

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Contact: Michael Budkie, SAEN, 513-575-5517 (office), 513-703-9865 (cell)

Rockland Inc. piles up 20 Federal Violations in two weeks; Dead rat stored with drugs – Multiple animals dead

READING/BETHLEHEM/ALLENTOWN, PA – Recently obtained federal reports reveal multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act at Rockland Inc. (Gilbertsville, PA). A scathing 7-page report (3/26/13) follows a previous 6-page report (3/13/13), both of which cite Rockland for 10 federal violations. The 20 violation total clearly places Rockland among the nation's worst labs.

Two rabbits died during the most recent inspection, in which the lab was cited for inadequate veterinary care relevant to at least 12 rabbits and 2 goats. Other violations were relevant to multiple incidents of negligence such as: storing a dead rat in a refrigerator with veterinary medications and the contamination of animal bedding with bird feces.

As part of the most recent inspection report the lab was cited for improper functioning by the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee, inadequate veterinary care, insufficient personnel, improper enclosures, improper sanitation, inadequate facilities, etc..

The 3-13-13 inspection report also lists 10 federal violations. Rockland was cited for improper functioning by the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee, inadequate veterinary care, unqualified personnel, improper enclosures, improper sanitation, etc.

A key incident in the 3-13-13 inspection highlighted by USDA staff describes the death of a rabbit who was over-bled twice in 7 days, causing death.

Research Watchdog Group SAEN (Stop Animal Exploitation NOW) has filed a second official complaint with the USDA's Eastern Regional Office requesting an additional investigation, and the issuance "the largest fine allowable by law."

"Rockland has now become infamous for violating federal law 20 times in 2 weeks and they should pay the price," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. "Killing animals by negligently bleeding them to death or allowing them to die without adequate care -- these are the kind of things that the Animal Welfare Act was designed to prevent. This is inexcusable."

All USDA reports are available upon request from SAEN.