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Contact: Michael Budkie, SAEN, 513-703-9865 (cell) [saen@saenonline.org](mailto:saen@saenonline.org)

**Federal Regulators Cite Mannheimer Foundation After 12 Monkeys Found Eating Rat Poison and 2 Others Escape; Watchdog Group Pushes USDA for Maximum Penalty**

**MIAMI /HENDRY COUNTY, FL** – Federal government regulators have cited the Mannheimer Foundation, a large Florida primate facility with farms in Homestead and in Hendry County, after it was found that negligence at the facility allowed a dozen monkeys to consume rat poison, said a national research watchdog group.

SAEN, which monitors the nation's research facilities, has filed official complaints with regulators that have launched the federal prosecution of 23 labs in the last two years.

The Mannheimer Foundation was also cited for primate escapes, said SAEN, which is urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to impose a hefty fine – possibly more than \$100,000.

SAEN said a USDA inspection dated September 28, 2015 cited the Mannheimer Foundation for a veterinary care violation involving 12 monkeys. The report noted the monkeys " . . . located at enclosure 22B were found eating rat bait pellets."

The same inspection cites Mannheimer for allowing the escape of two primate on September 3, 2015. A third citation was issued for unsafe enclosures.

SAEN has filed an Official Complaint against Mannheimer with the USDA.

"I must insist that your office launch a full investigation of these incidents and that at the end of this investigation, the largest fine allowable under the Animal Welfare Act must be levied against Mannheimer Foundation, or \$10,000 per non-compliance/per animal," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., SAEN co-founder.

All USDA reports are available upon request from SAEN.