



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

January 15, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3485-01 [OLAW Case S]

Dr. Christopher J. Keane  
Vice President for Research  
Washington State University  
P.O. Box 646525  
Pullman, Washington 99164

Dear Dr. Keane,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 10, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Washington State University, following up on an initial telephone report on December 10, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two mice died from lack of air supply caused by an improperly docked cage on a biocontainment rack. The cage had been inadvertently placed backwards, preventing ventilation.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of positioning the cage correctly which allowed the surviving mice in the cage to fully recover. The laboratory staff was counseled and retrained and the cages were labeled to ensure correct placement. A different type of containment system is also being evaluated.

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

January 10, 2019

Neera Gopee, Ph.D., D.V.M.  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Gopee,

Washington State University, in accordance with Assurance A3485-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3 is reporting an animal welfare incident regarding the mortality of 2 mice due to improper placement of the cage on a biocontainment rack.

On November 29, 2018, 2 mice were found deceased in a cage on a biocontainment ventilated rack. The cage was accidentally placed backwards the previous night preventing air from entering the cage and the lack of ventilation was the likely cause of mortality. The remaining mice in the cage were lethargic but fully recovered after the cage was repositioned.

To minimize the chance of reoccurrence, the laboratory personnel were counseled and re-trained to assure the proper placement of the cages. The facility also labeled the cages to better identify improper placement. The IACUC and AV are also looking into possible alternatives to this rack system that will allow the containment needed for the research but facilitate correct positioning on the rack to further reduce the potential for re-occurrence.

WSU is committed to animal welfare and compliance with federal policies concerning animal use in research. Should you have any questions, please contact (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Christopher Keane  
Vice President for Research

cc: Phyllis Erdman, Chair, IACUC  
Nina Woodford, Attending Veterinarian, Office of the Campus Veterinarian  
(b) (6)

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 1:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Incident report A3485-01

Thanks (b) (6) We'll send a response soon.  
Axel Wolff

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 12:21 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E] <neera.gopee@nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Incident report A3485-01

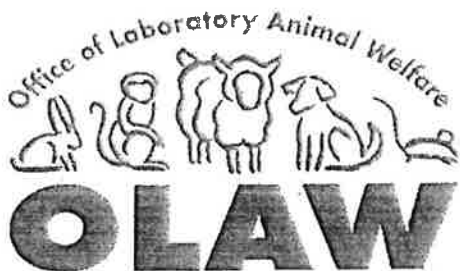
Dr. Gopee,

Please find the attached report from Washington State University, assurance number A3485-01 regarding an incident we discussed over the phone last month. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: Neera Gojee

Date: 12-10-18

Time: 11:32am

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Washington State UniversityAssurance number: A3485-01Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

2 mice died when cage was inadvertently placed within  
biocontainment rack the wrong way.

Species involved:

Personnel involved: Research personnel

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # \_\_\_\_\_