



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

October 22, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3551-01 [OLAW Case 1B]

Dr., Michael F. Malone
Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
[REDACTED] Whitmore Admin. Building
181 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003

Dear Dr. Malone,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your October 15, 2018 letter reporting an adverse event affecting research mice at the University of Massachusetts- Amherst. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that eight mice drowned following a roof leak. The roof was under repair and some rainwater entered the animal room and flooded several cages.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of placing the surviving mice into dry cages. The roof repair was completed and no further problems have occurred.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct 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,

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

Office of
Research & Engagement

October 15, 2018

Dr. Brent Morse, D.V.M.
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Re: PHS Assurance # D16-00337

Dear Dr. Morse,

In compliance with PHS policy, I am writing to provide a report on an adverse event that occurred on Sunday, October 7, 2018. The event pertained to research funded by NIH award # 5R01 HD038082-16 and covered by IACUC approved protocol # 2016-0026.

A roof leak resulted in water getting into 17 mouse cages. Two cages had enough water that resulted in animals drowning. Three adult mice and five one-day old pups died in total. All animals in the other 15 cages that became wet were placed into dry cages and suffered no injury or illness.

The leak occurred during a repair to the roof. The repair was necessary as the room had a previously identified small leak. Contractors appropriately notified Animal Care Services and the researchers of the scheduled repair. The repair was started on a Saturday, and at the end of the day the roof was covered over with tarpaulins. It rained overnight unexpectedly and a small amount of water (estimated at less than 2 gallons) seeped in, around the tarps. Unfortunately, most of the water went into two cages directly under the leak, which occurred in a new location in the room, resulting in the loss of animals. The room currently holds about 200 cages of mice. No further leaking has occurred as the roof repair has been completed successfully. We are confident that this was an isolated and unforeseen accident that will not recur.

We look forward to your acknowledgment and will answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Michael F. Malone
Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement
Institutional Official

Cc: Jesse Mager, IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 2:39 PM
To: Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: PHS Assurance # D16-00337

Thank you Dr. Malone. Dr. Morse will respond soon.

Regards,
Joan

From: Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement <vcre@umass.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 2:07 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Jesse Mager <jmager@vasci.umass.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6) Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement <vcre@umass.edu>
Subject: PHS Assurance # D16-00337

Dear Dr. Morse,

Please find the attached letter reporting on an adverse event that occurred on Friday, October 7, 2018. We look forward to your acknowledgement and feel free to reach out to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Mike

Michael F. Malone
Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement
Ronnie & Eugene Isenberg Distinguished Professor of Engineering
University of Massachusetts Amherst

(b) (6) Assistant: (b) (6)