Animal Concern:

Common acronyms:
ACR: Animal Concern Report
IACUC: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (HERE)
ACS: Animal Concern Subcommittee
OACU: Office of Animal Care and Use
TCC: Training and Compliance Coordinators
OLAW: Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (HERE)
PHS: Public Health Service (HERE)
Guide: Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 1996 (HERE)
AWA: Animal Welfare Act (HERE)

What is considered an Animal Concern and reportable to OLAW?
  a) any serious or continuing noncompliance with the PHS Policy;
  b) any serious deviation from the provisions of the Guide; or
  c) any suspension of an activity by the IACUC.

Most common examples of reportable events to OLAW:
  a) conduct of animal-related activities without appropriate IACUC review and approval;
  b) failure to adhere to IACUC-approved protocols;
For a more extensive list, Click HERE

UNC Process of investigating an alleged animal welfare or non-compliance issue:

1. After receiving an allegation of animal welfare or noncompliance, the TCC gather as much information as possible by talking to the Principal Investigator (PI), Laboratory Animal Coordinator (LAC) and/or personnel directly involved.
2. TCC verifies all information for accuracy.
3. The PI receives notification outlining the allegation(s), with a request for a written response within the next 2 business days. Notification includes a description of...
the requirement that no NIH funds can be used for non-compliant animal activities.

4. TCC prepares a concise summary of all available information, including the PI’s response, for the IACUC ACS to determine whether the allegation is deemed reportable to OLAW or not. No names or personal details are included in the summary.
   i. If the allegation is deemed not reportable, no further action is taken until the information is summarized for the IACUC at the next convened meeting.
   ii. If the allegation is deemed reportable, TCC prepares a Preliminary ACR and submits it to...
      i. PI
      ii. Institutional Representatives
      iii. OLAW

5. TCC provides a summary of the reportable ACR and ASC recommendations to the IACUC at a convened meeting.

6. IACUC votes to accept the ASC recommendations and to close the case or the IACUC makes additional recommendations.

7. Coordinate with the PI and the Office of Sponsored Research to ensure OACU receives written verification from OSR that no NIH money was spent on non-compliant activities, or that NIH money used to support non-compliant activities was reimbursed.

8. TCC prepare the final ACR.

9. TCC submit the final ACR to...
   i. PI
   ii. Institutional Representatives

10. The Institutional Official (IO) submits a monthly summary letter detailing the investigation and closure of ACRs to OLAW. No names or personal details are included in the summary. The report includes the NIH grant number for activities supported by PHS funding and indicates the status of NIH funding as it pertains to the non-compliant activity.