



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

September 22, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3245-01 (OLAW Case 4I)

Dr. Melur Ramasubramanian
Vice President for Research
University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400301
136 Hospital Drive, (b) (6)
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4301

Dear Dr. Ramasubramanian,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 8, 2021 document reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Virginia. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University of Virginia Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: conditions that jeopardized the health of animals resulting in death and harm to animals. The Attending Veterinarian (AV) self-reported the death of 10 voles while in quarantine and under the care of contract staff. It is stated the animals were being treated with ivermectin in the drinking water and refused to drink or eat. The AV discovered the contract staff was inadequately trained and that the ivermectin was not properly mixed for use. As a result, the animals did not drink the water, resulting in dehydration and refusal to eat. The report states several animals were found dead and the contract staff did not immediately inform the veterinary staff for assistance or intervention.

The matter was reviewed by the IACUC and the committee determined the incident to be a significant deficiency and a programmatic issue since the incident has the potential to affect any animal at the institution. In response, the AV met with the contract vivarium supervisor to ensure that the contract staff was appropriately trained. The animal handler responsible for the incident received indirect disciplinary action. Also, the contract supervisor plans to send additional staff to the location to evaluate the contract staff and provide additional training as necessary. Lastly, the AV required the contract vivarium supervisor to perform an inspection of the animal husbandry performed in quarantine for the next several months. It is understood the IACUC determined the corrective actions were appropriate, and PHS funding was not associated with this incident.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Virginia 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,

Jacquelyn T.
Tubbs-S

Digitally signed by Jacquelyn T.
Tubbs-S
Date: 2021.09.22 15:22:04 -04'00'

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact
Robert M. Gibbens, DVM, Director, Animal Welfare Operations

University of Virginia
Animal Welfare Compliance Report
PHS Assurance # A3245-01

This document is a summary of the incident, actions taken, and final resolution. The issue was self-reported by the Attending Veterinarian and due to his rapid inspection and resolution, a preliminary report was not submitted.

UVA Compliance Case #: 2021-T

Nature of Incident(s):	Condition that jeopardized the health of animals (vole)
Summary of Incident:	The Attending Veterinarian (AV) self-reported an incident that led to the death of ten animals while in quarantine and under the care of contract staff. The animals were being treated with ivermectin in the drinking water and the animals refused to drink the water or eat. The AV investigated the incident and determined that the contract staff was inadequately trained and as a result the ivermectin was not properly mixed. The animals refused to drink the water leading to dehydration and subsequently refused to eat. The first several animals were found dead and the contract staff failed to immediately notify the veterinary staff for assistance and or intervention leading to a delay in treating the other animals. Two previous groups of animals were treated with ivermectin in the same fashion and no problems were noted; however, the contract staff was not responsible for the husbandry of the quarantine area at that time.
Action taken by IACUC:	The IACUC discussed the incident, investigation, and the corrective actions taken by the AV at the next convened monthly meeting. The IACUC determined that incident was a significant deficiency because of the animal deaths and failure to report the animal health condition to the veterinary staff immediately. The IACUC considered it a programmatic issue that had the potential of affecting any animal at the institution (i.e., federally funded, institutionally funded).
Action taken by AV:	The AV indicated in his report that the issue was immediately reported to the contract supervisor regarding the direct involvement of the contract staff in the incident that significantly impacted animal health and well-being. The AV met with the contract vivarium supervisor to ensure that the contract staff was properly trained. The animal handler responsible for the incorrectly mixed treatment received indirect disciplinary action by the contract. The contract supervisor plans to send additional staff to the location to evaluate the contract staff and provide additional training as needed. The AV required that the contract vivarium supervisor perform an inspection of the animal husbandry performed in quarantine for the next several months.

Action taken by IACUC:	The IACUC felt that the AV responded appropriately and no further action was deemed necessary.
Decision/Resolution:	The IACUC considered the incident resolved with no fault to any grant holder.
Federal Funding:	Not Applicable
Notification of Final Disposition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OLAW
Institutional Official: Dr. Melur K. Ramasubramanian	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> (b) (6) Date: 8 Sep 2021

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 9:14 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: UVA OLAW Report

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 9:01 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E] <wardjoa@od.nih.gov>; (b) (6) Ramasubramanian, Melur K (mkr5a) <mkr5a@virginia.edu>; Gamble, Angela (adr8s) <adr8s@virginia.edu>
Subject: UVA OLAW Report

Dr. Axel Wolff, Director of Compliance Oversight Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare National Institutes of Health RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, MD

Dr. Wolff:

I attach five compliance reports from our IACUC. These are our cases 2021-H, 2021-I, 2021-J, 2021-K, 2021-N, 2021-O and 2021-T. Preliminary reports were submitted for all except 2021-T. This matter was self-reported by the Attending Vet and his report included both his investigation and his corrective action plan, and as a result there really wasn't time to submit the preliminary report.

In these cases, the IACUC has investigated thoroughly, taken appropriate action and the committee has determined that these matters are now resolved to their satisfaction.

I have reviewed the report and I concur with the committee responses and final determinations.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

For Melur K. Ramasubramanian

(b) (6)