



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 25, 2019

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

Dr. Theresa S. Mayer
Vice President for Research
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University – Blacksburg
(b) (4) Burruss Hall, (Mail Code 0244)
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0244

Dear Dr. Mayer,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 30, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that mice undergoing euthanasia survived due to failure to ensure death.

The corrective actions consisted of stopping further euthanasia procedures until the Principal Investigator and technician were retrained on the appropriate conduct of euthanasia. The technician must work with another individual when performing euthanasia to ensure that the procedure is conducted correctly. The protocol was amended to clarify how death will be confirmed.

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 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



A3208-1E

Division of Scholarly Integrity and
Research Compliance
Institutional Animal Care and Use
Committee (IACUC)
North End Center
300 Turner St NW, Suite 4120
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
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Email: IACUCadmin@vt.edu
www.research.vt.edu/iacuc

January 30, 2019

Axel Wolff, 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 serious protocol noncompliance at Virginia Tech [Assurance #A-3208-01]

Dear Dr. Wolff:

Virginia Tech, in accordance with Assurance A-3208-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of serious noncompliance regarding an incident of improper euthanasia of mice on a protocol entitled "Neuronal mechanisms of emotional behaviors."

On September 9, 2018, the Office of the University Veterinarian (OUV) and IACUC office was notified that the PI's technician failed to ensure the death of animals after a euthanasia procedure. The IACUC discussed the incident at the December 17, 2018 convened meeting, approved corrective steps taken and requested additional corrective actions from the PI:

1. The OUV instructed the PI and PI technician to not perform any euthanasia until further euthanasia training by the OUV was completed. The PI and technician received re-training on September 11, 2018 by the OUV regarding euthanasia policies and procedures.
2. In a conversation with the IACUC Administrator and Post Approval Monitoring on November 1, 2018, the PI stated that moving forward, the person performing

euthanasia must verbally inform another lab member as a double-check to ensure mistakes will not happen regarding the euthanasia procedure.

3. Due to ambiguity in the initially approved protocol document, the PI is to submit an amendment by February 19, 2019 clarifying how personnel performing euthanasia will confirm that death has occurred. This amendment will be reviewed by the IACUC for approval via MRP and DMR following submission.

The funding source for the protocol is the National Institute of Mental Health (R21MH112093). Per PHS requirement the PI has been informed that he must work with his grant administrator to determine any funding related actions that 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)

(b) (6)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Dr. Theresa Mayer
Vice President for Research and Innovation
Institutional Official
Virginia Tech

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 10:01 AM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Final Reports

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for these reports (b) (6) We will send official responses soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 12:24 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Final Reports

To Whom It May Concern,

Attached, please find three final noncompliance reports.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call (b) (6)

Thanks,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)