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Contact: Michael Budkie, SAEN, 513-575-5517

WATCHDOG REPORT: Dozens of Primates Killed by Negligence in 18 U.S. Research Laboratories; Epidemic Results in Federal Fines, Ongoing Federal investigations

WASHINGTON, DC – Federal documents and internal lab records reveal a nationwide pattern of negligence and federal violations leading to the deaths of at least 37 primates – some by horrific trauma – within 13 universities and five private labs, according to a scathing report by a U.S. research watchdog organization.

As a result, according to the non-profit group SAEN, Pennsylvania State University Medical School has announced the total elimination of all use of primates. Others labs are under federal probes.

Seven of the eight labs are part of the federally funded National Primate Research Center System, which annually receives over \$100 million in federal funding, are embroiled in the primate death epidemic. Ten of the 20 largest U.S. primate labs have killed animals through negligence, noted SAEN in its report. <http://www.all-creatures.org/saen/articles-20120908-tombstones.html>

Within these facilities primates have been strangulated, died of dehydration, run through cage washers, died of traumatic injuries, died during transport, and have simply been lost track of, only to be discovered in a state of decomposition.

Thirteen of the labs are universities, accounting for 30 of the primate deaths; while five private labs account for seven primate deaths. Two labs have been fined (Oregon Health Sciences University, Texas Biomedical Research Institute); three received Official Warnings (Pennsylvania State University Medical School, Rockefeller University, Weill Medical College of Cornell University) and five others are known to be the target of ongoing federal investigations (Harvard Medical School, University of Wisconsin, MPI Research, University of Louisiana, and the Bioqual lab). The University of Wisconsin is the target of a multi-year probe involving at least 41 federal infractions.

“It is clear that negligence within primate labs is on the rise. These facilities obviously consider our closest relatives to be nothing more a part of the inventory,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T. Executive Director, SAEN. “To the labs they are disposable, having no more than market value.”

The SAEN Report and all of the federal documents are available upon request from SAEN.