



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

June 21, 2024

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3456-01 [OLAW Case 11D]

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Minnesota – Main Campus
(b) (4) - 101 Pleasant St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear Dr. Priya,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 12, 2024, letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Minnesota. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this office understands that the University of Minnesota Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to conditions that have the potential to jeopardize the health or well-being of animals, resulting in actual harm or death to animals. The final report states that on March 29, 2024, six mice were inadvertently housed without access to water. Per the report, lab staff set up the cages unaware that lixits were not present in the rack spaces where the cages were placed. It is also understood that two mice were found dead. Additionally, the veterinary staff provided supportive care to one mouse found in poor condition, which later recovered, and determined that no health concerns were noted in the three remaining mice.

Per the final report, the ACUC promptly implemented the following corrective actions:

- After consultation with vivarium staff, a specially marked area for non-lixit rack spaces has been implemented in the housing room, to be used for cages receiving water via a bottle rather than the lixit system. All other areas in the room will have lixits in place. This visual delineation will avoid confusion regarding which rack spaces are receiving water by water bottle versus lixit.
- In addition, the lab has retrained their staff on the importance of and proper procedures for checking lixit presence and function when placing cages on a rack. This has been added to the lab's initial onboarding training to ensure that any new staff are also trained. Expectations for appropriate training and documentation are being reinforced with Research Animal Resources (RAR) managers and supervisors of animal husbandry staff.
- Future compliance will be monitored during semi-annual inspections of the housing facility as well as daily health checks by husbandry staff.

It is noted that this study is supported by PHS funding. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that University of Minnesota has implemented measures to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW recommends retraining of any additional lab staff that may have access to animal housing room.

Page 2 – Dr. Priya
June 21, 2024
OLAW Case A3456-11D

We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

**Angelina M.
Williams -S**

Digitally signed by Angelina M.
Williams -S
Date: 2024.06.21 09:22:17
-04'00'

Angelina Williams, DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Animal Welfare Policy
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

A3456-11D

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

(b) (4)

420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

(b) (6)

iacuc@umn.edu
www.research.umn.edu/iacuc

June 12, 2024

TO: Axel Wolff, DVM
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

RE: University of Minnesota Animal Care Program D16-00288 (A-3456-01)
NIH Grant Number: R01 AI38903
UMN IACUC # 41198A

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In keeping with the terms of our assurance, please be informed that we are making a report of non-compliance of an IACUC approved, NIH funded study involving mice. The basis of this report results from a self-reported incident. The report outlined that on March 29, 2024, three cages containing a total of six mice were inadvertently housed without access to water. Lab staff setting up the cage did not realize that lixits were not present in the rack spaces where the cages were placed.

Two mice were found deceased and one in poor condition. The mouse found in poor condition was given supportive care by veterinary staff and recovered. Three additional mice were assessed by veterinary staff and had no health concerns noted.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. After consultation with vivarium staff, a specially marked area for non-lixit rack spaces has been implemented in the housing room, to be used for cages receiving water via a bottle rather than the lixit system. All other areas in the room will have lixits in place. This visual delineation will avoid confusion regarding which rack spaces are receiving water by water bottle versus lixit. In addition, the lab has retrained their staff on the importance of and proper procedures for checking lixit presence and function when placing cages on a rack. This has been added to the lab's initial onboarding training to ensure that any new staff are also trained.

Future compliance will be monitored during semi-annual inspections of the housing facility as well as daily health checks by husbandry staff.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Innovation
Institutional Official, University of Minnesota
200 Oak Street, S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

CC: Erin Dickerson, Chair, IACUC
Nate Koewler, Institutional Veterinarian
AAALAC

Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 7:27 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Erin Dickerson; Nate Koewler; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Non-Compliance Reports

Good morning,

Thank you for providing these two reports, which have been assigned as OLAW cases **A3456-11C** (IACUC #39551A) and **A3456-11D** (IACUC #41198A-2). 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: Thursday, June 13, 2024 5:27 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <accredit@aaalac.org>; Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Non-Compliance Reports

Dear Dr. Wolff,

On behalf of VPR Shashank Priya, please find the two attached reports of non-compliance.

Best,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)