

URGENT NEWS ADVISORY

Tuesday November 17, 2015

Contact: Michael Budkie 513-575-5517

Alpha Genesis Negligence Kills 4, Allows 2 Escapes, 2 Injured; Watchdog Group Files New USDA Complaint

CHARLESTON, SC – Recently obtained federal reports reveal multiple deaths, escapes, and injuries at Alpha Genesis, an SC primate lab and dealer, during 2015.

Federal reports from August of 2015 reveal two juvenile monkeys were killed after Alpha Genesis staff negligently returned them to incorrect enclosures, causing fatal conflicts.

Other reports detail multiple incidents in May of 2015. Two Alpha Genesis primates escaped, and one was killed during attempts to recapture the animal. Another monkey had a limb fracture as a result of mishandling, and when AGI staff failed to come to work, monkeys were denied food and medication.

In February of 2015 one monkey died of dehydration and five others required treatment when AGI negligence left the animals without water for six days. Another monkey was reported to have required partial tail amputation in late 2014.

All of these incidents were disclosed in AGI correspondence with the National Institutes of Health which was obtained by SAEN (Stop Animal Exploitation NOW) through the Freedom of Information Act. The records were the basis of an Official Complaint filed today with the USDA by SAEN.

"Negligence at Alpha Genesis continues to kill and injure monkeys as well as allowing escapes which endanger the public," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. "It is high time for the USDA to seriously penalize Alpha Genesis with a six-figure fine."

A U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection report dated April 4, 2015 documents two separate monkey escapes at Alpha Genesis in December of 2014. Twenty-six monkeys escaped Dec. 22, 2014 and were at large for 48 hours. On Dec. 29, 2014, one monkey escaped and was never recaptured.

All relevant documents are available upon request from SAEN.