



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

January 8, 2024

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3456-01 [OLAW Case 10U]

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Innovation
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 December 5, 2023 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals within the animal care and use program at the University of Minnesota. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that three mice were found dead, without access to water. The laboratory staff failed to replace the lixit on the cage rack when changing the cage from one supplied by a water bottle to one supplied by a lixit. The mice involved in this incident were supported by NIH funds.

Corrective and preventative measures included refresher training for the laboratory staff members on the importance of ensuring that all cages have access to water and checking for lixits and/or water bottles. The laboratory has also implemented a checklist to use when changing between water bottle and lixit cages to ensure that each cage has been checked for a water source. Future compliance will be monitored during semi-annual inspections and annual post-approval monitoring of the laboratory.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Minnesota which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. OLAW views instances of lack of basic living requirements such as food, water, and a proper cage environment with great concern. However, based on the information provided, it seems that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence.

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

Sincerely,

Robyn M. Engel -S

Digitally signed by Robyn M.
Engel -S
Date: 2024.01.08 14:01:40 -05'00'

Robyn M. Engel, DVM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact

A3456-10U

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

*Mayo Mail Code 79
D-528 Mayo Memorial Building
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612-626-2126
Fax: 612-626-6061
iacuc@umn.edu
www.research.umn.edu/iacuc*

December 5, 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: 5R01AI162791-02
UMN IACUC #39682A

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 September 26, 2023, one cage of mice was found without access to water. Lab staff had failed to replace the lixit on the cage rack when changing from a cage with a water bottle to a cage that was intended to receive water via the lixit system. All three mice in the cage were found dead.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. The PI has performed refresher training for all staff in the lab on the importance of ensuring that all cages have access to water and checking for lixits and/or water bottles. The lab has also implemented a checklist for lab staff to use when changing between water bottle and lixit cages to ensure that each cage has been checked for a source of water. The IACUC has discussed the checklist and found it satisfactory. Future compliance will be monitored during both semi-annual inspections of the housing facility and annual post approval monitoring of the lab.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Innovation
Institutional Official, University of Minnesota
101 Pleasant 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: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:05 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Erin Dickerson; (b) (6) Nate Koewler; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Report of Non-Compliance

Good morning,

Thank you for these two final reports. One was previously reported via phone and assigned as **A3456-10R** (39802A), and the other (39682A) has been newly assigned as OLAW case **A3456-10U**.

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: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 9:48 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: accredit@aaalac.org; Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; (b) (6) Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Report of Non-Compliance

Dear Dr. Wolff,

On behalf of Vice President Shashank Priya, attached please find two reports of non-compliance. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

