



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

December 17, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3431-01 [OLAW Case 8X]

Dr. Lisa Muto  
Executive Dean for Administration  
Harvard Medical School  
25 Shattuck Street, Gordon Hall – (b) (4)  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Dr. Muto,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 13, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Harvard Medical School. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a mouse died of dehydration due to a missing water bottle. The cage mate appeared unaffected. It is not clear why the water bottle was not on the cage.

The corrective actions consisted of the Principal Investigator counseling the laboratory staffer to ensure that when setting up new cages, all animals have food/water and are in good health. A new laboratory manager has been hired to assist with colony management.

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



# HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

A3431-8X

LISA M. MUTO, Ph.D.  
EXECUTIVE DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATION  
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
25 SHATTUCK STREET, SUITE 408  
BOSTON, MA 02115

December 13, 2019

Brent Morse, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

**FINAL REPORT**

RE: Non-Compliance Report: Assurance: **A3431-01**  
Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals (HMA IACUC)  
Species: mouse Grant: SDP1AT009497-04

Dear Dr. Morse,

This letter serves as a final report on a recent noncompliance that has not been preliminarily reported to OLAW by the Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals (HMA IACUC).

On November 6 2019, animal care staff found a dead mouse in a cage that had no water bottle. The other mouse in the cage did not suffer any apparent health affects as a result of this incident. The cage housing the mice appeared to have been recently set up, but it was not able to be determined how the water bottle came to be missing from the cage.

In response to this incident, the PI met with the lab member and went over the importance of double-checking cage set ups and the overall health conditions of mice. In addition, the PI has hired a new lab manager who will assist with colony management responsibilities going forward.

The Committee is satisfied with the corrective action mentioned above and considers this incident to be resolved. Please let us know if any additional information is required at this time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Lisa M. Muto, PhD  
Executive Dean for Administration  
HMA Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee: Institutional Official

CC: **Gerald B. Pier, PhD**  
Chairman, Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals

**Brian F. Corning, DVM, DACLAM**  
Director of the Harvard Center for Comparative Medicine, Harvard Medical School: Attending  
Veterinarian

**Arlene Santos-Diaz, MS**  
Director, Office of the IACUC, Harvard Medical School

(b) (6)



**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

---

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2019 1:13 PM  
**To:** HMS-IACUC  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Final Report

Thank you. We'll send a response soon.  
Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

**From:** HMS-IACUC <iacuc@hms.harvard.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2019 12:49 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Final Report