



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
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January 24, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3294-01 (OLAW Case 2C)
IACUC Case # 2016 - 09

Ernest D. Prentice, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor for
Academic Affairs & Regulatory Compliance
University of Nebraska Medical Center
987878 University Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-7878

Dear Dr. Prentice,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 19, 2017 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that three mice died from lack of food. No food was provided during a cage change and the problem was not noted during the daily health check for three days.

The corrective actions consisted of counseling the animal caretakers responsible as well as the rest of the animal care staff, having Comparative Medicine staff double check all rodent rooms to ensure the presence of food and water, and placing test cages randomly in animal rooms to ensure that staff is performing effective health checks.

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

Signature

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight

cc: IACUC Chair



NEBRASKA'S HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

January 19, 2017

Axel V. Wolff, M.S., D.V.M., 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

RE: IACUC Case #2016-09

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 incidence of the noncompliance 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:** NA
3. **Species:** Mice
4. **Effects on Programmatic or Physical Areas:** Yes
5. **Explanation of the Situation:**
 - a. During routine cage changes a Comparative Medicine (CM) Assistant Husbandry technician inadvertently did not place food in the new cage for 3 mice. Routine daily health checks by CM staff over the next 3 1/2 days failed to observe that the animals did not have food or that they appeared to be in distress. Two of the staff members were involved in a previously reported incident one year ago.
 - b. On Monday morning CM husbandry staff reported to the CM Facility Manager that the cage of 3 mice had been found dead and the cage was without food. In addition, research staff enquired about the cage of animals and contacted the CM Facility Manager immediately.
 - c. CM Facility Managers identified the technician who had changed the cages last, in addition to two other husbandry staff that had been responsible for animal health checks since the cages were last changed. The CM Facility Manager contacted PAL to report the incident and the Facility Manager discussed corrective action steps that would be taken by CM. PAL discussed the incident with research staff and assured him that there would be a full investigation and corrective/preventative action plan implemented for CM husbandry staff which will also be reviewed by the IACUC.
 - d. PAL met with the IACUC Executive Chair, CM Director/AV, and the Institutional Official IO to review the incident and the plan for corrective action. The IO felt that the plan was sufficient and that the incident was reportable.
 - e. PAL met again with the CM Director and the Assistant Director to discuss the final corrective/preventative action plan which included the following:

1. The CM Director/AV counseled each employee and documented their personnel file. *Completed*
2. All husbandry staff was reinstructed by the Facility Manager to thoroughly perform daily animal health checks. *Completed*
3. CM is currently performing rechecks of all rodent rooms immediately following cage changes to ensure food and water is present. This is being performed for all cages for one month and will be completed in February 2017. Additionally, this will be performed on all cages one time each quarter.
4. Random test cages are being placed in animal rooms within the facility to challenge the husbandry staff and ensure they are performing thorough animal health checks. This will be repeated monthly.

6. Actions Taken by the IACUC:

- a. Following review of this incident by the IACUC subcommittee (IS) the recommendation was that this incident did constitute reportable noncompliance, and animal welfare was jeopardized. The subcommittee also determined that the corrective/preventative action plan was sufficient.
- b. On January 6, 2017 the full IACUC voted to accept all recommendations of the IS as written.

7. Implementation Schedule:

- a. All corrective/preventative action has been implemented and some completed as indicated above.

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

Sincerely,

Signature

Ernest D. Prentice, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Regulatory Compliance

cc: William G. Chaney, Ph.D., IACUC Executive Chair
Robert S. Dixon, D.V.M., Director Comparative Medicine

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Secondary Individual
Subject: RE: Initial Report of Noncompliance UNMC/UNO IACUC Case #2016-09

Thank you for this report. We will respond soon.

Axel Wolff

From: Secondary Individual [mailto:Secondary Individual@unmc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2017 4:52 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Prentice, Ernest <edprenti@unmc.edu>; Chaney, William G <wchaney@unmc.edu>; IACUCORA, UNMC <IACUCORA@unmc.edu>; Dixon, Robert S <rsdixon@unmc.edu>
Subject: Initial Report of Noncompliance UNMC/UNO IACUC Case #2016-09

January 19, 2017

Axel V. Wolff, M.S., D.V.M., 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

RE: IACUC Case #2016-09

Secondary Individual

Protocol Assessment Liaison (PAL)
 Regulatory Affairs, IACUC

Phone: Phone Number

Cell: Phone Number

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