

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 6, 2018

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

Washington University 'Blunders' Negligently Kill Another Research Subject, Violating Federal Law; National Watchdog Group Urges Swift Federal Action

ST. LOUIS, MO – Washington University staff negligently killed a dog by failing to provide adequate veterinary care, according to a federal report made public today by a national research watchdog group.

The latest death follows two earlier violations which killed a monkey and a rabbit in Washington University laboratories.

SAEN, an Ohio-based nonprofit watchdog group that monitors U.S. research facilities for illegal activity and animal abuse, obtained the federal report that documented the death and has filed a new federal complaint against Washington University.

SAEN said a recent U.S. Dept. of Agriculture inspection at Washington University on June 27, 2018 recounts the incident in which Washington University staff veterinary care failures caused the death of a dog. The report noted: "When complications did arise, the lab staff failed to contact the on-call veterinarian."

Previous inspections on Aug. 23, 2017 and March 7, 2017 also cited the university for repeated failures to provide adequate veterinary care to animals. The latest inspection issues, said SAEN, resulted in a rare third CRITICAL citation against Washington University in just over a year.

According to the reports, the monkey death came after a procedure in which "...the animal experienced ongoing complications such as hypothermia, hypotension, wet lung sounds and fluid in the endotracheal tube during the anesthetic procedure."

The U.S. Dept of Agriculture report, specific to the rabbit death, stated "... the animal died while under anesthesia and it is recorded that the animal's blood pressure dropped due to hypothermia and hemodilution. It was also noted in the records that the water-heated mat under the animal had turned off, leading to hypothermia."

"Even first-year students would know enough to contact veterinary staff if complications occur following surgery," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., SAEN executive director and co-founder. "Washington University deserves the maximum penalty for violating federal law and carelessly killing three animals."

SAEN's complaint and federal documents available upon request are available at:

<http://www.saenonline.org/media-Washington-University-Official-Complaint-August-2018x.html>