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Tuesday, March 6, 2012

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**USDA cites Covance Madison Lab for Primate Death;
Watchdog Group calls for Federal Fine**

MADISON, WI – Federal reports reveal the gruesome death of a non-human primate at the Covance Laboratories facility (Madison, WI), and a National Research Watchdog Organization, SAEN, is demanding a federal fine.

A recently obtained February 14, 2012, USDA inspection report for the Covance Laboratories facility reveals that a primate became entangled in an “enrichment device” and died, possibly by strangulation.

Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! (SAEN) is releasing the report to Madison news media and has called for a stiff fine for Covance.

“Negligence at this lab literally killed a non-human primate,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “This facility should face the maximum penalty allowable under the law.”

SAEN has filed an official complaint with the USDA insisting on a full investigation of the incident, additionally citations under the Animal Welfare Act, and a severe fine.

Covance has a history of Animal Welfare Act violations at several facilities. A USDA inspection report dated 7-21-11 reveals that the Covance facility in Denver (PA) boiled a rabbit alive in a cage washer.

Records obtained from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), reveal that several primates shipped by Covance’s primate facility in Texas had to be euthanized upon arrival or shortly thereafter, while others had a history of traumatic injuries.

“Covance has exhibited a pattern of fatally violating federal law at several locations,” added Budkie. “This outlaw company should be seriously punished.”

The USDA reports are available from SAEN.