



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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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

October 28, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3245-01 [OLAW Case 4T]

Dr. Melur Ramasubramanian
Vice President for Research
University of Virginia - Charlottesville
P.O. Box 400301
Charlottesville VA 22904

Dear Dr. Ramasubramanian,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your October 25, 2022 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Virginia. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a mouse was identified with a facial lesion and although the observation had been noted on the cage card, it had not been reported to the veterinarian.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of having a veterinarian examine the mouse, determining that it was in pain, and having the laboratory staff euthanize it. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) found this to be a significant deficiency and asked for an explanation from the Principal Investigator (PI) and Attending Veterinarian. The PI stated that while the animal caretakers felt that the mouse was not in pain, they were advised to use the veterinary notification system for all animal concerns. The vivarium supervisor and husbandry staff have been retrained and the caretakers have been added to the contact list for reporting health concerns and will do so promptly. While laboratory staff may be informed about veterinary issues, all animal health concerns must be reported to the veterinary staff.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the IACUC to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair

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

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee found the following compliance issue while performing an assessment in the vivaria. Due to the timing of the discovery, investigation, and resolution, a preliminary report was not submitted. This document is a summary of the incident, actions taken, and final resolution.

UVA Compliance Case #: 2022-S (PI and husbandry staff)

Nature of Incident(s):	Failure to provide adequate veterinary care resulting in a condition that jeopardized the health of an animal (mice)
Summary of Incident:	During an assessment in the vivaria, a member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) observed one mouse with a facial lesion. The condition was noted on the cage and dated two days prior to the assessment, but the condition had not been reported to the veterinary staff for evaluation or treatment using standard practices. The animal was immediately evaluated by a veterinarian, and found to be in pain. The animal was euthanized by the laboratory staff.
Action taken by IACUC:	<p>The IACUC discussed the incident at a convened meeting and determined that the incident was a significant deficiency because the animal should have been reported immediately for veterinary consultation and animal health appeared to be jeopardized.</p> <p>The IACUC sent a letter to both the PI and Attending Veterinarian (AV) notifying them of the deficiency. Both the PI and AV were required to respond in writing with a corrective action plan to prevent reoccurrence with staff members (researchers and animal husbandry staff).</p>
Action taken by PI:	<p>The PI responded to the IACUC concerns and indicated that the issue was discussed and reviewed with the animal handlers on the protocol. The lab manager receives all communications regarding issues in the animal facility. When the animal was reported to the lab, an animal handler went to the vivarium and evaluated the animal and determined that the animal was okay and not in pain. The animal had sired animals around the same time of the facial issue and in their opinion did not appear to be in pain or distress. In the future, lab animal handlers will use the veterinary notification system and will increase communication with veterinary and husbandry staff. Additional lab animal handlers were added to the contact list used for reporting health concerns to ensure issues are relayed promptly and addressed. They will have additional coverage for vacation periods.</p>
Action taken by AV:	The vivarium supervisor indicated that the caretaker had been told that the lab wanted to be informed of animal issues; therefore, the caretaker placed the note on the cage instead of using the veterinary notification system.

	The AV responded with a corrective action plan. The vivarium supervisor and husbandry staff were retrained. Any illness must be reported to the veterinary staff for consultation using the existing notification system. This includes issues that are also reported to the laboratory. Laboratory staff are informed of veterinary issues (at their request); however, all health issues are reported to the veterinary staff for consultation and possible treatment.
Action taken by IACUC:	The IACUC felt that the PI and AV responded appropriately and no further action was deemed necessary.
Decision/Resolution:	The IACUC accepted the corrective action plans as submitted by the PI and AV and considered the incident resolved.
Federal Funding:	NIH R01 NS097271
Notification of Final Disposition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OLAW
Institutional Official: Dr. Melur K. Ramasubramanian	(b) (6)
	Date: October 25, 2022

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 12:40 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: UVA - OLAW Compliance Notes

Good afternoon (b) (6)

Thank you for sending us these six reports and we will send official responses soon.

Best,
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA
Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
301-435-2390

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 10:05 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] UVA - OLAW Compliance Notes

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 six compliance reports from our IACUC. These are 2022-H, 2022-I, 2022-J, 2022-P, 2022-Q and 2022-S.

As described in the reports, preliminary reports were not submitted.

Appropriate corrective action has been taken and the IACUC has determined that these matters are now resolved to their satisfaction.

(b) (6) on behalf of Ram Ramasubramanian

(b) (6)

Vice President for Research

(b) (6)

University of Virginia
Office of the VP for Research
Varsity Hall
136 Hospital Drive
Box 400301
Charlottesville, VA 22904
<https://research.virginia.edu/>

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