



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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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 13, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3245-01 (OLAW Case 3Q]

Dr. Melur K. Ramasubramanian
Vice President for Research
Professor, Mechanical Engineering
University of Virginia
Box 400301
Charlottesville VA 22904-4301

Dear Dr. Ramasubramanian,

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 the University of Virginia, following up on an initial report on January 14, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that three rats died due to lack of food. After the rat shipment arrived at the institution, three rats were placed into a new cage without food and the problem was not noticed during the daily health checks.

The corrective actions consisted of terminating the employment of the two animal caretakers involved. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee reviewed the training program for new caretakers and found it to be adequate.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the IACUC 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
Director, Office of Animal Welfare

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLIANCE REPORT

PHS Assurance # A3245-01

A preliminary email notification was sent to Dr. Brent Morse of OLAW by Angela Gamble, Director of the Office of Animal Welfare. It was understood that a full report would follow IACUC investigation. This document is a summary of the incident, actions taken, and final resolution.

UVA Compliance Case #: 2018-S

Nature of Incident(s):	Conditions that jeopardized the health or well-being of animals resulting in actual harm or death (rat)
Summary of Incident:	The Attending Veterinarian self-reported an animal welfare incident involving the death of three rats due negligence by two animal caretakers. The Attending Veterinarian performed a thorough investigation and described the incident in correspondence to the Office of Animal Welfare which was then relayed to the IACUC. Six juvenile animals were received from an outside vendor, unpacked, and housed together in the same cage. The facility assistant supervisor performed a performance check on the unpacking procedures of the caretaker and told the caretaker to separate the animals into two cages. Upon splitting the animals, the caretaker failed to provide food to the animals placed into the new (second) cage. The same caretaker performed subsequent daily checks for two days. A second caretaker checked the animals on the third day and also failed to notice that the cage lacked food. The three animals were found dead on the fourth day, and evidence found during necropsy concluded that starvation was the cause of death. The necropsy was performed by the Attending Veterinarian and the Clinical Veterinarian observed. The husbandry documentation indicated that the room had been checked as scheduled by both individuals. The employment of the two probationary employees was terminated.
Action taken by IACUC:	At the next convened meeting, the IACUC discussed the incident, the letter from the Attending Veterinarian, and determined that the incident was a significant deficiency due to the impact on animal welfare. The rats were purchased with grant funding; however, the IACUC found no fault with the PI with the grant funding. The Attending Veterinarian reiterated that monitoring animal health, providing food, and providing water are basic requirements for any caretaker and these concepts are discussed multiple times by various mechanisms throughout the training program and after new caretakers have completed the training program. The IACUC reviewed the training program for new caretakers and found

	the training, mentoring, and oversight provided to be adequate.
Action taken by PI:	The employment of the two probationary caretakers was terminated.
Action taken by IACUC:	The IACUC felt that the AV responded appropriately and no further action was deemed necessary.
Decision/Resolution:	The IACUC considered the incident resolved with no fault to the PI (grant holder).
Federal Funding:	1K23HL126101-01A1
Notification of Final Disposition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OLAW <input type="checkbox"/> AAALAC

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 3:13 PM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD); Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: (b) (6) Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: UVA OLAW 2018-S

Thank you for this report (b) (6) 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

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 3:00 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E] <wardjoa@od.nih.gov>
Subject: UVA OLAW 2018-S

Dr. Axel Wolff, Director of Compliance Oversight Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare National Institutes of Health RKL 1,
Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, MD

Dr. Wolff:

I attach a compliance report from our IACUC.

In this case, the IACUC has investigated thoroughly, taken appropriate action and the committee has determined that this matter has been resolved to their satisfaction.

I have reviewed the report and I concur with the committee response and final determination.

Best regards,
(b) (6)
For Dr. Melur Ramasubramanian

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 2:30 PM
To: Gamble, Angela Rinker (adr8s); OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: preliminary notification of 2018-S - UVA (Assurance A3245-01)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for submitting this preliminary report We will open a case file and await further information.

Best regards, Brent Morse

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

From: Gamble, Angela Rinker (adr8s) <adr8s@virginia.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 2:25 PM
To: Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) Gamble, Angela Rinker (adr8s) <adr8s@virginia.edu>
Subject: preliminary notification of 2018-S - UVA (Assurance A3245-01)

Dear Dr. Morse,

This is to provide preliminary notification that the University of Virginia IACUC (PHS Assurance #A3245-01) identified a significant deficiency as self-reported by the Attending Veterinarian. The deficiency involved a failure of the husbandry staff to provide adequate husbandry to three newly arrived rats thus resulting in animal death. The incident is under review by the IACUC, and we will be working with the husbandry staff towards resolution. We will send you a complete report once the incident has been resolved. The IACUC tracking number for this incident is 2018-S.

Should you have any questions or concerns prior to receiving our final report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
 Angela Gamble

Angela Gamble
 University of Virginia
 Director, Office of Animal Welfare
 Charlottesville, VA 22908
 (b) (6)