



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 17, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A4100-01 (OLAW Case 2A)

Dr. Paul R. Sanberg  
Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of South Florida - Tampa  
3702 Spectrum Blvd., [REDACTED]  
Tampa, FL 33612-9444

Dear Dr. Sanberg,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your October 22, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of South Florida, following up on an initial telephone report on August 27, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that seven tanks of beta fish were identified in a laboratory. The animals had been purchased from a pet store, in violation of institutional policy, and there was no approval from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for a study using the fish, no certification of the staff, and no approval for use of a satellite facility. The veterinarian did not identify any animal welfare concerns.

The corrective action consisted of the veterinarian directing the investigator to stop all animal activities and indicating that IACUC approval must be obtained before housing or using live vertebrate animals and that users must be approved on the protocol. The investigator was further counseled on how to obtain IACUC approval, how to correctly obtain animals, how to maintain daily records on animals and the environment and was provided information on satellite housing. IACUC personnel certification was completed, a protocol was submitted and approved by the IACUC, and the satellite facility was approved by the IACUC. All institutional staff was reminded about the requirement for prior IACUC approval of all animal activities and that animals are only to be procured through Comparative Medicine.

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,

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



October 22, 2018

Brent Morse, DVM, Acting Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Dr.  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse:

The University of South Florida (USF) in accordance with Assurance D16-00589 and PHS Policy IV.F.3, provides this report of an event originally reported by telephone to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) on August 27, 2018.

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, staff of USF Environmental Health & Safety reported observing fish in the basic laboratory [REDACTED] of the Byrd Alzheimer's (ALZ) building.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> a veterinarian visited ALZ laboratory [REDACTED] (b) (4) which was under the direction of a new faculty member, recently recruited from the University of Texas-Galveston. In ALZ laboratory [REDACTED] (b) (4) were seven (7) approximately 1.5 liter tanks, each containing a single *Betta splendens* (beta fish) of either sex, each separated by cardboard dividers. Evidence nearby suggested water quality was being ensured and feed offered. The veterinarian confirmed the absence of any animal welfare concerns. All supplies and fish were procured from retail pet stores, which is outside of established university processes prohibiting the procurement of animals using personal funds.

The new faculty member described that his principle research interests involve *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit flies) and the genetics of neural development and disease. He explained that the fish were involved in a continuation of an interest initiated in Texas, now offered to and accepted by a USF Masters degree candidate as a student honors thesis, regarding self-recognition.

The veterinarian (1) instructed the faculty member to cease all animal use activities, (2) reminded him of the requirements of securing IACUC personnel certification and protocol approval prior to housing or using vertebrate animals in research or teaching, (3) guided him to established processes for requesting IACUC approval of animal use, (4) reminded him that animals must be procured via Comparative Medicine, (5) provided him with appropriate recordkeeping forms for logging daily oversight of animal and environmental conditions (e.g., animal health, feeding, water quality) in accordance with SOP 006

USF RESEARCH & INNOVATION, RESEARCH INTEGRITY & COMPLIANCE  
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE  
PHS No. D-16-00589 (A4100-01), AAALAC 000434, USDA No. 58-R-0015  
University of South Florida • 3702 Spectrum Blvd., Suite 165 • Tampa, FL 33612-9445  
(813) 974-5638 • Fax (813) 974-7091

(b) (6)

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Brent Morse, D.V.M

October 22, 2018

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cc: AAALAC International

(b) (6)

Jay Dean, Ph.D., Professor, Chairperson, IACUC

(b) (6)

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## Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2018 1:07 PM  
**To:** RSCH IACUC; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** RSCH Comparative Medicine  
**Subject:** RE: 2018-10-22-OLAW report- follow-up to reportable item-1) Use of lizards at St Pete campus 2) use of Beta fish University of South Florida-PHS A4100-01

Thank you for providing these final reports. We will send official responses 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:** RSCH IACUC [mailto:IACUC@research.usf.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2018 12:33 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** RSCH IACUC <IACUC@research.usf.edu>; RSCH Comparative Medicine <compmed@admin.usf.edu>  
**Subject:** 2018-10-22-OLAW report- follow-up to reportable item-1) Use of lizards at St Pete campus 2) use of Beta fish University of South Florida-PHS A4100-01

Dear Dr. Morse,

The University of South Florida (USF) hereby submits a final report to a notification of two incidents, reported originally on August 27, 2018. Attached are two Adobe PDF document of the report.

Let me know if you have any questions or if the transmission of the attached document does not come through.

Sincerely,  
(b) (6)

(b) (6)



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: aw

Date: 8/27/18

Time: 9:00

Name of Person reporting: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) (6)

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) (6)

Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution: U of South Florida

Assurance number: A4100

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? no

Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

7 tanks w/ Beta Fish + no protocol

Species involved: Fish

Personnel involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and times: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal deaths: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Council PI, get IACUC approval

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # \_\_\_\_\_