



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) 480-3387

April 10, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3187-01 [OLAW Case 8X]

Mr. George A. Huber  
Vice Chancellor for Research Conduct and Compliance  
University of Pittsburgh  
(b) (4) Hieber Building  
3500 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Mr. Huber,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 3, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Pittsburgh. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: an injury to a nonhuman primate. The final report states that on January 6, 2020 a latch to secure the floor pan was not put in the correct position following cage sanitization. The husbandry technician removed the floor pan and latch, and the animal in the lower enclosure was able to access the animal above, resulting in a fight. One nonhuman primate received a laceration to the foot and was treated by the veterinarian and given appropriate analgesics. The IACUC reviewed and accepted the animal facility Director's summary of preventative actions, which included the following:

- All staff were retrained on procedures to ensure the security of latches and locks.

The IACUC levied the following sanction:

- A letter of reprimand was sent to the Director of the animal care program and his supervisor regarding this event.

It is noted that the final report did not include the funding source involving the incident. In the future, please include the source of funding and provide grant numbers for all PHS or NSF supported work. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Pittsburgh has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs, DVM  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



George A. Huber, JD, MSIE, MSSM  
Vice Chancellor for Research Protections  
Professor of Health Policy and Management

Office of Research Protections

Suite 401, Hieber Building  
3500 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-624-2202  
ghuber@pitt.edu  
orp.pitt.edu

April 3, 2020

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse:

As the Institutional Official responsible for the University of Pittsburgh’s Animal Care and Use Program (Assurance number D16-00118), I am writing to advise your office of a reportable incident<sup>1</sup> that was reviewed by the University’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at its February 17, 2020 meeting.

On January 6, 2020, a nonhuman primate was injured by another nonhuman primate due to an unsecured floor pan. A latch to secure the floor pan was not put in the correct position following cage sanitization, and when the husbandry technician removed the floor pan and latch the animal in the lower enclosure was able to access the animal above, resulting in a fight. One of the animals received a laceration to the foot that was treated by a veterinarian and provided with appropriate analgesics.

The University of Pittsburgh IACUC reviewed and accepted the animal facility Director’s summary of preventative actions, which consisted of the following item:

- 1. All staff were retrained on procedures to ensure the security of latches and locks.

The IACUC has levied the following sanctions:

- 1. A letter of reprimand was sent to the Director of the animal care program and his supervisor regarding this event. The letter has been placed in our files.

<sup>1</sup> PHS Policy IV.C.1.d

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
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April 3, 2020

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

 (b) (6)

George A. Huber

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2020 7:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Reportable Event Notice

Thank you for these reports, (b) (6) We will send responses soon.

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

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2020 11:21 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Reportable Event Notice

Please review the attached correspondence forwarded on behalf of George A. Huber, Vice Chancellor for Research Protections. Thank you.

(b) (6)

