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Kansas City Lab MRI Global Forced Animal to Lay in Waste (Photo Available) and Conducted Unapproved Cat Experiment; Watchdog Group Calls for Hefty Federal Fine

KANSAS CITY, MO – MRI Global of Kansas City (MO) is the latest target of a research watchdog group for conducting an unapproved experiment on cats, and also forcing a pig to stand/lay in his own waste.

SAEN, an Ohio-based nonprofit that monitors U.S. research facilities for illegal activity and animal abuse, said today it has uncovered federal records which document both incidents of animal abuse – and is calling for the maximum federal fine of \$10,000 per infraction/per animal.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture report, and photos, obtained via Freedom of Information Act by SAEN there are numerous severely unsanitary conditions at the facility:

"The pig could not lay down without coming in contact with his own fecal material. The light colored bedding shavings, which turn dark-gold when wet, were completely saturated with liquid. There was a fecal-contaminated puddle covering more than 1/4 of the enclosure floor space."

Another federal report obtained by SAEN reveals the performance of an unapproved "safety test" on cats. The safety test immediately raised a red flag because in 2016 MRI Global performed tests which involved unrelieved pain on 83 animals (dogs, rabbits, and guinea pigs).

"If MRI Global is incapable of keeping cages clean and also has rogue staff conducted unapproved experiments, then the facility deserves the maximum federal penalty," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., SAEN executive director of SAEN.