



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 6, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3290-01 (OLAW Case 1T)

Dr. Todd Evans
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Cornell Medical College
1300 York Avenue, LC710
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Evans,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 24, 2019 letter reporting two instances of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Weill Cornell Medical College. According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following about the incidents and the corresponding corrective actions:

- 1) One mouse died and three were hunched due to lack of food. It could not be determined who was responsible but the animal care staff is tasked with conducting daily health checks.

Corrective action: The animal care staff was retrained and the laboratory staff was counseled to ensure that all animals have food and water.

- 2) Five live weanling mice were found in a flexible film isolator after unsuccessful euthanasia by cervical dislocation.

Corrective action: The mice were appropriately euthanized. The Principal Investigator was notified, the individual responsible was directed not to perform cervical dislocation until retrained and only as per protocol, and the laboratory staff was counseled on the requirement for following the protocol.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of these problems. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



Weill Cornell Medicine

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
1300 York Avenue, Box 5
New York, NY 10065

Telephone: 646-962-2981/2
Email: iacucadmin@med.cornell.edu

445 East 69th Street, Olin Hall Rm-423
New York, NY 10065

January 24, 2019

Brent Morse, DVM
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: Assurance # D16-00186

Dear Dr. Morse:

We are writing to report incidents of non-compliance that occurred within the animal care and use program at Weill Cornell Medicine. The incidents were presented to and discussed by the IACUC during the months of November and December. The incidents and resolutions are as follows:

1. A cage of four mice was found without food. One mouse was dead, and the others hunched. The root cause could not be identified. As the animal care staff assumes the primary responsibility for ensuring that all cages have food and water, the responsible staff received corrective action and were retrained. The IACUC sent correspondence to the PI requesting that he address with his laboratory members their shared responsibility of assuring that cages have food and water and remind them that they should be observing their animals regularly.
2. Five weanling axenic mice were found alive within a flexible film isolator following failed cervical dislocation (CD) euthanasia by the Animal User (AU). The veterinary technical staff immediately euthanized the mice when found. The protocol is approved for CD but only in pregnant dams prior to Cesarean Section. The incident occurred in a WCM facility, but the PI is an MSK investigator and the protocol was approved by the MSK IACUC. The PI was informed of the incident and was told that the AU cannot perform CD on any animals until he is retrained and only as indicated in the protocol. The PI was also required to address this incident with other laboratory members emphasizing the importance of adhering to their approved protocol.

We believe that these issues have been adequately addressed and that the procedures implemented should prevent recurrence. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [REDACTED] or the IACUC Chairman, Dr. Andrew Nicholson, at [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

Todd R. Evans, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Cornell Medicine

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 3:43 PM
To: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Andrew C. Nicholson; Todd R. Evans
Subject: RE: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)

Thank you for providing this report (b) (6) 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: Thursday, January 31, 2019 2:52 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Andrew C. Nicholson <nicholso@med.cornell.edu>; Todd R. Evans <tre2003@med.cornell.edu>
Subject: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)
Importance: High

Dear OLAW:

Please find a WCM IACUC incident report attached and let me know if any further clarifications are required.

Best regards,

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(b) (6)

