



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

March 19, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3021-01 [OLAW Case 3M]

Ms. Jennifer Lassner  
Senior Assistant VP for Research  
The University of Iowa  
2660 University Capitol Centre  
Iowa City, IA 52242

Dear Ms. Lassner,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 13, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Iowa. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that mice housed in a biocontainment room were not checked by a laboratory member for two days. This is noncompliant with the protocol and the animal care program. No adverse events were reported with the mice due to the missed health check.

The corrective action consisted of retraining the laboratory member, counseling the Principal Investigator, amending the protocols, having the laboratory staff review the content of the protocols, counseling staff to follow the protocol as approved, discussing animal issues at laboratory meetings, and informing the laboratory about the availability of veterinary care and contact information. The cage cards have been updated with contact information for laboratory staff, back up plans have been established when staff is unavailable, and the laboratory staff has read the OLAW reporting requirements.

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

(b) (6)



**Office of the Vice President  
for Research**

2660 University Capitol Centre  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-3500  
319-335-2119

March 13, 2019

Axel V. Wolff, MS, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive  
Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

This letter is to report an incident involving mice. The University of Iowa PHS Assurance Number is D16-00009 (A3021-01). The grant number affected is A1129269.

February 4, 2019: A lab member did not provide daily welfare checks on mice housed within a biocontainment animal housing room for two days in accordance with the Animal Protocol (for ten experimental animals) and the program of animal care (for five non-experimental animals). There were no animal welfare concerns attributed to this event.

The IACUC was promptly notified of the incident.

The IACUC Training and Compliance Manager contacted the PI and subsequently met with him and the lab member. Retraining was provided.

February 13, 2019: The IACUC discussed the incident at a convened meeting of the quorum and voted to report to NIH. Additionally, the Committee deliberated on the lab's recent non-compliances and required their attendance at the March IACUC meeting.

March 12, 2019: The PI's Departmental Executive Officer, Associate Dean for Research, Attending Veterinarian, IACUC Chair, the Institutional Official, and the Director of the IACUC Office met with the PI to discuss remediation plans.

March 13, 2019: The PI attended the IACUC meeting. The PI's remediation plans to bring and keep the lab in compliance includes:

- Amending the appropriate Animal Protocols (APs) to bring consistency in the language regarding standard models used in the lab
- All members reviewing the APs, including emphasis on following protocols precisely and consulting with the PI, or lab manager if PI unavailable, with any questions or concerns.
- Animal-related issues are addressed promptly and additionally discussed at weekly laboratory meetings so all lab members are informed.
- Lab members were reminded that OAR veterinary staff are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with the location of the emergency contact information posted within the facility and on the internal website.

- Cage card contact updated with emergency/after-hours information to ensure availability of a lab member at any time. If lab member is unresponsive to veterinary staff direction, (b) (6) will assign an alternative lab member or perform the necessary animal health follow-up/evaluation directly.
- All members have read the OLAW requirements for mandatory reporting.

While the remediation steps are in place, any further animal protocol non-compliances by the lab that impacts or has the potential to impact animal welfare (as determined by the IACUC) may result in further actions.

If you have any questions pertaining to this report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jennifer Lassner  
Institutional Official  
Senior Assistant Vice President for Research

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 11:45 AM  
**To:** IACUC  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Report of non-compliance incident

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will respond soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

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**From:** IACUC <iacuc@uiowa.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 9:10 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** accredit@aaalac.org  
**Subject:** Report of non-compliance incident

Please see attached a report of non-compliance at the University of Iowa.

Thank you,

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(b) (6)