



March 15, 2023

Brent C. Morse, D.V.M.  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

Via e-mail: [MorseB@mail.nih.gov](mailto:MorseB@mail.nih.gov)

Dear Dr. Morse:

We believe that the federal Animal Welfare Act violations documented in the attached U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection report posted against Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS; Animal Welfare Assurance D16-00007) constitute violations of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy). Last year, EVMS received \$7,365,364 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and according to NIH, an estimated 47% of those funds supported projects that involved experiments on animals.

In 1985, members of Congress from both sides of the aisle worked together to strengthen protections for animals in laboratories in order to address deep-seated ethical concerns held by the American public regarding the use of animals in experiments. Polling by the Pew Research Center found that more than 50% of U.S. adults oppose the use of animals in experiments, and other surveys suggest that the support of the shrinking group that continues to accept animal experimentation is contingent on the existence and enforcement of stringent regulations aimed at protecting animals.

As you know, institutions that receive funding from Public Health Service agencies—including NIH—are required to comply with PHS Policy. Failure to comply violates not only federal animal welfare guidelines and policies but also public expectations that facilities receiving tax dollars to use animals—who are capable of experiencing pain, distress, love, and companionship and value their lives just as we value ours—at the very least, comply with minimal standards aimed at ensuring some modicum of animal welfare.

We ask that your office investigate the incident outlined in the attached report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alka Chandna, Ph.D.  
Vice President  
Laboratory Investigations Cases

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