



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive B 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
Fax: (301) 402-7065

February 7, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3668-01 [OLAW Case 1R]

Dr. James P. Thompson
Dean and Institutional Official for Animal Care
The University of Tennessee
2407 River Drive, (b) (4) Teaching Hospital
Knoxville, TN 37996-4550

Dear Dr. Thompson,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 5, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Tennessee- Knoxville, following up on an initial report on January 9, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that chickens were euthanized in a euthanasia chamber in which the CO2 flow rate was higher than described in the standard operating procedure and a secondary method to confirm death was not used. Approximately 130 chickens were euthanized by this unapproved method but none recovered following the procedure. It was also determined that chickens on teaching protocols were not being accurately tracked.

The corrective actions consisted of suspending the animal use privileges of the individual responsible for one month and prohibiting the person from conducting euthanasia on any species. Institutional measures were taken to improve animal number tracking and to have Principal Investigators/designees closely involved with animal euthanasia.

OLAW understands that the protocol involved was not PHS-supported but concurs that the incident was serious and supports the actions taken by the institution. The establishment and application of policies and practices that are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy at the University of Tennessee are commendable and avoid the perception of a double standard. Thank you for keeping OLAW apprised on this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair

A3668



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Animal Welfare Assurance # D1600397

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKLI, Suite 1050, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982
Facsimile (301) 451-5672

Dear Dr. Morse:

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Animal Care & Use Program experienced an animal welfare issue related to inappropriate poultry euthanasia. This event was initially reported via email on January 9, 2019, by our University Attending Veterinarian, Dr. Lori Cole, and receipt confirmed January 9, 2019. This is the follow-up report and actions taken by our institution.

On November 12, 2018, the IACUC Office received a whistleblower report of animal welfare concern regarding treatment of chickens undergoing euthanasia. During the investigation of this incident, a second incident of non-compliance with poultry euthanasia was discovered. The IACUC standard operating procedure (SOP) for CO₂ euthanasia of poultry clearly defines a CO₂ flow rate based on the euthanasia chamber volume. The SOP also specifies confirming death as part of the process with various acceptable methods defined to accomplish this requirement. The staff member performing the euthanasia on the two occasions neglected to follow the SOP. In these two incidents the CO₂ flow rate was higher than specified and death confirmation was not performed; fortunately, there were no reports of chickens recovering in the necropsy cooler. Another item not included in the whistleblower report, but discovered during the investigation, was inaccurate tracking of chickens on departmental teaching protocols.

The IACUC voted unanimously on corrective action at its December 4, 2018 meeting. The staff member was banned from handling live animals for 30 days and permanently banned from conducting the euthanasia of any species. The Animal Science Department is working closely with the animal facility management to improve methods of animal number tracking and to have principal investigators or their designee directly involved with the euthanasia of their animals.

Please feel free to contact (b) (6) [redacted]
should you wish additional information regarding any aspect of this incident or its subsequent resolution.

Sincerely yours, (b) (6)

(b) (6) [redacted]

James P. Thompson, DVM, PhD
IO, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

cc: Dr. Melinda Hauser, IACUC Chair
Dr. Lori Cole, University Attending Veterinarian
(b) (6) [redacted]
Dr. Bobby Simpson, ETREC Director
(b) (6) [redacted]

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
336 Ellington Plant Sciences / Knoxville, TN 37996-4564
86 59743631 865-974-5587 fax iacuc@itk.edu

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Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 9:36 AM
To: Thompson, Jim (Jim); OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Hauser, Melinda R; Cole, Lori Scheyd; (b) (6) Simpson, Bobby; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: University of Tennessee, Knoxville (D16-00397) - Final Report, Animal Welfare Concern

Thank you for providing this final report Dr. Thompson. 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: Thompson, Jim (Jim) [mailto:jthomp70@utk.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 8:48 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Hauser, Melinda R <mhauser@utk.edu>; Cole, Lori Scheyd <cole21@utk.edu>; (b) (6)
Simpson, Bobby <rsimpso4@utk.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: University of Tennessee, Knoxville (D16-00397) - Final Report, Animal Welfare Concern

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Animal Welfare Assurance # D16-00397

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL1, Suite 1050, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982
Facsimile (301) 451-5672

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Please feel free to contact (b) (6) should you wish additional information regarding any aspect of this incident or its subsequent resolution.

Sincerely yours,

James P. Thompson, DVM, PhD
IO, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

cc: Dr. Melinda Hauser, IACUC Chair
Dr. Lori Cole, University Attending Veterinarian
(b) (6)

Dr. Bobby Simpson, ETREC Director
(b) (6)

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 12:00 PM
To: Cole, Lori Scheyd; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Report of Non-compliance

Thank you for this preliminary report Dr. Cole. We will open a case file and await the final report as noted in your email.

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: Cole, Lori Scheyd [mailto:lc0121@utk.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 11:46 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Report of Non-compliance

Good morning,

I am the Attending Veterinarian at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). Our Assurance is D16-00397. The activity in question was not associated with external funding. The incident involved animals in a teaching lab for a poultry science course.

On November 12, 2018, a Whistleblower Report of inappropriate chicken euthanasia was submitted to the UTK IACUC office. An information gathering session to find out more about which protocol the chickens were on and personnel associated with the event was conducted by the Compliance Coordinator. This interaction with the facility staff revealed the report was accurate. In addition to the Whistleblower's account, the inappropriate euthanasia was performed on a second day that week by the same person.

A lab animal facility staff member was asked to euthanize eleven (11) chickens for a laboratory where carcasses were required. The flow rate setting for the chicken euthanasia chamber was not utilized in order to conduct the process at a faster time frame than would occur with the regulated flow rate. A secondary method to confirm euthanasia was not performed. Later in the week, all remaining animals no longer needed for any classes (live animal or carcasses) were euthanized also without a regulated flow rate or with a secondary method of confirmation. While the exact numbers were not available, the numbers were ~ one hundred thirty (130).

The IACUC has discussed this at the last two monthly meetings. Corrective measures are being addressed by both the Department Head of Animal Science and the Director of the lab animal facility housing the animals. The Institutional Official will submit the final report in the next four weeks..

Please let me know if you have questions related this prior to the final repon.

Regards,

Lori



Lori S. Cole, DVM

Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Care

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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<https://vetmed.tennessee.edu/olac/>

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