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Rare Graphic Photos from Inside University of Washington Research Laboratory Released Monday by Watchdog; UW Whistleblower Complaint Details Also Revealed

SEATTLE, WA – Rarely seen graphic photographs from inside embattled University of Washington research laboratories are being released to the public for the first time today by a non-governmental watchdog group that monitors the nation's research facilities for wrongdoing.

Longtime Ohio-based watchdog group SAEN said it's releasing the photos to better educate the public of the realities of death and abuse within UW laboratories. <http://saenonline.org/wa/res-fr-wa-uws-images-20170331.html>

SAEN said it is also making public other internal UW documents, including new information about a UW whistleblower complaint exposing intentional research negligence, and additional records which reveal the deaths of another 16 animals: <http://www.saenonline.org/res-fr-wa-uws-ltr-20170329.pdf>

SAEN is now urging UW President Ana Mari Cauce – as outlined in an 18-page letter – for an independent probe of what the group calls research malfeasance, and a halt to construction of a controversial new UW research laboratory.

SAEN said documents it has received reveal an anonymous complaint filed at the UW disclosed excessive blood draws and procedures on monkeys, one of whom was already known to be anemic. The illegal procedures endangered Zika virus research, and UW records disclose that the researcher was sent a 'Letter of Reprimand' by UW administration, as was a veterinarian associated with the Primate Center.

Additional UW correspondence discloses at least 10 other incidents of negligence which killed animals because of, among other things, dehydration and starvation. Apparently, at least 16 more animals have also died because of UW negligence.

"The University of Washington has no business building a new laboratory," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., SAEN (Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!) co-founder. "The UW is utterly incapable of adequately caring for the animals already in its possession. Why should the UW be given more animals to kill accidentally and more federal funding to waste on research that may not even be published because of research malfeasance."