



FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive - MSC 7982  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 402-2803

March 3, 2006

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance A3410-01  
[OLAW Cases 3B, 3C, 3D, & 3E]

Dr. Roberto Peccei  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of California, Los Angeles  
405 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1405

Dear Dr. Peccei,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 28, 2006 letters reporting four instances of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of California- Los Angeles (UCLA). According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following about the incidents and the corresponding corrective actions:

- 1) OLAW Case A3196-3B: Animals underwent surgical procedures although the protocol had expired.

Corrective action: To prevent a recurrence, the investigator proposed improved intra-laboratory communication, increased vigilance, discussion of protocol approval dates at laboratory meetings, and modifying protocol titles to avoid confusion. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee/Animal Research Committee (IACUC/ARC) accepted the corrective plan.

- 2) OLAW Case A3196-3C: Three rats died due to not receiving adequate food and water over a holiday weekend.

Corrective action: The responsible animal caretaker was counseled, put on a performance plan, and received closer supervision. Animal care procedures for weekends and holidays have been modified and include special logs, water bottle filling instructions, and the inclusion of gel packs in cages.

- 3) OLAW Case A3196-3D: A sick mouse was ordered by the veterinarian to either be treated or euthanized, however the investigator kept the animal alive in the laboratory. It was further determined that the animal was to have tissue harvested, a procedure not covered on the protocol, and that the laboratory was not an approved animal housing site.

Corrective action: The investigator was retrained, agreed to follow IACUC policies, and appointed laboratory staff to carry out Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM) requests.

- 4) OLAW Case A3196-3E: A sick mouse was ordered by the veterinarian to either be treated or euthanized, however this was not performed in a timely fashion. It was further determined that the cage cards did not contain current contact information for laboratory staff.

Corrective action: The mouse was subsequently euthanized by a DLAM technician. The Principal Investigator agreed to have staff correct and monitor the information on the cage cards.

Based on its assessment of these explanations, OLAW has the following comments on the cases (numbers correspond to the cases above):

- 1) In future noncompliance reports provide a full explanation of the situation, including what happened, when and where, and the species involved. In this case, it would include provision of more detail about the surgery and the types of animals involved.
- 2) Other animal facilities have implemented a secondary check of animal rooms by a different individual following daily husbandry procedures to ensure completion of tasks.
- 3) Unless informed to the contrary, OLAW assumes that the cage card discrepancy has also been resolved.
- 4) OLAW assumes that a policy is in place whereby DLAM staff is authorized to euthanize an animal, based on professional judgment, when required to prevent suffering. Procedures should include provisions to notify investigators, however the severity of the condition may determine the course of action. When PHS-supported activities can specifically be identified, include the relevant grant number.

OLAW understands that UCLA has implemented measures to correct and prevent recurrence of the four noncompliant incidents reported. We appreciate having been informed about these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,



Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight

cc: William McBride, Ph.D., IACUC Chair  
Judith Brookshire, Director, OPRS  
Kathy Wadsworth, Associate Director, Animal Subjects Research