



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

November 22, 2019

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

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 November 21, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Emory University, following up on an initial report on July 23, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that several mouse pups were inappropriately euthanized using a microisolator lid. Several mice were found to be still alive in a carcass bag.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of appropriately euthanizing the pups. The corrective actions consisted of retraining the responsible laboratory member on euthanasia techniques, having the Principal Investigator review the content of all protocols with the laboratory staff, and noting the incident in the laboratory member's personnel file.

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.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Contact



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

November 21, 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 your office on July 23, 2019. This is the final report regarding improper euthanasia of mice. The associated NIH-funded grant is IK08HL136873-01.

**Situation and Assessment**

On July 18, 2019 an incident occurred where a lab member incorrectly euthanized a cage of mice pups with a microisolator lid. Some of the mice pups were found later moving around in a carcass bag. The pups were then appropriately euthanized.

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

1. The lab member has retaken EU DAR euthanasia training.
2. The PI re-reviewed all protocols with the lab personnel.
3. This incident has been documented in the personnel's HR file.

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: Jeff Boatright, IACUC Chair; AAALAC

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:33 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Final Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

Thank you. We will send a response soon.  
Axel Wolff

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:04 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 this final report of improper euthanasia 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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**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 3:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** Martin, W David  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

Thank you for providing this preliminary report. We will open a case file and await further information.

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:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 1:29 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Martin, W David <dwmarti@emory.edu>; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this preliminary notification of a rodent health and welfare concern at Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01). An incident occurred where a lab's personnel did not euthanize animals properly according to standard protocol and best practice. The NIH grant associated with this protocol is 1K08HL136873-01. 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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