



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

October 1, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3180-01 (OLAW Case 5C)

Dr. Todd Sherer  
Interim Vice President for Research Administration  
Emory University  
1599 Clifton Road NE – 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Atlanta, GA 30322

Dear Dr. Sherer,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated September 23, 2019 regarding a reportable incident at your institution. This is a final report that was preceded by a preliminary report to this office on May 28, 2019.

According to the information provided, our office understands that on January 15, 2019 a cage of mice was found with 12 dead animals. The laboratory responsible for the care of the mice stated that the animals were incorrectly sexed, and the cage was incorrectly labeled as housing rather than breeding. To correct the issue, the colony manager for the lab was retrained on weaning of animals, and the lab will mark all breeding cages for the associated protocol with extended breeding signs and delayed weaning stickers.

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee reviewed the corrective measures and considers them appropriate.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been taken to prevent recurrence of this problem. The institution may also wish to consider retraining on mouse sex determination and enhanced post approval monitoring. Please be advised that OLAW recommends prompt preliminary reporting of noncompliance issues with submission of a final report once corrective action has been taken. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by your institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We appreciate having been informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office at this time.

Sincerely,  
(b) (6)

Nicolette Petervary, VMD, DACAW  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

September 25, 2019

Brent Morse DVM  
Acting Director, Division of Compliance  
Oversight Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982  
Re: Emory University, Animal Welfare Assurance #A3180-01

Dear Dr. Morse,

The Emory University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), through the Institutional Official, is reporting the results of an event as required by section IV, F, 3a of the *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (PHS Policy). A preliminary report was provided via email to Axel Wolfe on May 28, 2019. This is the final report regarding an occurrence of incorrect sexing of animals which resulted in the death of 12 mice. The associated NIH-funded grant is NIH 1R01 HL138423-01.

**Situation and Assessment**

On January 15, 2019, a cage of 12 mice were found dead at an Emory University's DAR housing facility. The lab responsible for the cages of mice stated that the animals were mistakenly sexed incorrectly. The cage was marked as housing and not as a breeding cage.

**The corrective actions to prevent recurrences are detailed as follows:**

1. The lab's colony manager was re-trained on weaning training.
2. The lab will mark all breeding cages for the associated protocol with extended breeding signs and delayed weaning stickers.

The IACUC believes its investigation of this incident was thorough and the corrective actions appropriate to prevent a similar occurrence. If you have questions regarding this incident, please contact me or Dr. David Martin, Director, IACUC Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Todd Sherer, PhD  
Interim Vice President for Research Administration  
Emory University

Cc: Sam Speck, IACUC Chair; AAALAC

The IACUC believes its investigation of this incident was thorough and the corrective actions appropriate to prevent a similar occurrence. If you have questions regarding this incident, please contact me or Dr. David Martin, Director, IACUC Office.

Sincerely,  
Todd Sherer, PhD  
Interim Vice President for Research Administration  
Emory University

Cc: Sam Speck, IACUC Chair; AAALAC

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2019 11:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Final Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

Thank you for these reports. We will send responses shortly.

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

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2019 11:06 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Final Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept these final reports of rodent health and welfare concerns at Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01). If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Best,  
(b) (6)



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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019 6:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

Thank you for this preliminary report. We will start a new case file.  
 Axel Wolff

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 1:20 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Martin, W David <dwmarti@emory.edu>  
**Subject:** Preliminary Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this preliminary notification of a rodent health and welfare concerns at Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01). An incident occurred where a cage of mice were found dead due to incorrect sexing of the animals. The grant associated with this protocol is NIH 1 R01 HL138423-01. This investigation is ongoing and corrective actions are still being completed. A final report will be upcoming.

W. David Martin PhD, CPIA  
 Director, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)  
 Phone: (b) (6)  
 Email: [dwmarti@emory.edu](mailto:dwmarti@emory.edu)  
 Internet: <http://www.iacuc.emory.edu/>

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