



August 30, 2022

Brent C. Morse, D.V.M.
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Via e-mail: MorseB@mail.nih.gov

Dear Dr. Morse:

We believe that the federal Animal Welfare Act violations documented in the attached U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection report posted against the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus constitute violations of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy). Last year, the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (Animal Welfare Assurance D16-00262; A3421-01) received \$30,735,072 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and according to NIH, an estimated 47% of those funds supported projects that involved experiments on animals.

In 1985, members of Congress from both sides of the aisle worked together to strengthen protections for animals in laboratories in order to address deep-seated ethical concerns held by the American public regarding the use of animals in experiments. Polling by the Pew Research Center found that more than 50% of U.S. adults oppose the use of animals in experiments, and other surveys suggest that the support of the shrinking group that continues to accept animal experimentation is contingent on the existence and enforcement of stringent regulations aimed at protecting animals.

As you know, institutions that receive funding from Public Health Service agencies—including NIH—are required to comply with PHS Policy. Failure to comply violates not only federal animal welfare guidelines and policies but also public expectations that facilities receiving tax dollars to use animals—who are capable of experiencing pain, distress, love, and companionship and value their lives just as we value ours—at the very least, comply with minimal standards aimed at ensuring some modicum of animal welfare.

We ask that your office investigate the incidents outlined in the attached reports.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alka Chandna, Ph.D.
Vice President
Laboratory Investigations Cases

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