



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) 402-7065

February 27, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3208-01 [OLAW Case 1M]

Daniel Sui, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research and Innovation  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and  
State University – Blacksburg  
800 Drillfield Drive,  
Burruss Hall, (b) (4)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Sui,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 22, 2023 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals At Virginia Tech,. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a bird was inadvertently left in a holding crate and died during the conduct of a sampling procedure in wild birds.

The corrective actions consisted of releasing the other captive birds into a primary enclosure and monitoring them. The capture and release procedures were revised to increase the number of facility health checks and monitoring and to document release of the birds. The protocol was revised and laboratory staff was trained on the changes. Investigators were reminded to contact the veterinary staff regarding any animal health concerns.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair  
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
VIRGINIA TECH

A3208-1M

Daniel Sui  
Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation  
Burruss Hall, (b) (4)  
800 Drillfield Drive  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
(b) (6)  
research.vt.edu

February 22, 2023

Brent Morse, DVM  
Director, Divisions of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Final report regarding adverse event at Virginia Tech [Assurance #A-3208-01]

Dear Dr. Morse:

Virginia Tech, in accordance with Assurance A-3208-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of an adverse event regarding an incident of the death of a bird on an IACUC approved protocol.

On November 7, 2022, the IACUC office received an adverse event report describing an incident that occurred during routine sampling procedures resulting in the death of one bird. The Post Approval Monitors and IACUC Chair met with the PI on December 13, 2022 to discuss and review the incident. One cohort of birds was placed in the designated holding crate upon completion of sampling procedures to await completion of husbandry procedures in the primary enclosure, per the approved protocol. However, the cohort was inadvertently not released as scheduled. The error was discovered the following day and one bird was found deceased. All birds were immediately released and monitored frequently for multiple days with no observable adverse effects. Applicable U.S Fish and Wildlife Service permits were up to date at the time of the event. The IACUC discussed the protocol at the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 convened meetings and approved the following corrective actions for implementation by the PI:

- Revision of capture and release procedures to include additional facility checks and monitoring of birds, with corresponding updates to datasheets to ensure documentation of the release of birds at the end of the sampling procedure. The IACUC protocol was amended to reflect these changes, and all study personnel were retrained on the updated procedures.
- The IACUC issued an educational reminder to communicate with veterinarians in a timely manner during instances where animal welfare may have been compromised, to allow for prompt veterinary assessment of surviving birds and recommendation for specific monitoring and/or treatment plans for the birds, if appropriate.

The funding source for these birds is via the NIH, NIGMS (Federal Award Number: R01GM144972A). Per PHS requirement, the PI has been informed that they must cooperate with their grant administrator to determine if any funding related actions must be taken.

Virginia Tech 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)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Dr. Daniel Sui  
Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation  
Institutional Official  
Virginia Tech

**McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 9:08 AM  
**To:** iacucpam  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Final Report on Adverse Event

Good morning (b) (6)

Thank you for sending us this report, assigned OLAW case number A3208-1M, 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](mailto:devora.mccoy@nih.gov)

**From:** iacucpam <iacucpam@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 8:06 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Final Report on Adverse Event

Hello Dr. Morse,

Please find the letter attached from our IO, which contains information regarding an adverse event including the IACUC's decision. Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,

(b) (6)