

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 5, 2015

Contact: Michael Budkie, SAEN, 513-703-9865 (cell) saen@saenonline.org

Government Agency Documents Three Primates (2 Infants) Strangled to Death, Rabbit Boiled Alive at Johns Hopkins University; National Watchdog Group Files Complaint

BALTIMORE, MD – Prestigious Johns Hopkins University is being targeted by a national watchdog group after discovering federal reports which document that three monkeys – two of them juveniles – negligently strangled to death, and a rabbit was boiled alive inside the university's research laboratories.

Federal reports filed within the last year document the primate deaths at JHU, as well as a rabbit left in a cage which was sterilized – boiling the rabbit alive, said SAEN (Stop Animal Exploitation NOW), which monitors the nation's research laboratories for abuse.

SAEN has filed an Official Complaint against JHU with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, alleging improper animal handling, unqualified personnel, among other violations, and is seeking the maximum legal penalty -- \$10,000 per violation/per animal, which could lead to federal penalty in the tens of thousands of dollars.

SAEN said that a government report also describes deliberate animal abuse at JHU, with the report noting that "a summer employee working in a rodent housing facility deliberately had injured mice in his care." SAEN, however, said the mouse abuse cannot be penalized, because mice are exempt from coverage in federal regulations by the Animal Welfare Act.

"The negligence which allowed primates to die of strangulation and a rabbit to be cooked to death deserves the maximum penalty," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. "These animals suffered horribly, dying unnecessarily, and this facility should pay the price."

The federal reports and the Official Complaint are both available upon request from SAEN.