



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 30, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3456-01 [OLAW Case 10F]  
UMN IACUC #38243A

Dr. Michael J. Oakes  
Interim Vice President for Research  
University of Minnesota  
(b) (4) Johnston Hall - 101 Pleasant St., SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear Dr. Oakes,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 2, 2022 letter reporting an adverse event 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 an adverse event occurred with respect to the death of an animal in a mouse cage. The final report states a recently weaned mouse was trapped between the wire frame and cage lip. As a result, the animal was crushed which led to its death when the cage was returned to the rack. Animal care staff discovered the animal on May 11, 2022. In response to the incident, the Principal Investigator (PI) discussed the incident with all lab members to reinforce training regarding the following:

- The cage should be examined immediately after the wire frame is placed to ensure all mice are in the base of the cage.
- Any resistance to closing the cage and/or returning it to the rack means the cage needs to be placed under the laminar flow hood to check and remove the blockage.
- The IACUC will monitor ongoing compliance in the lab through annual post-approval monitoring.

It is noted that this research is supported by NIH funding. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Minnesota has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences.

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: 2022.06.30 15:25:59  
-04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact

**McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2022 4:42 PM  
**To:** oakes007@umn.edu  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD); [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** OLAW Case A3456-10F and A3456-10E  
**Attachments:** SIGNED Compliance Case University of Minnesota 10F.pdf; SIGNED Compliance Case University of Minnesota 10E.pdf

Good afternoon Dr. Oakes,

Attached please find Dr. Tubbs' final responses to OLAW Cases A3456-10F and A3456-10E. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by phone or by e-mail.

Best,  
Devora

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

A3456-10F

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

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420 Delaware St. SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Phone: 612-626-2126  
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June 2, 2022

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: P01 AI35296  
UMN IACUC #38243A

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In keeping with the terms of our assurance, please be informed that we are making a report of an adverse event related to an IACUC approved, NIH funded study involving mice. The basis of this report results from a self-reported incident. The report outlined that a recently weaned mouse became trapped between the wire frame and cage lip, and the mouse was crushed and killed when the cage was placed on the rack. This incident involved one mouse and was discovered by animal care staff on May 11, 2022.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. The PI has discussed the incident with all lab staff to make them aware of the incident and to reinforce training that a) the cage should be examined immediately after the wire frame is placed, to make sure that all the mice are in the base of the cage, and b) that any resistance to closing the cage and/or placing it into the rack means that something is wrong and that the cage needs to be moved back into a laminar flow hood to check and remove the blockage. The IACUC believes this to be an isolated incident that is not indicative of systemic problems with either the cages themselves or personnel training in handling of mice. However, the IACUC will monitor ongoing compliance in this lab through annual post approval monitoring and will be attentive to any future issues of this type throughout the animal program.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

J. Michael Oakes, Ph.D.  
Interim Vice President for Research  
Institutional Official, University of Minnesota  
101 Pleasant Street, S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

CC: Richard Bianco, Chair, IACUC  
Lynn Collura Impelluso, Institutional Veterinarian

**McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 3, 2022 7:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Two Reports

Thank you for this report. We will reply shortly.

Best,

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:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 2:06 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6); Lynn Impelluso <impell@umn.edu>; Richard Bianco <bianc001@umn.edu>;  
Frances Lawrenz <lawrenz@umn.edu>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Two Reports

Dear Dr. Wolff,

Attached please find two reports-one of non-compliance and one of an adverse event. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)