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USDA slaps University of Texas (Galveston) with Federal Fine; Watchdog Group Decries Minimal Penalty

GALVESTON/HOUSTON, TX – A recently obtained federal report reveals that the USDA has fined University of Texas, Galveston (UTXG), \$9,143 for major violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

The fine covers major infractions during 2012 and 2010.

An April 16, 2012, USDA report cited the UTXG for the death of a marmoset and for inadequate veterinary care regarding ferrets and sheep. At least one of the ferrets may have been exposed to roach bait. This follows previous major citations in 2011.

A 2011 USDA inspection report for UTXG reveals the negligent deaths of a dog and a goat, as well as other infractions effecting ferrets and sheep. The lab is repeatedly cited for inadequate veterinary care.

“We are very disappointed in the USDA fine because it should have been much higher. The University of Texas, Galveston, has now killed multiple animals through sheer negligence and allowed many others to experience pain unnecessarily,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “This fine was less than the maximum for a single infraction, and yet the 2012 inspection report alone showed multiple violations, without even considering the 2010 infractions. This kind of unnecessary animal suffering deserves a much higher penalty.”

SAEN had contacted the Western Regional Office of the USDA to insist on a federal fine in April of 2012.

The USDA fine agreement is available upon request.