Notice of Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare Statement on Oversight of NIH-owned Chimpanzees

Nov 6, 2020

NOT-OD-21-022 announces a statement from the Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) regarding the restricted transportation of significantly compromised NIH-owned chimpanzees.

Summary:

All facilities that house, care for, or are engaged in the transport of NIH-owned chimpanzees are subject to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and implementing regulations and policies.

The Alamogordo Primate Facility is a government-owned, contractor-operated federal facility, conducting non-invasive sample collection and observational behavioral studies. In the case of Federal research facilities, the head of the Federal agency conducting the research shall be responsible for all corrective action to be taken at the facility and the granting of all exceptions to inspection protocols.

Animal Welfare Regulations prohibit a research facility, including a Federal research facility, from delivering a nonhuman primate to any intermediate handler or carrier for transportation unless the nonhuman primate is accompanied by a health certificate executed and issued by a licensed veterinarian, certifying the nonhuman primate [must have] appeared to be free of any infectious disease or physical abnormality that would endanger the animal(s) or other animals or endanger public health. Further, if a nonhuman primate is obviously ill, injured, or in physical distress, it must not be transported and in doing so would be a violation of AWA regulations and PHS Policy.

It is the OLAW Director’s determination that the frailest chimpanzees must remain in their current location in keeping with the regulatory requirements.

Please see the Notice for the complete statement and details and direct all inquiries to olaw@mail.nih.gov.