



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

July 17, 2024

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3208-01 [OLAW Case 1S]

Daniel Sui, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Innovation
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
800 Drillfield Drive, Burruss Hall, (b) (4)
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Sui,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 9, 2024 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Virginia Tech following up on an initial March 21, 2024 notification by telephone.

According to the information provided, this office understands that the Virginia Tech Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to failure to adhere to institutional policies/procedures. The final report states in February 2024, mice were transferred to a sealed, negative pressure IVC caging system. It is stated the following day, a number of mice were found dead or moribund and it was discovered the unit was not powered on. In response to the finding, the veterinarian was contacted, and the remaining animals were euthanized. Per the report, the incident occurred because an individual handling the transfer from standard IVC cages to the biocontainment rack, failed to perform a standard procedure to confirm power to the unit. It is understood the corrective actions involved an extensive plan for retraining the associated individual prior to restoring facility access authorization.

The report states the matter was discussed at the IACUC meeting in April 2024. The committee determined the incident was a serious noncompliance and the corrective measures implemented by the PI were approved. It is noted the animals are supported by PHS funding.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the Virginia Tech 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: 2024.07.17 14:10:26
-04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact

A3208-1S



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
VIRGINIA TECH

Daniel Sui
Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation

Burruss Hall, (b) (4)

800 Drillfield Drive

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

(b) (6)

research.vt.edu

July 9, 2024

Axel Wolff, DVM
Acting Director, Divisions of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Final report regarding adverse event at Virginia Tech [Assurance #A-3208-01]

Dear Dr. Wolff:

Virginia Tech, in accordance with Assurance A-3208-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of an adverse event involving mice on an IACUC approved protocol.

This incident was first reported to Teagan Ware, Animal Welfare Program Analyst, OLAW, on March 21, 2024 via a telephone call led by (b) (6)

(b) (6) During the call, Teagan provided A-3208-1S as the identifier for this report.

In February 2024, 23 mice were transferred from standard IVC cages to a sealed, negative pressure IVC caging system (biocontainment rack). The next day it was discovered that a number of mice were dead or moribund and that the unit was not powered on. The veterinarian was immediately contacted and the remaining mice were euthanized. It was determined that the individual handling the transfer had not performed a standard procedure to confirm power to the unit. Corrective actions by the PI included an extensive plan for retraining the associated individual before restoring facility access authorization.

After review and discussion at the convened April 2024 meeting, the IACUC determined that a serious non-compliance/animal welfare concern had occurred, and approved of the corrective actions implemented by the PI.

The funding source of these animals is via the NIH (Federal Award #: R21A153919A). Per PHS requirement, the PI has been informed that they must cooperate with their grant administrator to determine if any funding related actions must be taken.

Virginia Tech is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Dr. Daniel Sui
Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation
Institutional Official
Virginia Tech

Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 3:37 PM
To: 'iacucpam'
Cc: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Final Reports

Good afternoon,

Thank you for providing these final reports for OLAW cases **A3208-1S** and **A3208-1T**. We will send official responses soon.

Please note that the email below states that four final reports were attached, but only the two referenced above were attached and received.

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: iacucpam <iacucpam@vt.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 3:30 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: iacucpam <iacucpam@vt.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final Reports

Hello Dr. Wolff,

Please find four final reports attached from our IO. Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:16 AM
To: iacucadmin
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: OLAW case A3208-1S

Good morning,

Thank you for providing this update. I will add this note to the case file and we look forward to receiving the report next week.

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: iacucadmin <iacucadmin@vt.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:05 AM
To: Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E] <teagan.ware@nih.gov>
Cc: iacucadmin <iacucadmin@vt.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: OLAW case A3208-1S

Thank you, Teagan, for the email. The final report is currently being reviewed and should be to you by next week.

Best,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: 'Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]' via iacucadmin <iacucadmin@vt.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 9:53 AM
To: iacucadmin <iacucadmin@vt.edu>; (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: OLAW case A3208-1S

Good morning,

During a recent QA of our case records, it was discovered that OLAW case **A3208-1S** is still open and in need of an update. This case was originally called into this office on March 21, 2024. We are requesting that an update or final report on this matter be submitted at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you!

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



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: TDW

Date: 3/21/24

Time: 10:25AM

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: _Virginia Tech_____

Assurance number: _A3208-01_____

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? _Y_

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

Several mouse deaths reported under federally funded study.

Species involved: mice

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: yes

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____

Still investigating causes of death.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

60-90 days

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #__ __