



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 20892-6910
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

September 18, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3141-01 [OLAW Case 3L]

Debra Thurley
Associate Vice President for Research,
Director of the Office for Research Protections
Pennsylvania State University – University Park
101 Technology Center, Innovation Park
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Ms. Thurley,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 5, 2023 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Pennsylvania State University. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this office understands that the Pennsylvania State University Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to the escape of an animal and unexpected mortality. The final report states the death of a red backed vole was reported by the Attending Veterinarian (AV). It is stated an animal caretaker was using a plastic stube for transfer between cages when the vole leapt from the tube and ultimately fell on the floor. A research lab member assisted the animal caretaker with recapturing the animal with a plastic cup. It is understood the animal was recaptured but died shortly afterwards in the cup.

Per the report, necropsy results were inconclusive, and the AV stated the caretaker is very skilled with extensive experience in handling this species. It is stated that escapes rarely happen but can occur on occasion. The IACUC reviewed the matter and determined the incident was reportable.

OLAW agrees that the incident is reportable to our office. Reporting of such incidents by the Pennsylvania State University is consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. It is noted that this research project is supported by PHS funding.

We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn T.
Tubbs-S

Digitally signed by Jacquelyn T.
Tubbs-S
Date: 2023.09.18 15:08:13 -04'00'

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM
Senior Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

(b) (6)



PennState

Debra Thurley
Associate Vice President for Research
Director of Research Protections
The Pennsylvania State University
101 Technology Center
University Park, PA 16802

(b) (6)
djd116@psu.edu
research.psu.edu/orp

A3141-3L

September 5, 2023

Dr. Brent Morse, DVM
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive
Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892-6910

Dear Dr. Morse:

The Pennsylvania State University, in accordance with Assurance A3141-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report regarding non-compliance with the PHS Policy. The activities were associated with a protocol that is supported by PHS funds (#R21AI151495). This incident was first reviewed by the IACUC on June 13, 2023.

On May 26, 2023, the Attending Veterinarian (AV) reported the death of a red backed vole. Per the report, one of the voles escaped during a cage change. The animal caretaker was using a plastic tube for transfer between cages when the vole leapt from the tube, over the secondary containment bin, and fell to the floor. A research lab member was present and assisted the caretaker with recapturing the vole with a plastic cup. However, the vole died shortly afterwards in the cup. Necropsy results were inconclusive. Through follow up clarification, the AV indicated this caretaker is very skilled and has extensive experience with handling this species; he also noted that escapes during handling are rare but can happen occasionally.

The IACUC further reviewed this incident and determined it to be a reportable event.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Debra Thurley, Institutional Official

cc: Dr. Gary L. Borkowski, AAALAC International Global Director

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 4:02 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: PSU Final Report 9.5.2023A

Good afternoon (b) (6)

Thank you for sending us this report, assigned OLAW case number A3141-3L, and we will send an official response soon.

Best,
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA ([pronunciation](#))
Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Phone: 301-435-2390
Email: devora.mccoy@nih.gov

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 3:17 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: AAALAC International <accredit@aaalac.org>; Thurley, Debra <djd116@psu.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PSU Final Report 9.5.2023A

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached final report. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

(b) (6)