



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

August 7, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3294-01 (OLAW Case 2H)

Dr. Jennifer Larsen  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
Louise and Morton Degen Professor  
of Internal Medicine  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
987878 University Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-7878

Dear Dr. Larsen,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 25, 2018 letter reporting an adverse event involving nonhuman primates at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that following a break of a weld on a cage door, two nonhuman primates escaped from the cage, fought with two other caged primates, and all four animals sustained injuries.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of returning the escaped primates to a cage and having the veterinary staff examine and treat the four animals, which subsequently recovered. All cages of the type involved will be sent to a welder for inspection and repair/reinforcement, animal care staff will inspect cage door pins, and all cages will be continually checked and repaired as needed.

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 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

John Bradfield, D.V.M., Ph.D., Director, Comparative Medicine  
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC

July 25, 2018

Axel V. Wolff, M.S., D.V.M., Director  
 Division of Compliance Oversight  
 Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)  
 National Institutes of Health  
 6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
 Bethesda, MD 20892

**RE: IACUC Case #2018-04**

Dear Dr. Wolff:

I am submitting this report in accordance with the requirements of the PHS Policy at IV.F.3. The IACUC has reviewed this adverse event described in this report and categorized it as serious and, therefore, reportable to OLAW.

1. **Animal Welfare Assurance Number:** A3294-01
2. **Grant or Contract Number:** NIH 5R01A113883-05
3. **Species:** Nonhuman primates
4. **Effects on Programmatic or Physical Areas:** NA
5. **Explanation of the Situation:**
  - a. Two socially housed Nonhuman Primates (NHPs) escaped from their cage due to a broken weld on the cage door. The two animals that escaped interacted with two other socially housed animals causing injuries to all four. The two escaped NHPs were immediately returned to their cage without incident by CM husbandry staff and CM veterinarians were notified.
  - b. The CM Veterinarians examined all NHPs in their cages and it was determined that the 2 escaped NHPs had injuries and the 2 NHPs housed above the escaped animals also had injuries. All 4 animals were sedated for examination. One animal needed treatment for minor injuries, and the other 3 animals required minor surgical repair. All 4 animals received injections of an antibiotic and NSAID for pain control and were monitored by veterinary staff until all wounds healed.
  - c. The Attending Veterinarian (AV) immediately instructed CM staff to remove the specific brand NHP cages as they come out of rotation (every two weeks), and be sent to a welder for inspection, repair and reinforcement. CM Husbandry staff were also instructed to visually check all pins on cages currently in use.
  - d. To date all injuries are healed and all 4 of the NHPs are active and healthy. In addition, approximately half of the cage doors have been reinforced by a welder and CM will continue sending them out for repairs until all cages of this specific brand have been reinforced. All caging for NHPs will continually be checked for repairs and fixed or replaced as necessary.

**6. Actions Taken by the IACUC:**

- a. Following review of this incident by the IACUC subcommittee (IS) they voted (4 in favor, 0 against, 3 abstentions) that this incident was an adverse event that impacted animal welfare and should therefore be reported. The subcommittee also determined that the corrective/preventative action plan was sufficient.
- b. On 7/24/2018 the IO accepted all recommendations of the IS as written.

**7. Implementation Schedule:**

- a. All corrective/preventative action has been initiated and will be completed by 9/1/2018.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

(b) (6)

Jennifer Larsen, MD  
Institutional Official,  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
Louise and Morton Degen Professor of Internal Medicine  
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email: [jlarsen@unmc.edu](mailto:jlarsen@unmc.edu)

cc: Robert G. Bennett, Ph.D., IACUC Executive Chair

(b) (6)

John F. Bradfield, D.V.M., Ph.D. Attending Veterinarian/Director Comparative Medicine

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2018 2:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** Larsen, Jennifer L; Bennett, Robert G; (b) (6) Bradfield, John F; IACUCORA, UNMC  
**Subject:** RE: Initial Report of Adverse Event UNMC/UNO IACUC Case #2018-04

Thank you for providing this report. I will forward it to Dr. Wolff. He 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)@unmc.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2018 2:34 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Larsen, Jennifer L <jlarsen@unmc.edu>; Bennett, Robert G <rgbennet@unmc.edu>; (b) (6)@unmc.edu>; Bradfield, John F <john.bradfield@unmc.edu>; IACUCORA, UNMC <IACUCORA@unmc.edu>  
**Subject:** Initial Report of Adverse Event UNMC/UNO IACUC Case #2018-04

June 26, 2018

Axel V. Wolff, M.S., D.V.M., Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

**RE: IACUC Case #2018-04**

(b) (6)