



October 20, 2026

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

Via e-mail: Bernadette.R.Juarez@usda.gov; ac.complaints@usda.gov

Dear Ms. Juarez:

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 request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) investigate possible violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the associated Animal Welfare Regulations (AWR) related to the use and treatment of animals at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU; USDA Certificate No. 92-R-0001).

According to records PETA obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, OHSU reported a violation of federal animal welfare guidelines at its Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC) to the National Institutes of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) on July 28, 2026, and submitted a written follow-up report on August 21, 2026. The incident resulted in a juvenile female rhesus macaque suffering multiple fractures to the digits of both hands and ultimately undergoing multiple digit amputations. It appears to PETA that this incident also represents violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Animal Welfare Regulations (AWRs).

Incident Resulting in a Rhesus Macaque Undergoing Multiple Digit Amputations

According to OHSU's report to OLAW, on July 2, 2026, a juvenile female rhesus macaque was discovered alone in a run pen after becoming separated from her social group. Blood consistent with a minor digit wound was reportedly observed in the pen; however, the technician reported that the animal was showing no signs of pain. The next day, the same animal was seen sucking on her fingers, and radiographs revealed multiple fractures affecting the digits of both hands. As a result of the severity of the injuries, the macaque underwent multiple digit amputations on July 3, July 7, and July 9, 2026.

OHSU's investigation determined that the incident likely resulted from staff failing to properly secure a slide separating two adjoining pens after shifting animals for routine husbandry procedures. According to the report, the slide was left unsecured, allowing the juvenile macaque to move between enclosures.

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.)

OHSU acknowledged that the unsecured slide may have fallen on the animal's hands, causing the injuries that ultimately necessitated the amputations. OHSU reported the matter to OLAW as noncompliance involving conditions that jeopardized animal welfare and resulted in significant harm to an animal.

Possible Violations of the Animal Welfare Regulations

This incident appears to raise serious concerns regarding compliance with the AWRs governing the handling of animals and the maintenance of housing facilities for nonhuman primates. According to OHSU's report, personnel failed to properly secure a slide separating two pens, resulting in a juvenile rhesus macaque suffering multiple fractures and ultimately undergoing multiple digit amputations, violating:

Section 9 C.F.R. § 3.80(a)(2)(iii): “Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they contain the nonhuman primates securely and prevent accidental opening of the enclosure, including opening by the animal.”

Section 9 C.F.R. § 3.80(a)(2)(ii): “Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they protect the nonhuman primates from injury.”

Section 9 C.F.R. § 3.75(a): “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.”

In addition, a technician noted that the macaque had become separated from her social group and observed blood in the enclosure consistent with a digit wound on July 2, 2026. Despite the presence of blood, staff reportedly elected to continue monitoring the rhesus macaque. The following day, radiographs revealed multiple fractures affecting the digits of both hands and these injuries ultimately required multiple amputations. These circumstances raise concerns regarding whether appropriate diagnostic and treatment measures were promptly implemented following the initial discovery of the injury, potentially violating:

Section 9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b): “Research facilities must maintain a program of adequate veterinary care that includes appropriate methods to diagnose and treat injuries.”

History of Similar Animal Welfare Concerns at OHSU

The circumstances surrounding the July 2026 incident are especially concerning because they mirror many of the same issues identified in prior inspections. APHIS inspection reports and enforcement records show a history of animal welfare concerns at OHSU involving enclosure failures, animal injuries, facility maintenance deficiencies, and animal escapes.

In [October 2024](#), APHIS cited OHSU for a similar incident, where a rhesus macaque sustained lacerations to the head and ear when a monkey was able to push out a mesh slide, resulting in unintended direct contact with a macaque in an adjoining enclosure. And in [March 2025](#), OHSU received a critical violation after staff failed to report signs of illness and distress displayed by a female Japanese macaque. Failure to report this concerning behavior to veterinary staff resulted in

a lack of timely medical care, and the animal was ultimately found dead in her enclosure. During this inspection, 38 Japanese macaques were also noted to have been held in enclosures for five days that did not meet minimum space requirements, and multiple enclosures housing nonhuman primates were found to require maintenance.

The recurrence of incidents involving enclosure security, animal containment, and injury prevention raises questions regarding whether previous corrective actions have been effective and whether OHSU has adequately addressed longstanding animal welfare concerns.

Request for Investigation and Enforcement Action

The circumstances described in OHSU's report to OLAW indicate that a juvenile rhesus macaque suffered severe and permanent injuries after facility personnel failed to properly secure an enclosure slide and failed to identify the resulting hazards. These failures resulted in the animal sustaining multiple fractures and ultimately undergoing multiple amputations. Accordingly, PETA respectfully requests that APHIS investigate this incident, determine whether OHSU violated the Animal Welfare Act or its implementing regulations, and take all appropriate enforcement action warranted by its findings.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Steen". The script is cursive and fluid.

Jennifer Steen
Primate Campaign Research Manager
Laboratory Investigations Department
JenD@peta.org

Enclosure

Animal Welfare Assurance A3304-01 [OLAW Case 4Z]



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>

September 9, 2026

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3304-01 [OLAW Case 4Z]

Bonnie Nagel, Ph.D.
Chief Research Officer
Oregon Health & Science University
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, OR 97239

Dear Dr. Nagel,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 21, 2026, letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) following up on an initial July 28, 2026, notification by telephone. It is noted that the animal was not assigned to a research project at the time of the incident.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the OHSU 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 July 2, 2026, a juvenile female rhesus macaque was discovered alone in a colony run pen, separated from her social group. The separation was recorded on the daily observation sheet (DOS) and noted that blood was present in the run and consistent with a minor digit wound. It is stated that the clinical technician observed the animal and no signs of pain were observed and requested continued monitoring of the animal. The next day, the same animal was reported for favoring the right hand (albeit slightly) and ultimately it was requested that the animal be assessed for a potential digital fracture. Radiographs revealed multiple digit fractures on both hands, which resulted in multiple amputations of the digits on both hands.

Investigative results revealed that a colony lead did not notice a closed slide or animal separated from the group during the lock check performed around 3pm. Following the lock check, a colony technician shifted the group to an adjacent pen to collect lixit water samples. It is stated that when the group shifted back to the original pen, the slide between the two pens inadvertently remained closed, or was not secured open. As a result of the error, it is presumed that the animal was able to lift the unlocked slide and move between the pens. The report states that it is possible that the unsecured slide fell on the juvenile's hands at some point resulting in injuries.

The matter was reviewed by the IACUC on August 18, 2026, and the following corrective actions were approved by the committee (in summary):

- All staff have been reminded of the requirement to verify and secure all enclosure doors, slides, and access points immediately following any husbandry, sampling, maintenance, or observation activities.

- Colony Leads have reinforced expectations regarding completion of visual and physical lock verification checks following any activity that requires access to animal enclosures.
- Staff conducting procedures or entering animal areas later in the afternoon are required to verify whether the Colony Lead lock check has already been completed.
- Staff have been counseled on the importance of maintaining enclosure security and promptly reporting any concerns or discrepancies identified during daily operations.
- The colony leadership team has reviewed current lock-check procedures to identify opportunities for additional safeguards and accountability measures. Lock check procedure retraining will be implemented.
- Staff have been reminded to immediately escalate any indication of animal separation, abnormal housing conditions, or injury to veterinary and management personnel to ensure timely intervention and treatment.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that Oregon Health & Science University 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: 2026.09.09 13:50:00
-04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact

Louis DiVincenti, Senior Veterinary Medical Officer – Research



Office of the Chief Research
Officer

Mail code: L335
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park
Rd.

Portland, OR 97239

tel: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

Bonnie Nagel, PhD
Interim Chief Research Officer
Executive Vice President
Institutional Official
email: nagelb@ohsu.edu

August 21, 2026

Dr. Jacquelyn Tubbs
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Tubbs:

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), in accordance with Assurance D16-00195 (A3304-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of a serious adverse event. This was first reported to OLAW on July 28, 2026, via a telephone call (b) (6). The OLAW case number is A3304-4Z.

On 7/2/26 a juvenile female rhesus macaque was found alone in a colony run pen, separated from her social group housed in an adjacent colony pen. The area tech noted the separation on the daily observation sheet (DOS) and reported that there was blood in the run that was consistent with a minor digit wound. A clinic tech performed observations noting that the juvenile appeared comfortable with no favoring (i.e., no signs of pain) observed and requested continued monitoring of the animals. On 7/3/26, the juvenile was reported to be slightly favoring the right hand and sucking on the digits. A CVT did rounds that morning and requested the animal be evaluated for possible digit fracture.

Upon evaluation, radiographs showed multiple digit fractures on both hands, resulting in multiple amputations of the digits on both hands on 7/3, 7/7, and 7/9.

During the investigation it was reported that a colony lead completed a lock check around 3 pm on 7/1 but did not notice a closed slide or animal separated from the group at that time. Later that afternoon (following the lock check), a colony area tech collected lixit water samples and shifted the group to an adjacent pen for the collection process. When the group was shifted back to the original pen, the slide between the two pens was left closed, or not secured open, in error. The slide was not locked closed or open, which presumably allowed the animals to lift the unlocked slide and the juvenile moved from between the pens. It is possible that the unsecured slide fell on the juvenile's hands at some point resulting in injuries.

The incident was discussed by the West Campus IACUC on August 18, 2026. The IACUC unanimously approved the following mitigation plans:

1. All staff have been reminded of the requirement to verify and secure all enclosure doors, slides, and access points immediately following any husbandry, sampling, maintenance, or observation activities.
2. Colony Leads have reinforced expectations regarding completion of visual and physical lock verification checks following any activity that requires access to animal enclosures.
3. Staff conducting procedures or entering animal areas later in the afternoon are required to verify whether the Colony Lead lock check has already been completed. If the lock check has been conducted, staff must either:
 - a. Defer non-time-sensitive activities until the following day, or
 - b. Notify the Area/Colony Lead before entering the space so that an additional lock check can be arranged upon completion of the activity.
4. Staff have been counseled on the importance of maintaining enclosure security and promptly reporting any concerns or discrepancies identified during daily operations.
5. The colony leadership team has reviewed current lock-check procedures to identify opportunities for additional safeguards and accountability measures. Lock check procedure retraining will be implemented.
6. Staff have been reminded to immediately escalate any indication of animal separation, abnormal housing conditions, or injury to veterinary and management personnel to ensure timely intervention and treatment.

These actions are intended to further strengthen enclosure security practices, improve procedural compliance, enhance communication regarding post-lock-check room access, and reduce the likelihood of future animal separations, injuries, and associated animal welfare concerns.

The animal was not assigned to a research project at the time of the incident. OHSU is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by 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)

Bonnie Nagel, Ph.D.
Interim Chief Research Officer
Executive Vice President
Institutional Official
Oregon Health & Science University

cc: IACUC Chair
Attending Veterinarian
Director, Animal Care and Use Program

Williams, Angelina (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:51 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6); Bonnie Nagel; (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Reportable event-OHSU D16-00195 (A3304-01)

Hello,

Thank you for providing this final report for OLAW case **A3304-4Z**. 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.

Very respectfully,

Angelina Williams, DVM, MPH, DACLAM, DACVPM, FAC-COR, CPH
Lieutenant Commander (LCDR), US Public Health Service
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
National Institutes of Health
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Office: (301) 451-1952

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 2:37 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) Bonnie Nagel
<nagelb@ohsu.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reportable event-OHSU D16-00195 (A3304-01)

To all concerned,

Please see the attached report regarding a serious adverse event from Oregon Health & Science University- D16-00195 (A3304-01). This final report is a follow up to OLAW pre-report case number A3304-4Z. Please confirm receipt and let me know if you need any additional information.

Best

(b) (6)

Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 10:16 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Voicemail- pre-report animal welfare concern

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi (b) (6),

Thank you for following up! I did receive your voicemail. This report has been assigned as OLAW case **A3304-4Z**. Please reference this case ID when providing updates or submitting the final report.

***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: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 12:02 PM
To: Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E] <teagan.ware@nih.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voicemail- pre-report animal welfare concern

Good morning Teagan

I just left you a voicemail reporting an animal welfare concern (7/28/2026). I realize you are out of the office, but I was unable to get a voicemail from anyone else in the division (just kept ringing). When you are back in the office can you confirm you received my pre-report voicemail?

Thank you

(b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: TDW

Date: 7/28/26 Time: 12:00PM (VM)

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email: _

Name of Institution: _Oregon Health and Science Univ_

Assurance number: _A3304-01_

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? _

Funding component: _

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _

What happened?

Juvenile rhesus macaque inadvertently separated from it's group due to a slide not being locked that connects the 2 pens. During the evening it is believed that the animal got it's fingers stuck in the slide trying to gain access to its cohoused other macaques resulting in the animal needing to have multiple digits fingers amputated.

Species involved: rhesus macaque

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: No

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

Currently investigating.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

60-90 days

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _ _