



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 14, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3456-01 [OLAW Case 10L]  
UMN IACUC # 39817A

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

Dear Dr. Priya,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 4, 2023 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 the escape of an animal in the laboratory setting due to failure to properly secure the animal in a box chair. The final report states the IACUC was notified of a report of an adverse event by a research group. The nonhuman primate (NHP) escaped a box chair in a laboratory room during an attempt to headpost the animal. The veterinary staff were notified immediately and supervised the recapture of the NHP. It is stated the animal was recaptured in ~15min and returned to its home cage.

Per the report, a glass beaker was broken in the room by lab staff and the animal briefly placed a piece of glass in its mouth. In response, the animal was sedated after recapture and examined. Small lacerations were identified, and treatment was administered. No other injuries were identified during the exam. Daily checks confirm the primate's mouth is healing well with no signs of infection.

It is understood the animal was able to escape because the yoke plate was placed incorrectly by a lab member and did not lock appropriately. In response, labels have been placed on all yoke plates to indicate the correct orientation, and the responsible individual is being retrained on yoking and box chair operation. Also, a lab meeting was held to review the steps to check the chairs and yokes to ensure they are functional, safe, and secure at each use. During the meeting, the procedures to handle and prevent escapes were reviewed as well. As a precaution, all glassware has been removed from readily accessible spaces and replaced with plastic containers.

Per the report, the IACUC considers this matter closed and determined the lab followed proper procedures regarding an escaped animal and to manage the animal's treatment under veterinary direction. It is noted that this study 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 of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy.

Page 2 – Dr. Priya  
April 14, 2023  
OLAW Case A3456-10L

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: 2023.04.14 11:11:26 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact

Robert M. Gibbens, DVM, Director, Animal Welfare Operations

A3456-10L

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Mayo Mail Code 79  
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420 Delaware St. SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Phone: 612-626-2126  
Fax: 612-626-6061  
[iacuc@umn.edu](mailto:iacuc@umn.edu)  
[www.research.umn.edu/iacuc](http://www.research.umn.edu/iacuc)

April 4, 2023

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: R01NS117822  
UMN IACUC #39817A

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In keeping with the terms of our assurance, please be informed that we are making a report of an adverse event that occurred on an IACUC approved, NIH funded study involving one Rhesus macaque. The basis of this report results from an adverse event that was reported to the IACUC by the research group. The report outlined that on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a non-human primate escaped from a box chair into a lab room while lab staff were attempting to headpost the animal for subsequent approved research procedures. Lab staff recaptured the NHP within approximately 15 minutes and returned her to her home cage. Veterinary staff were called immediately and supervised the capture.

During the incident, a glass beaker in the room was knocked over by lab staff and broke on the floor, and the NHP briefly placed a piece of glass in her mouth. After recapture, the NHP was sedated by veterinary staff for a complete oral and physical examination. Two small lacerations were found inside her mouth, which did not require suturing. No other injuries were found during the examination. The NHP was treated with meloxicam while sedated and on the following day, per veterinary recommendation. The animal's mouth has since been checked daily and is healing well and without infection.

Several steps have been taken to avoid future NHP escapes, and to prevent injury in the event of an escape. The animal was able to escape from the chair because the yoke plate was placed in the incorrect orientation by a lab member and therefore did not lock correctly. Labels have been placed on all yoke plates to indicate the correct orientation more clearly, and the lab member who had placed the NHP in the chair is being retrained on yoking and box chair operation by experienced lab staff. A lab meeting was held in which the group reviewed the steps to check the chairs and yokes to ensure that they are

functional, safe, and secure at each use, as well as procedures to handle and prevent escapes. In addition, all glassware has been removed from readily accessible spaces in the lab and replaced with plastic containers.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. We believe that the lab followed proper procedures to respond to the escape and to manage the animal's treatment under veterinary direction, and that they have taken appropriate steps to avoid future adverse events of this nature.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research  
Institutional Official, University of Minnesota  
101 Pleasant Street, S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

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

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 11:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Report of Adverse Event

Good morning (b) (6)

Thank you for sending us this report, assigned OLAW case number A3456-10L, and we will send an official response soon.

Best,  
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA ([pronunciation](#))  
Program Analyst  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

Phone: 301-435-2390  
Email: [devora.mccoy@nih.gov](mailto:devora.mccoy@nih.gov)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 9:14 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>; [accredit@aaalac.org](mailto:accredit@aaalac.org); (b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Report of Adverse Event

Dear Dr. Wolff,  
On behalf of Vice President for Research Shashank Priya, attached please find a report of an adverse event.  
Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Thank you,

(b) (6)