



April 10, 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

Dear Dr. Morse:

Thank you in advance for your time. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters worldwide. Based on the enclosed U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection report concerning the death of a dog at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) that led to a “critical” violation, we believe this incident may also constitute a violation of the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. **As a result, we urge your office to investigate this disturbing matter and take all appropriate actions to hold JHU accountable for its noncompliance.**

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,¹ 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.²

In FY 2021 and FY 2022, JHU received \$824,856,274 and \$839,852,301, respectively, from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).^{3,4} According to the agency, an estimated 47% of those funds supported projects that involved experiments on animals.⁵ Institutions that receive funding from PHS agencies like NIH are required to comply with PHS Policy. Failure to do so violates not

¹Strauss M. Americans are divided over the use of animals in scientific research. Pew Research Center. August 16, 2018. Accessed April 10, 2023.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/08/16/americans-are-divided-over-the-use-of-animals-in-scientific-research/>

²Ormandy EH, Schuppli CA. Public attitudes toward animal research: A review. *Animals (Basel)*. 2014;4(3):391-408. June 30, 2014. doi:10.3390/ani4030391

³NIH. NIH awards by location & organization. JHU. Fiscal Year 2021. Accessed April 10, 2023. <https://report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm?ot=&fy=2021&state=&ic=&fm=&orgid=4134401&distr=&rfa=&om=n&pid=&view=state>

⁴NIH. NIH awards by location & organization. JHU. Fiscal Year 2022. Accessed April 10, 2023. <https://report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm?ot=&fy=2022&state=&ic=&fm=&orgid=4134401&distr=&rfa=&om=n&pid=&view=state>

⁵National Library of Medicine. 3. Emerging legal trends impacting animal research. Accessed April 10, 2023. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK100123/>

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Entities

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

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—should at least observe minimal animal welfare standards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shriya Swaminathan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shriya Swaminathan
Science Policy Advisor, International Laboratory Methods
Laboratory Investigations Department

Enclosure

USDA inspection report of JHU, dated February 28, 2023



Inspection Report

Johns Hopkins University
720 Rutland Avenue
Ross 459
Baltimore, MD 21205

Customer ID: **81**
Certificate: **51-R-0006**
Site: 003
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
THE

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 28-FEB-2023

2.31(d)(8) Critical

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

Revised protocol A dated 12/20/21 indicated that potassium chloride (KCl) would be administered at rate of 40mEq 15 minutes into cooling to effect. However, study records indicate Dog #2 was administered an intravenous bolus of KCl and went into cardiac arrest. The laboratory staff attempted to provide care and called the RAR veterinarian on call. But, the animal expired.

The route of administration for the potassium chloride was not included in the approved protocol. Proposed activities and proposed significant changes in ongoing activities that have been approved by the IACUC may be subject to further appropriate review and approval by officials of the research facility.

This has been corrected by the IACUC through a corrective action plan and a protocol amendment.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

This inspection was conducted 02/28/2023 to 03/03/2023.

Prepared By: JESSICA GOWINS
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:
13-MAR-2023

Received by Title: Attending Veterinarian

Date:
13-MAR-2023



Inspection Report

Additional Inspectors:

GLORIA MCFADDEN, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Prepared By: JESSICA GOWINS
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Date:
13-MAR-2023

Received by Title: Attending Veterinarian

Date:
13-MAR-2023



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
81	51-R-0006	003	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, THE	28-FEB-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000064	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>	SYRIAN / GOLDEN HAMSTER (COMMON PET/RESEARCH TYPE)
000007	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000042	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	DOMESTIC GUINEA PIG
000218	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>	COMMON MARMOSET
000083	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	RHESUS MACAQUE
000011	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	PIG-TAILED MACAQUE
000042	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000054	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000029	<i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i>	EGYPTIAN FRUIT BAT
000072	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	BIG BROWN BAT
000032	<i>Chinchilla lanigera</i>	CHINCHILLA (DOMESTICATED)
000026	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	DOMESTIC FERRET
000002	<i>Felis silvestris catus</i>	CAT ADULT
000035	<i>Cricetulus griseus</i>	CHINESE HAMSTER
000067	<i>Carollia perspicillata</i>	SEBA'S SHORT-TAILED BAT
000012	<i>Papio anubis</i>	OLIVE BABOON
000006	<i>Ovis aries aries</i>	SHEEP INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000012	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	HAMADRYAS BABOON
000022	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	CRAB-EATING MACAQUE / CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY
000836	Total	



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Customer: 81
Inspection Date: 28-Feb-2023

Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
81	51-R-0006	003	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, THE	28-FEB-2023