



July 20, 2026

Bernadette Juarez, J.D.  
Deputy Administrator  
Animal Care  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Via email: [Bernadette.R.Juarez@USDA.gov](mailto:Bernadette.R.Juarez@USDA.gov); [ac.complaints@usda.gov](mailto:ac.complaints@usda.gov)

Dear Ms. Juarez:

Thank you in advance for your time. I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 10.4 million members and supporters worldwide—to respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) investigate apparent violations set forth in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) at the University of Washington's (UW; 91-R-0001) Washington National Primate Research Center breeding facility in Mesa, Arizona (Site 002).

According to the university's report to the National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), on March 28, 2024, a group of pigtail macaques escaped their primary enclosure after staff failed to properly secure a door lock after a cage change (see Enclosure 1). The escaped monkeys entered a shared interior area and gained access to an adjacent group through the enclosure mesh. Eight monkeys sustained visible wounds, including two monkeys who were sent to the hospital area. A male who suffered the most severe injuries required removal from the group after hospitalization.

The facility acknowledged that staff failed to complete the required double-check of enclosure locks and concluded that the unsecured lock allowed the macaques to escape.

This escape reflects a troubling pattern. The university has repeatedly been cited for violations involving nonhuman primates escaping their cages and injuring other animals. Just one week before this Arizona escape, two adult rhesus macaques in Seattle escaped through an improperly secured side panel and fought with other animals. A total of four animals sustained injuries; three required sedation for wound repair. USDA subsequently issued a critical violation on October 8, 2024 (see Enclosure 2).

PETA believes this incident indicates that UW is in violation of the following Animal Welfare Regulations:

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Washington

1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles

2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk

501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

Entities

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

**1. 9 C.F.R. § 3.75(a) - Housing Facilities, General**

“Housing facilities for nonhuman primates must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound for the species of nonhuman primates housed in them. They must be kept in good repair, and they must protect the animals from injury, contain the animals securely, and restrict other animals from entering.”

The facility acknowledged that a required lock verification was missed and that the unsecured enclosure door allowed the monkeys to escape. As a result, animals were exposed to foreseeable injury from contact with another social group.

**2. 9 C.F.R. § 3.80(a)(2) - Primary Enclosures**

Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they protect the nonhuman primates from injury (ii); contain the nonhuman primates securely and prevent accidental opening of the enclosure, including opening by the animal (iii); and keep other unwanted animals from entering the enclosure or having physical contact with the nonhuman primates (iv).

Because the improperly secured enclosure allowed contact between incompatible groups, resulting in injuries to eight macaques, the enclosure failed to protect the animals from preventable harm.

**3. 9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1) - Handling of Animals**

“Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.”

The failure of staff to follow established procedures following a cage change exposed the animals to trauma, physical stress, and physical injury to eight monkeys.

**4. 9 C.F.R. § 2.32(b) – Personnel qualifications**

“Training and instruction shall be made available, and the qualifications of personnel reviewed, with sufficient frequency to fulfill the research facility’s responsibilities under this section and § 2.31.”

The failure of personnel to conduct a required lock verification raises concerns regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of employee training and competency review. Given the university’s history of nonhuman primate escape incidents, repeated failures to follow established containment procedures suggest that training, performance evaluation, supervision, and corrective actions may not have been sufficient.

**5. 9 C.F.R. § 3.85 – Employees**

“The employees who provide husbandry practices and care, or handle nonhuman primates, must be trained and supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of nonhuman primates to supervise others.”

Despite having an established lock-verification process, staff failed to perform the required double-check of the enclosure door lock. Repeated escape incidents raise concerns regarding compliance with employee training, oversight, and performance requirements.

The injuries sustained by these eight macaques were entirely preventable. PETA respectfully requests that the USDA immediately investigate whether UW violated the AWA and its implementing regulations, including but not limited to **9 C.F.R. §§ 3.75(a), 3.80(a)(2), 2.131(b)(1), 2.32(b), and 3.85**, and pursue all appropriate enforcement actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chandra Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chandra" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Fuller".

Chandra Fuller, MSL  
Primate Project Manager  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

**Enclosures:**

1. Correspondence between OLAW and UW
2. USDA Inspection Report

# Enclosure

# 1



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 24, 2024

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3464-01 [OLAW Case 13S]

Sally Thompson-Iritani, DVM/Ph.D., CPIA, CCFP  
Assistant Vice Provost  
University of Washington - Seattle  
(b) (4), Box 351202  
Seattle, WA 98195

Dear Dr. Thompson-Iritani,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 17, 2024 letter reporting a noncompliance with the PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Washington's Arizona NHP facility. Your letter supplements the information in the prompt preliminary telephone report on April 9, 2024. According to the information provided, it is understood that on March 28, 2024, a group of pigtail macaques escaped their primary enclosure due to a door lock not being properly secured. The animals accessed a shared bay of the interior hallway. This allowed the animals to contact an adjacent group of animals through the enclosure's mesh. Staff members quickly separated the two groups. A total of eight animals from the two groups had visible injuries, but none were severe enough to warrant immediate capture and removal from the enclosure. All injured animals were promptly treated with oral analgesics. Some animals were also treated with oral antibiotics. Two of the animals were relocated to the hospital area for additional care. No unallowable costs have been charged to PHS funds.

The facility has an established process for double checking all locks. The double check for this lock, however, was missed. The lock may have visually appeared locked from a distance. A process to hang locks away from the latches has been implemented. Signs have also been added throughout the facility reminding everyone to double check locks.

OLAW appreciates being notified by the University of Washington of this issue. Your reporting of this unfortunate incident is consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals for institutional self-monitoring, self-reporting, and self-correction. We find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

**Brent C. Morse**

-S

Brent C. Morse, DVM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Digitally signed by Brent C.  
Morse -S

Date: 2024.05.24 08:03:33  
-04'00'

cc: IACUC contact

(b) (6)

A3464-135

W

May 17, 2024

Brent Morse, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
[olawdco@od.nih.gov](mailto:olawdco@od.nih.gov)

Re: D16-00292 (A3464-01), Arizona NHP Escape Resulting in Injury

Dear Dr. Morse:

This is a final report of an adverse event that was reported to OLAW by (b) (6) in a telephone call on 4/9/2024.

On 3/28/24, a group of pigtail macaques at the Arizona Breeding Colony escaped their primary enclosure into a shared bay of the interior hallway. The secondary containment doors were closed, which contained the animals to this small space. This allowed the animals access to an adjacent group of animals through the enclosure's mesh. Staff members immediately heard the animal vocalizations and quickly shifted one group into the outside portion of their enclosure to separate the animals and secure the doors. This enclosure housed 17 animals. It is unknown exactly how many animals were outside the primary enclosure.

It was determined that a lock on one of the primary enclosure doors was not properly secured after cage change earlier that day, allowing animals to exit their enclosure. The cage change was performed by an experienced, fully trained animal technician with no history of prior performance concerns.

The veterinarian in charge, in consultation with the behavior management team, elected to leave all animals in the enclosure following the incident to minimize additional stress induced by handling at that time. Eight animals (4 from this group, 4 from the adjacent group) had visible injuries, but none were severe enough to warrant immediate capture and removal from the enclosure. All injured animals were promptly treated with oral analgesics. Some animals were also treated with oral antibiotics. All animals were reassessed the following day. Five animals continued treatment with oral medications and required no other interventions. Three animals, including the dominant male from the adjacent group, were removed from the group for further assessment and treatment. One of these three animals was treated and returned to their enclosure the same day. The dominant male and one female were relocated to the hospital area for additional care. The female has since recovered and returned to the group. The dominant male sustained the most severe injuries and remains separated from the group for care. The other 7 animals have no evidence of sustained injury.

The technician performing the cage change accepted full responsibility for the incident. The facility already has an established process for double checking all locks. The double check for this lock, however, was missed. The supervisor suspects that a contributing factor may have been that locks were hung near the latch during cage change and may have visually appeared locked from a distance. A process to hang locks away from the latches has been implemented. Signs have also been added throughout the facility reminding everyone to double check locks.

The IACUC reviewed this incident at its May meeting and found no further action necessary (considers the case closed). No unallowable costs have been charged to PHS funds.

If you have questions regarding this situation or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Sally Thompson-Iritani, DVM/PhD, CPIA, CCFP  
Institutional Official, Animal Care & Use Program  
Assistant Vice Provost, Animal Care, Outreach & 3Rs  
Clinical Associate Professor, DEOHS, SPH

c:

(b) (6)

[accredit@aaalac.org](mailto:accredit@aaalac.org)

## **Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 7:13 AM  
**To:** OAW Director  
**Cc:** Sally Thompson-Iritani; (b) (6); (b) (6); OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Final Report of 3 Non-Compliant Events

Good morning,

Thank you for providing these three final reports. 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](mailto:teagan.ware@nih.gov)

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**From:** OAW Director <oawdirector@uw.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 5:47 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** AAALAC International <accredit@AAALAC.org>; Sally Thompson-Iritani <sti2@uw.edu>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Final Report of 3 Non-Compliant Events

Hello,

Attached are the final reports for three non-compliant events at the University of Washington (D16-00292). Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: TDW

Date: 4/9/24 Time: voicemail

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

- Email:

Name of Institution: University of Washington + RPRC

Assurance number: D16-00292

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? \_\_\_\_\_

Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

Group of primates escaped enclosure and fought with other animals housed in adjacent rooms

Species involved: NHP (pigtail macaque)

Personnel involved:

Dates and times: 3/28/24

Animal deaths:

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

TBD

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

60-90 days

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # \_\_\_\_\_

# Enclosure

# 2



## Inspection Report

University of Washington  
Box 357160  
Seattle, WA 98195

Customer ID: **1016**

Certificate: **91-R-0001**

Site: 001

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 08-OCT-2024

### 2.31(e)(3) Critical

#### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

An adult male macaque underwent videofluoroscopy for more sessions than described in the approved protocol, and subsequently experienced radiation toxicity with clinical impacts. Between mid-May 2024 and June 2024, the animal underwent the procedure three times per week for four weeks rather than the approved frequency of two times per week.

On 3/13/24, the facility performed a lymph node biopsy on four macaques and did not provide the required systemic analgesia. Following this incident, a record review identified two additional instances of noncompliance. The same four animals underwent a lymph node biopsy on 1/4/24 and did not receive systemic analgesia following that procedure, and an additional macaque did not receive appropriate analgesia following a cerebrospinal fluid tap performed on 3/16/24.

All the procedures to which animals are subjected must be included in a complete description of the proposed use of the animals. It is essential that this information be included in the protocol submitted to the IACUC for review to ensure the judicious and humane use of the animals.

Corrected prior to the inspection on October 8, 2024.

### 2.32(a) Critical

#### Personnel qualifications.

On 3/21/2024, two adult male rhesus macaques were found out of their enclosure but contained within their room in the vivarium. The animals had escaped through an improperly secured side panel of their primary enclosure. The animals were then coaxed back into their enclosure by a recapture team. The loose animals had fought with other animals in the room during their escape. A total of four animals sustained injuries; three of the animals required sedation for wound repair.

It is the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all personnel involved in animal care and use are adequately trained to perform their duties. Inadequate or incomplete staff training can have a significant impact on the health and welfare of research animals. The facility shall ensure that all personnel are sufficiently trained to conduct their duties.

Corrected prior to the inspection on October 8, 2024.

Prepared By: DIANE FORBES

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

23-OCT-2024

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: IACUC Representative

Date:

23-OCT-2024



## Inspection Report

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### 3.76(c)

#### Indoor housing facilities.

Three rooms, housing 20 adult macaques assigned to seven different research projects and the colony protocol, were under inappropriate light cycles for an extended period. According to the facility, all three rooms had been under continuous light from 4/14/24 to 4/23/24 for a total of nine days. Not having the lights turn off did not provide for a diurnal light cycle and did not allow the animals housed indoors to be able to get away from constant lighting.

Animal areas must be provided a regular diurnal lighting cycle of either natural or artificial light to ensure their health and well-being. The facility must ensure that nonhuman primates housed in indoor enclosures are provided a diurnal light cycle.

Corrected prior to the inspection on October 8, 2024.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

Eduardo Vivas, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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**Prepared By:** DIANE FORBES

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

**Date:**  
23-OCT-2024

**Received by Title:** IACUC Representative

**Date:**  
23-OCT-2024



Species Inspected

| Cust No | Cert No   | Site | Site Name                | Inspection  |
|---------|-----------|------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1016    | 91-R-0001 | 001  | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON | 08-OCT-2024 |

| Count  | Scientific Name              | Common Name                             |
|--------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 000012 | <i>Macaca fascicularis</i>   | CRAB-EATING MACAQUE / CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY |
| 000158 | <i>Macaca mulatta</i>        | RHESUS MACAQUE                          |
| 000211 | <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>     | PIG-TAILED MACAQUE                      |
| 000003 | <i>Canis familiaris</i>      | DOG ADULT                               |
| 000014 | <i>Mustela putorius furo</i> | DOMESTIC FERRET                         |
| 000002 | <i>Meriones unguiculatus</i> | MONGOLIAN GERBIL                        |
| 000002 | <i>Calypte anna</i>          | ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD                      |
| 000022 | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT       |
| 000424 | <b>Total</b>                 |                                         |