



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

May 30, 2024

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

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Minnesota – Main Campus
(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 May 24, 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 animals lacking access to water. The final report states on April 23, 2024, lab personnel transported 10 cages of mice from the vivarium to the lab space for an approved procedure. It is stated the water bottles were inverted to avoid leaking during transport. However, lab personnel did not return the bottle to the proper position, and this action resulted in animals not having access to water overnight.

The report states 4 mice were found dead. It is understood the root cause of death could not be definitively determined if it was related to the lack of water access or the approved experiment. It is stated remaining mice were provided access to water and treated with subcutaneous fluids by veterinary staff and the animals recovered. As a corrective measure, the lab has implemented a plan to place a physical card on any cage that has a water bottle inverted for transport. It is understood the card will serve as a visual reminder to correct the position of the water bottle and will be removed when water access has been restored. The report states future compliance will be monitored during annual post-approval monitoring of the lab and by daily husbandry checks in the vivarium.

It is noted the research project is supported by PHS 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.

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: 2024.05.30 12:44:26
-0400

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

cc: IACUC Contact

A3456-11A

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*

May 24, 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: P01-AI056299
UMN IACUC #38905A

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 April 23, 2024, lab staff transported 10 cages of mice from the vivarium to lab space for an approved procedure. The water bottles were flipped to avoid leaking during transport, but lab staff failed to return the water bottles to the proper position, resulting in the mice being without access to water overnight.

Four mice were found dead, although it was noted that it could not be definitively determined whether the mortality was related to the lack of water access or to the approved experiment. Other mice were given access to water and treated with subcutaneous fluids by veterinary staff and recovered.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. To avoid future errors with water bottles, the lab has implemented a plan to place a physical card on any cages which have water bottles flipped for transport. The card will serve as a visual reminder to replace the water bottle in the correct position and will only be removed when water access has been restored. Future compliance will be monitored during annual post approval monitoring of the lab and by daily husbandry checks in the vivarium.

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: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 10:28 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Erin Dickerson; (b) (6); (b) (6) Nate Koewler; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Non-Compliance Reports

Good morning,

Thank you for providing these 2 reports, which have been assigned as OLAW cases **A3456-11A** (IACUC #38905A) and **A3456-11B** (IACUC #41211A). 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: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 7:30 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; (b) (6); (b) (6) Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>; accredit@aaalac.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Non-Compliance Reports

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

Best,
 (b) (6)