



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

November 6, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3245-01 [OLAW Case 5G]

Frederick H. Epstein, Ph.D.
Professor and Interim Vice President for Research
University of Virginia - Charlottesville
P.O. Box 400301
136 Hospital Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22904

Dear Dr. Epstein,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your October 31, 2023, 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 three mice from two cages died from water deprivation, while documentation of additional health information on the daily health report could not be found for a fourth animal that died. The Attending Veterinarian and husbandry management were concerned that personnel may have compromised their attention to detail while working in haste.

The corrective actions consisted of the caretakers and vivarium supervisor receiving a letter of counseling and assigning an additional caretaker to the vivarium to ensure the availability of adequate personnel to perform thorough weekend animal room checks.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Neera V. Gopee -S

Digitally signed by Neera V. Gopee -

S
Date: 2023.11.07 08:37:51 -05'00'

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DAACLAM, DABT
Associate Director, Animal Welfare Policy
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

cc: IACUC Chair

Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]

A3245-5G

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 9:22 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD); Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: UVA Compliance Report 2023-I and UVA Compliance Report 2023-L

Good morning,

Thank you for providing this update for A3245-5D. The new case submission (2023-L) has been assigned OLAW case A3245-5G. We will send official responses soon.

Best,
Teagan

Teagan Ware, MS, PMP
Animal Welfare Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Phone: 301-435-2390
Email: teagan.ware@nih.gov

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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 9:11 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] UVA Compliance Report 2023-I and UVA Compliance Report 2023-L

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

Dr. Morse:

We previously submitted an email notification on a compliance matter, UVA 2023-I (see attached) which was assigned OLAW case number A3245-D and we also now report on UVA 2023-L which had not been assigned an OLAW case number. That is, UVA 2023-L is a new report.

Due to the nature and the timing of the issues as described in UVA 20232-L a preliminary report was not submitted. In this case the incident was reported to the IACUC by the UVA Attending Veterinarian who also serves as the director of the UVA animal husbandry unit. At the time of this report, the AV summarized the incident and described the corrective actions taken to prevent recurrence. The IACUC reviewed the incident and the corrective actions and has determined that this matter is now resolved to their satisfaction. This happened so quickly that there really wasn't time to submit a preliminary report as the final report was already completed.

I have reviewed the IACUC final report and I agree with their recommendations.

(b) (6)



University of Virginia
Animal Care and Use Compliance Report
PHS Assurance # A3245-01

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) discovered the following compliance issue. Due to the timing of the discovery, investigation, and resolution, a preliminary email notification to OLAW was not feasible. This document is a summary of the incident, actions taken, and final resolution.

UVA Case #: 2023-L

OLAW Case #: not assigned

Nature of Incident(s):	Condition that jeopardized the health or well-being of animals resulting in actual harm or death
Summary of Incident:	During a monthly Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) meeting, the Attending Veterinarian self-reported an incident to the IACUC and also provided the corrective actions taken to prevent reoccurrence. Four cases of unanticipated rodent mortality was found over one weekend day within one animal facility. Three mice (two different cages) were found dead as a result of dehydration and a fourth was found dead without additional health information documented on the daily health report.
Action taken by IACUC:	The IACUC discussed the incident and determined that the incident was a significant deficiency because the conditions jeopardized the health of the animals resulting in death. The IACUC considered it a programmatic issue because it had the potential of impacting any animal at the institution (i.e., federally funded, institutionally funded). The Attending Veterinarian provided the corrective actions taken to prevent reoccurrence within the initial report submitted to the IACUC. The IACUC reviewed the corrective actions at the same time as the report.
Action taken by Attending Veterinarian:	The Attending Veterinarian investigated the incident and the caretakers and vivarium supervisor received a letter of counseling regarding the incident. The Attending Veterinarian and husbandry management team was concerned that the staff was working too quickly and attention to detail was compromised. An additional caretaker was placed in the vivarium to ensure adequate staffing levels were available for performing thorough animal room checks on weekends.
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.
Federal Funding:	Considered a programmatic issue
Notification of Final Disposition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OLAW
Institutional Official: Dr. Frederick H. Epstein	(b) (6)
	Date: October 31, 2023