



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 7, 2019

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

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

Dear Dr. Keane,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 4, 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 January 30, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two mice died after research staff failed to change a static micro-isolator cage for 18 days.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of moving the surviving mice in the same cage to a clean one. The corrective actions consisted of counseling the laboratory staff to always use a clean cage when starting the study activities and to notify animal care staff when cages can be changed. The number of male mice in the cages will be reduced to reduce ammonia buildup.

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

February 4, 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 provides this report of an animal welfare incident regarding the mortality of 2 mice.

On November 25, 2018, 2 mice were found deceased in a cage and a strong smell of ammonia was noted by the animal care staff. The mice had been moved from a ventilated cage system to a static micro-isolator cage and put on a reverse light cycle as required by the study. The animals were not moved into a clean cage prior to putting them in the light chamber so missed the routine cage change and went 18 days in-between a cage change. The two deceased mice were not available for necropsy so a cause for the mortality was not established. The remaining three mice did not display any clinical symptoms and were moved to a clean cage without further issues.

The laboratory staff has been reminded to always place animals in a clean cage prior to starting the modified light cycle and to notify the animal care staff when the light cycle is being changed so they can ensure cage changes are scheduled during the light period. In addition, the research staff will also reduce the number of males in the cage to minimize the buildup of ammonia and prevent similar incidents.

Washington State University is committed to animal welfare and compliance with federal policies concerning animal use in research. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact (b) (6) or (b) (6)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Dr. Christopher Keane  
Vice President for Research

cc: P. Erdman, Chair-IACUC  
N. Woodford, Attending Veterinarian, Office of the Campus Veterinarian  
(b) (6)

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2019 1:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD); Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: Incident report A3485-01

Hello (b) (6)

Thank you for providing this final report. 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

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2019 11:15 AM  
**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

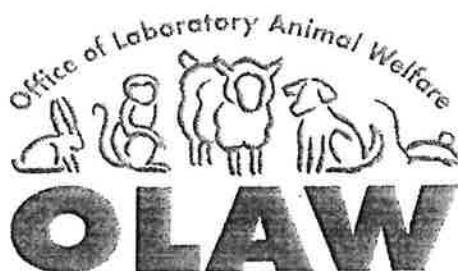
Dear Dr. Gopee,

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)





## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: Neera Gogee

Date: 1-30-19

Time: 1:45 pm

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 after research personnel failed to  
change static cage in 18 days

Species involved: mice

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

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

↓ cage population, remind research personnel  
to perform cage change

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

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