



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Home Page: <https://olaw.nih.gov>

February 25, 2026

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3208-01 [OLAW Case 1Y]

Daniel Sui, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Research & Innovation
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
800 Drillfield Drive, Burruss Hall, (b) (4)
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Sui,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 23, 2026, letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Virginia Tech following up on an initial January 28, 2026, notification by telephone. It is noted that the research project is supported by NIH funding.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Virginia Tech Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to conditions that jeopardized the health/well-being of animals resulting in harm/death to animals. The final report states on November 11, 2025, the IACUC office was notified that 2 cages of mice were discovered with no water, and 5 mice were found dead. It is stated the remaining animals were assessed by a veterinarian, and eventually fully recovered without further incident.

In response to the finding, a review of lab husbandry procedures was conducted, including verification that personnel performing husbandry duties were provided retraining on relevant SOPs. The report states that the results of the review were submitted to the IACUC, and the committee reviewed the findings and other information related to the incident. The committee sent an educational reminder letter to the Principal Investigator reviewing husbandry expectations and approved the corrective measures already enacted to provide retraining. The following corrective actions were implemented in response to the incident:

- Requiring experienced personnel to monitor mice for the remainder of this cohort's timeline.
- Retraining of all lab personnel on proper water bottle installation, monitoring techniques, and how to report issues.
- The lab is exploring alternative water bottle styles to minimize the risk of future similar events.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that Virginia Tech has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrence 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: 2026.02.25 09:08:34 -05'00'

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM
Acting Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



Burruss Hall, (b) (4)
 800 Drillfield Drive
 Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
 p: (b) (6) f: (b) (6)
 research.vt.edu

February 23, 2026

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM
 Acting Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
 Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
 National Institutes of Health
 6705 Rockledge Dr (RKL1), MSC 7983
 Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Tubbs,

Virginia Tech, in accordance with Assurance #A-3208-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of animal-related activities that were determined to be potentially non-compliant with the associated IACUC-approved protocol. This animal research study involves mice.

This incident was first reported following verification of federal funding to Teagan Ware, Animal Welfare Program Analyst, OLAW, on January 28, 2026 via a telephone call (b) (6). (b) (6) During the call, Teagan provided A-3208-01-Y as the identifier for this report.

On November 11, 2025, the IACUC office received a report of an adverse event that involved two cages of mice within a satellite housing space, which were found with no water available and five mice deceased. The remaining mice were evaluated by a veterinarian, monitored and fully recovered without issue. A thorough review of lab husbandry procedures was undertaken following receipt of the reported event, including later confirmation that federal funds were used for the animals. The review included confirmation that personnel performing husbandry tasks had received retraining on relevant SOPs. The results of the review were provided to the IACUC in January 2026. The IACUC reviewed and discussed the facts, circumstances, and potential non-compliances with the approved protocol including consideration of animal welfare.

After discussion, the IACUC sent an educational reminder letter to the PI reviewing animal husbandry expectations and approving the corrective actions already taken to provide retraining. Corrective actions included only having experienced personnel monitor mice for the remainder of this cohort's timeline; re-training of all lab personnel on proper water bottle installation, monitoring techniques, and how to report issues; and the lab exploring alternative water bottle styles to minimize the risk of future similar events.

The funding source of these animals is via the NIH (Federal Award #R01CA284075). Per the PHS requirement, the PI has been informed that they must cooperate with their grant administrator to determine if any funding related actions must be taken.

Virginia Tech is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by the OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact (b) (6).

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Dr. Daniel Sui
Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation
Institutional Official
Virginia Tech

Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 11:04 AM
To: 'iacucpam'
Cc: (b) (6); OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Final Report

Good morning,

Thank you for providing this final report for OLAW case **A3208-1Y**. We will send an official response soon.

***Disclaimer:** Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected, or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.*

Best,
Teagan

Teagan Ware, MS, PMP
Animal Welfare Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
6705 Rockledge Drive (RKL 1), MSC 7983

Phone: 301-435-2390
Email: teagan.ware@nih.gov

From: iacucpam <iacucpam@vt.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 10:59 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6); iacucpam <iacucpam@vt.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final Report

Hello Dr. Tubbs,

Attached please find a final report from our IO. Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

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(b) (6)





Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: TDW

Date: **1/28/26** Time: 10:17AM

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #:

Fax #:

Email: _

Name of Institution: VA Tech

Assurance number: A3208-01

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? __

Funding component: __

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

Notified in mid-November but needed to verify funding. Two cages of mice, 5 in total were found deceased due to water bottle not functioning. Personnel training issues. All remaining mice fully recovered.

Species involved: mice

Personnel involved:

Dates and times: October 21, 2025

Animal deaths:

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

PI fully retrained staff.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

60-90 days

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #__ __