

**Exhibit 18**

- 18) August 29, 2013 letter from OLAW acknowledging the implementation of the recommendations and indicating that the case would remain open although no additional information was currently needed



FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
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Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

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August 29, 2013

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3368-01 [OLAW Case 4P]

Name
Title
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Room #Bascom Hall – 500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 21, 2013 letter providing responses to recommendations made by our site visit team to the University of Wisconsin-Madison regarding the activities involved in maintenance of cats in a hearing study. In response, laboratory-specific standard operating procedures (SOP) were developed which address explant maintenance, eye and ear coil maintenance, animal transportation, food preparation and equipment maintenance, non-surgical procedures both with or without required anesthesia, and animal equipment cleaning. Also the SOP for maintenance of the newly established cat socialization and behavioral training room was provided. These SOPs had been reviewed and approved by the School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC). An infectious disease specialist was involved in developing best practices regarding reduction or elimination of potential pathogen transmission between animals and will be available for consultation as needed. Subsequently, OLAW received the amended protocol, which also had been reviewed by the SMPH ACUC and was approved on August 26, 2013. As requested by OLAW, the ACUC had carefully weighed the potential adverse events to any individual animal against the potential scientific, human clinical, and societal value of the research.

Upon review of the SOPs, the protocol, and evaluation of all of the information gathered over the course of the investigation, OLAW finds the actions taken to be responsive to correcting and preventing the problems initially identified and finds the animal activity to be compliant with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The case will continue to remain open but no further information is required at this time. As we discussed, I will soon send you a pre-release copy of the overall summary report of the investigation for verification of facts. This summary will then be made publically available by the National Institutes of Health.

OLAW commends you as Institutional Official for your leadership and direct involvement in addressing this matter. We also appreciate the extensive work performed by the ACUC, the Attending Veterinarian, the veterinary staff, and the PI and staff in developing enhancements which will further improve animal welfare as well as the integrity of the scientific information obtained. I will be in touch shortly regarding the additional steps to be taken.

Sincerely,

*Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.*

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

cc: [Redacted Name] [Redacted Title]  
[Redacted Name] [Redacted Title] NIDCD  
[Redacted] [Redacted] USDA-APHIS-AC