



Animal Welfare Institute

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Brent Morse, DVM, Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
National Institutes of Health
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Dear Dr. Morse,

Please consider this a formal complaint against Baylor University (assurance number A-3948-01) by the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI).

Attached please find two letters AWI sent to Baylor expressing significant concerns regarding Baylor's use of animals in its Learning & Behavior Laboratory. Baylor killed an untold numbers of rats, while intentionally misleading its students into believing the rats would not be killed. Other nonsensical and unwarranted mistreatment of the animals during the course warrants investigation for potential violations of the *PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

Baylor has failed to respond to our most recent letter, sent over two months ago.

The *PHS Policy* requires the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to "review concerns involving the care and use of animals at the institution." We believe that Baylor's failure to respond to our April 14 letter — which outlined new concerns and requested information to clarify Baylor's vague response to AWI — raises fundamental questions about animal research oversight and welfare. It is especially concerning given that OLAW relies on enforced self-regulation through facility IACUCs.

In FY2022, Baylor received over \$5.8 million from NIH, with a portion funding experiments on animals. Compliance with *PHS Policy* is required for receipt of such funds. While we would have preferred not to file this complaint, Baylor's failure to respond has left us no choice.

We request that OLAW ensure transparency, accountability and compliance with the law at Baylor University. Thank you, in advance, for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joanna Makowska, PhD
Laboratory Animal Advisor

cc: Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, Senior Animal Welfare Program Specialist
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