



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 8Y]

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 incident that jeopardized the health and well-being of animals resulting in harm and death to animals. The final report states on December 15, 2019 a mouse cage (referred to as a "box") from an auto water rack was found mistakenly placed on a rack labeled as a manual water bottle rack by a member of the investigator's lab following room change on December 12th. A water bottle was not provided, and the cage contained one surviving and one dead adult mouse.

The IACUC reviewed the incident at the February 17, 2020 meeting. The committee reviewed and accepted the investigator's corrective action plan and the animal facility director's summary of preventative actions, they include the following:

- The animal care technician was retrained on daily husbandry checks.
- The investigator and lab members will pay closer attention to animal rack designations in the housing room.
- Every newly created cage that is to be placed in the manual supply rack will be double checked for the presence of a water bottle.
- Members of the lab will be briefed on this incident and will be urged to implement additional measures to ensure the well-being of the research animals.

The IACUC also levied the following sanctions:

A letter of reprimand was sent to the investigator, the Director of the animal care program, and their supervisors regarding this event.

It is noted that these animals were involved in PHS supported animal activities. 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



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

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

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 incident¹ that was reviewed by the University’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at its February 17, 2020 meeting.

On December 15, 2019, a box from an auto water rack was found to have been mistakenly placed on a rack labeled as a manual water bottle rack by a member of the investigator’s lab following a room change on December 12. A water bottle was not provided. Upon discovery, the box contained one surviving and one deceased adult mouse.

The University of Pittsburgh IACUC reviewed and accepted the investigator’s corrective action plan (CAP) and the animal facility Director’s summary of preventative actions, which consisted of the following items:

1. The animal care technician was retrained on daily husbandry checks.
2. The investigator and lab members will pay closer attention to animal rack designations in the housing room.
3. Every newly created cage that is to be placed in the manual supply rack will be double checked for the presence of a water bottle.
4. Members of the laboratory will be briefed on this incident and will be urged to implement additional measures to ensure the well-being of the research animals.

The investigator’s research is supported by the following NIH grant:

PULMONARY ARTERIOLE OCCLUSION BY PLATELET-NEUTROPHIL MICRO-EMBOLISM ACUTE CHEST SYNDROME (R01HL128297-05)

¹ PHS Policy IV.C.1.d

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM

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April 3, 2020

The IACUC has levied the following sanctions:

1. A letter of reprimand was sent to the investigator, the Director of the animal care program, and their supervisors regarding this event. The letter has been placed in our files.

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]

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)

