

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday/April 18, 2013

Contact: Michael Budkie, SAEN, 513-575-5517, 513-703-9865 (cell) saen@saenonline.org

**Most U.S. Animal Laboratories Break Federal Law;
Hundreds of Animals Dead, Thousands at Risk – Watchdog
Group Charges Animals 'Die Horribly,' Calls for Federal Action**

WASHINGTON, DC – A national research watchdog organization said today it is releasing damning information concerning hundreds of U.S. research laboratories that have violated federal law, and "murdered" animals in some of the most prestigious institutions in the country.

SAEN, a national organization that monitors activity in research labs, said it is 'outing' federal violators because the U.S. government apparently cannot regulate them, and the result is an industry that is not only murdering animals and breaking the law, but wasting taxpayer money and jeopardizing research.

SAEN said in its report that at least 901 laboratories – the vast majority of the estimated 1,100 in the U.S. – violated the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) in 2012. The AWA is the only law which regulates the use of animals in laboratories. All USDA reports are available upon request from SAEN.

And although U.S. facilities violate federal law nearly five times every day – and hundreds of animals are killed negligently – only 39 of the laboratories were involved in enforcement actions during 2012.

The University of Northern Colorado led the nation, said SAEN, negligently killing 45 animals. Harvard University had the second highest death toll killing 41 mice through dehydration – Harvard's Medical School was also cited for a primate death. Southwest Biolabs killed 10 cats (cooked to death), while Oregon Health Sciences University was fined for the deaths of 5 primates.

TRS Labs (Athens, GA) had the most violations, breaking the federal laws 24 times, killing three animals. Santa Cruz Biotech (CA) was second in the country, with 23 violations, and was the target of a 10-page USDA complaint, after killing at least seven animals.

Despite the deaths, only six labs were fined (a paltry total of \$60,000), and only 10 labs received Official Warnings. Most of the hundreds of deaths caused by US facilities have gone unpunished.

Texas Biomedical Research Institute, Oregon Health Sciences University, University of Wyoming, and University of Connecticut combined to kill 11 animals while being collectively fined only \$58,000. Redbeast Enterprises (Fort Collins, CO) was fined \$1,714 for inadequate veterinary care.

“When animals suffer and die this horribly, the USDA must take action,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “Murdering monkeys, dogs, cats, and rabbits by dehydration, exsanguination, or inadequate veterinary care is not the hallmark of an industry which is effectively regulated. These heinous labs deserved federal fines at the very least.”