



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

February 1, 2024

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

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

Dear Dr. Priya,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 22, 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. Since the PHS Policy requires adherence to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the Guide requires that animals have access to potable, uncontaminated drinking water, this incident is determined to be a noncompliance. The final report states that during October 24-27, 2023, three Rhesus macaques were without access to water. Per the final report, the water valve connected to the lixits had been shut off, due to construction in the room, and had not been turned back on once repairs were completed and the animals returned to the room. It is also stated that the affected animals presented with decreased appetite but no other clinical signs. Upon discovery of the issue, a veterinarian promptly assessed the animals and provided slow increments of water, as well as prophylactic medication to prevent bloat. Follow-up veterinary assessments did not reveal any subsequent clinical signs. The report further states that the husbandry staff member responsible for checking water availability and lixit function twice daily had recorded this task as completed on the daily care log during the afore-mentioned dates. It was also discovered that, while the Research Animal Resources (RAR) staff member had been trained on nonhuman primate husbandry, the training assessment document was not completed.

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

- Indefinitely rescinded the animal use privileges of the individual who failed to ensure access to water for these animals, and RAR has confirmed that this individual has been removed from animal care duties.
- Expectations for appropriate training and documentation are being reinforced with RAR managers and supervisors of animal husbandry staff.
- The IACUC's post approval monitoring program will be expanded to include annual verification of training documentation for all RAR 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 concurs with the actions taken by the University of Minnesota Animal Care and Use Committee to comply with the PHS Policy.

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

Sincerely,

Angelina M. Williams - Digitally signed by Angelina M.
Williams -S
S Date: 2024.02.01 09:56:59 -05'00'
Angelina Williams, DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Animal Welfare Policy
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact

(b) (6)

A3456-10W

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

January 22, 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 Numbers: R01 NS037019, R01 NS117822, R01 NS110613
UMN IACUC #39817A

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In keeping with the terms of our assurance, please be informed that we are making a report of non-compliance related to an IACUC approved, NIH funded study involving Rhesus macaques. The basis of this report results from a self-reported incident. The report outlined that between October 24th, 2023, and October 27th, 2023, three Rhesus macaques were without access to water. The water valve connected to their lixits had previously been shut off due to construction in the room and had not been turned back on when repairs were completed, and the animals returned to the room. The husbandry staff member who was responsible for checking water availability and lixit function twice daily had recorded this task as completed on the daily care log for the dates in question.

The animals involved in this incident initially presented with decreased appetite, but no other clinical signs or adverse effects were noted. Upon discovery of the issue, the animals were promptly assessed by a veterinarian and were provided with water in slow increments as well as prophylactic medication to prevent bloat. Follow-up veterinary assessments did not reveal any subsequent clinical signs.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. The IACUC has indefinitely rescinded the animal use privileges of the individual who failed to ensure access to water for these animals, and RAR (Research Animal Resources) has confirmed that this individual has been removed from animal care duties. During the investigation of this incident, it was also discovered that, while the RAR staff member had been trained on NHP husbandry, the training assessment document was not completed. Expectations for appropriate training and documentation are being reinforced with RAR managers and supervisors of animal husbandry staff. The IACUC's post approval monitoring program will be expanded to include annual verification of training documentation for all RAR staff. We believe that these changes will prevent recurrence of this type of issue, and we hope that OLAW finds the measures taken satisfactory.

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, January 30, 2024 7:41 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Nate Koewler; Erin Dickerson; (b) (6) PhD; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Non-Compliance Report

Good morning,

Thank you for providing this report, assigned OLAW case **A3456-10W**. We will send an official response 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: Monday, January 29, 2024 5:27 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: accredit@aaalac.org; Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>; Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Non-Compliance Report

Dear Dr. Wolff,

On behalf of VPR Shashank Priya, please find the attached report of non-compliance. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

