



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
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Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

February 25, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A4059-01 [OLAW Case O]

Ms. Heather Cosier
Associate Vice Provost for Research Compliance
Tufts University
136 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Cosier

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 12, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Tufts University- Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. According to the information provided, OLAW understands animal care staff failed to conduct daily health checks for twelve days and five *Peromyscus* mice died.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining all animal caretakers on the appropriate conduct of daily health checks and changing the daily workflow to ensure all animals are checked.

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 on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

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

A4059-0

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Tufts University & Tufts Medical Center

136 Harrison Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Phone: (617) 636-6599 Fax: (617) 636-8354

Dr. Axel Wolff

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

National Institutes of Health RKL1,

Suite 360-MSC 7982

6705 Rockledge Drive

Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

February 12, 2019

Dear Dr. Wolff:

We are writing to notify OLAW of the circumstances and actions taken with respect to the following issue of non-compliance, as required by the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (section IV.F.3) at The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University (Grafton Campus) Assurance Number is D16-00572 (A4059-01). The following issue of non-compliance was discovered as having occurred in the centralized animal facilities. It was not protocol non-compliance.

Regular daily health checks were not performed by members of the Laboratory Animal Medicine Service (LAMS) animal care staff on one cage of animals, as required, for approximately 12 days. As a result, a LAMS animal care technician found one cage with 5 dead *Peromyscus*/deer mice. The remaining animals in the cage were active and alert and appear well.

The LAMS Director responded that the animal technicians involved acknowledged their responsibility and were deeply distressed and truly remorseful. The entire LAMS staff has been retrained on the required steps to conduct a daily health check and workflow changes have been implemented to avoid a repeat occurrence.

At an IACUC meeting, this issue was voted to be significant and therefore reportable to OLAW. This letter provides the summary of the issue and resolution to OLAW as voted by the IACUC. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Heather J. Cosier, JD, MA

Associate Vice Provost for Research Compliance

Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Tufts University

75 Kneeland Street, (b) (4)

Boston, MA 02111

(b) (6)

Heather.cosier@tufts.edu

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 11:31 AM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Gipson-Cosier, Heather
Subject: RE: Report of a Noncompliance

Thank you for providing this report. We will send an official response soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 10:39 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Gipson-Cosier, Heather <Heather.Cosier@tufts.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: Report of a Noncompliance

Hello,

Please find attached a report of a noncompliance that the IACUC voted as significant.

Thank you,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

