving the failure to set-up and monitor two rodent cages in accordance with facility SOPs.

The incident was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NINDS Animal Program Director on June 6, 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* |