



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  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

February 10, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3722-01 [OLAW Case U]

Dr. Kenneth W. Sewell  
Vice President for Research  
Oklahoma State University  
203 Whitehurst  
Stillwater, OK 74078-1020

Dear Dr. Sewell,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 5, 2017 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Oklahoma State University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that fish were being euthanized by a method not described on the approved protocol. However, the method used was acceptable and humane.

The corrective action consisted of counseling the investigator who stopped using the unapproved method. A protocol amendment to change the euthanasia method was submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for review and approval.

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 IACUC to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

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

cc: IACUC Chair



**Vice President for Research**  
Oklahoma State University  
203 Whitehurst Hall  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-1020  
(405) 744-6501  
[www.research.okstate.edu](http://www.research.okstate.edu)

January 5th, 2017

Axel Wolff, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Reference: Animal Welfare Assurance D16-00425 / A-3722-01

Dear Dr. Wolff:

I am writing to report an incident brought to the attention of our IACUC in December, 2016 by Dr. Ronald Van Den Bussche, Chair of the Oklahoma State University (OSU) IACUC. The incident consisted of the euthanasia of fish with a method not approved on the protocol, AS-10-15 "Replicated Ecological Speciation in Extreme Habitats: Patterns, Mechanisms, and Consequences of Multi-Trait Divergence." The incident was discovered on a Post Approval Monitoring visit, and the investigator immediately stopped using the euthanasia method. While the method is an acceptable technique as described by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Panel on Euthanasia, the Investigator did not realize the method had not been approved in the protocol. The Investigator was receptive to the corrective education provided.

The OSU IACUC discussed this incident at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 12, 2016, and concluded that while the euthanasia method was not approved on the protocol, the fish had been euthanized humanely. The Investigator also stopped the unapproved technique until a protocol modification to cover the euthanasia method was approved. In light of this, and the fact that corrective education had already been provided and accepted by the Investigator, the IACUC determined that no further action be required.

We continually strive to operate a quality animal care and use program at OSU. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Sewell', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kenneth W. Sewell, Ph.D.  
Institutional Official  
Vice President for Research

cc: Ronald Van Den Bussche, Ph.D., IACUC Chair  
Todd A. Jackson, D.V.M., DACLAM, Director of Animal Resources & OSU  
Attending Veterinarian  
Secondary Individual, CPIA, IACUC Manager

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2017 7:25 AM  
**To:** 'IACUC'  
**Subject:** RE: Non-Compliance Report: OSU

Thank you for this letter, [redacted] We will respond soon.

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

**From:** IACUC [mailto:iacuc@okstate.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Non-Compliance Report: OSU

Good Afternoon,

Please find a non-compliance report from Oklahoma State University. If there are any questions for clarifications needed, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

[redacted]  
Secondary Individual

IACUC Manager  
University Research Compliance (URC)  
[redacted] Scott Hall  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078-1038  
[redacted] Office  
[redacted] Phone Number [redacted] Fax