



Stop Animal Exploitation Now!

S.A.E.N.
"a force for change"

1081-B St. Rt. 28 #280
Milford, Ohio 45150
513-575-5517
www.saenonline.org

Dr. Robert Gibbens
Director, Western Region
USDA/APHIS/AC
2150 Center Ave.
Building B, Mailstop 3W11
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

6/12/12

Dr. Gibbens,

I am contacting you today because I have received information from several USDA inspection reports relevant to the Santa Cruz Biotechnology facility (93-R-0380). Two inspection reports dated 3/6/12 and 4/19/12 (attached) disclose a total of eight pages of serious violations of the Animal Welfare Act which have directly impacted the well-being of animals at this facility.

As you know, this facility racked up multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act relevant to the performance of research protocols as supervised by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee as well as multiple violations for inadequate veterinary care.

I find it most disturbing that many animals at this facility are allowed to suffer through illnesses and injuries without treatment, and that the only treatment given to other suffering animals is euthanasia. This clearly indicates a total disregard for the law by the management of this facility as well as a complete lack of concern for the animals held captive here. The lack of staff is apparent and severe. The resulting inadequate treatment of the animals is unconscionable.

This situation is well exemplified by the situation regarding goat 11239. This goat had a broken leg which was "moving independently from the rest of the leg when the goat walked." Several unsuccessful attempts had been made to treat the injury. The leg was left in this condition for substantial periods of time, undoubtedly causing severe pain and suffering to this animal. Another goat, #12348 whose leg may also have been broken went untreated. A third goat, #9752 was listed in the March report as being isolated due to poor condition. The records for this goat do not disclose any treatment until euthanasia on March 30th.

This kind of extreme negligence constitutes a clear and present danger to the roughly 10,000 goats and 6000 rabbits at this facility. Therefore, I must insist that this facility receive the largest fine allowable by law at the conclusion of the current USDA investigation.

I expect that your office will reply to this correspondence within five business days.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.

Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.,
Executive Director, SAEN

CC: Office of the Inspector General