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Wednesday, March 21, 2012

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Insider Reveals Fifth Death at Harvard's Primate Research Center; Watchdog Group Files Official Complaint, Demands USDA Fine

BOSTON/SOUTHBOROUGH, MA – An inside account of an as yet unreported death at Harvard's New England Primate Research Center has prompted a National Research Watchdog Organization to file an Official Complaint with the USDA to insist that a fifth death be added to the current federal investigation.

An insider from Harvard's New England Primate Research Center exposed yet another negligent primate death which took place in the center's building number 5. A veterinary technician was performing a routine medical procedure on a monkey, but the animal did not survive the procedure.

Other information provided by the insider while not likely illegal is equally disturbing. Apparently primates within Harvard's Center fight so regularly that significant injuries occur on an almost daily basis.

Stop Animal Exploitation Now has filed an Official Complaint with the USDA's Eastern Regional Office alleging violations of several sections of the Animal Welfare Act including: 2.32 Unqualified Personnel and 2.33 Inadequate Veterinary Care.

This latest revelation brings the total of negligent deaths at Harvard's Primate Research Center to five, with an additional death having occurred at the Harvard Medical School's downtown location. Two primates have been reported to have died of dehydration, while another passed on mysteriously after a routine diagnostic test. One primate was discovered deceased in a cage which had been sterilized.

As a result of the scandal swirling around the Primate Center, the facility's Director has resigned and new projects have been put on hold.

"The death toll at Harvard's Primate Research Center just continues to climb," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. "We have to wonder if situations like this are actually commonplace and the truth is just now coming out."