



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

April 24, 2025

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

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

Dear Dr. Sui,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 17, 2025, letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), following up on an initial March 24, 2025, notification by phone.

According to the information provided, this office understands that the Virginia Tech Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that an adverse event occurred with respect to failure to adhere to institutional policies/procedures. The final report states on November 27, 2024, animal husbandry technicians did not perform daily observations in one room housing birds due to a miscommunication. It is understood that there was no animal welfare concerns because of this noncompliance.

Per the final report, the IACUC discussed the incident and accepted the corrective actions. The IACUC sent an educational reminder letter to both the PI and the vivarium leadership with respect to animal husbandry. To address the situation, corrective actions were taken including requiring the re-training of lab staff on relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the species. In addition, animal care staff were retrained on relevant SOPs and communication plans. With this, the IACUC determined that the corrective actions were adequate, and no further action is necessary.

It is noted that this study is supported by PHS funding. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the Virginia Tech ACUC 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,

Angelina M. Williams -S

Digitally signed by Angelina M.  
Williams -S  
Date: 2025.04.24 17:40:17 -04'00'

Angelina Williams, DVM, MPH, DACLAM  
Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

(b) (6)



Daniel Sui  
Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation

(b) (4)

800 Drillfield Drive  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

(b) (6)

research.vt.edu

April 17, 2025

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 animal-related activities that were determined to be potentially non-compliant with the associated IACUC-approved protocol. This animal research study involves house finches.

This incident was first reported following verification of federal funding to Teagan Ware, Animal Welfare Program Analyst, OLAW, on March 24, 2025 via a telephone call (b) (6). During the call, Teagan provided A-3208-1W as the identifier for this report.

On November 27, 2024, one room housing birds was not checked for one day due to a miscommunication between personnel. There were no animal welfare concerns related to this event, with all animals maintaining access to food and water. A thorough review of husbandry procedures was undertaken following receipt of reported event, including retraining of animal care staff on relevant SOPs and communication plans. The results of the review were provided to the IACUC in February 2025. The IACUC reviewed and discussed the facts, circumstances, and potential non-compliances with the approved protocol including consideration of animal welfare.

After discussion, the IACUC sent an educational reminder letter to both the PI and the vivarium leadership with respect to animal husbandry. To address the situation, corrective actions were taken including requiring the re-training of lab staff on relevant SOPs for the species.

The funding source of these animals is via the NIH (Federal Award #:22206057). 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, (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]

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 2:01 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 **A3208-1V** and **A3208-1W**. 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  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Room 2505

Phone: 301-435-2390

Email: [teagan.ware@nih.gov](mailto:teagan.ware@nih.gov)

***Disclaimer:** Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected, or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.*

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**From:** iacucpam <iacucpam@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 12:38 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 attached two final reports from our IO. Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: TDW

Date: 3/24/25 Time: 10:40AM

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)  
Telephone #:  
Fax #:  
Email: \_

Name of Institution: \_Virginia Tech\_\_\_\_\_  
Assurance number: \_A3208-01\_\_\_\_\_

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? \_\_  
Funding component: \_\_  
Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

Building on campus that houses a colony of AWA birds. Housed across multiple rooms. Two individuals came in over the weekend to perform room checks and one room was missed due to a miscommunication. Per protocol, the rooms are to be checked daily. No welfare concerns or adverse events associated with the event, and animals did have ample access to food and water.

Species involved: birds  
Personnel involved:  
Dates and times: Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 2024  
Animal deaths: No

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_  
TBD.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:  
60-90 days

OFFICE USE ONLY  
Case # \_ \_ \_