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Contact: Michael Budkie 513-575-5517, saen@saenonline.org

Watchdog Uncovers New Animal Deaths and Abuse At WSU – Urges U.S. Regulators to Launch New Investigation of ‘Criminal Laboratory’

PULLMAN, WA – A national research watchdog group said it has uncovered more evidence that Washington State University – which it has now designated as a “criminal laboratory” – has again broken federal law, negligently causing both animal deaths and abuse.

Washington State University negligence was discovered in federal documents recently obtained via FOIA (Freedom Of Information Act) by SAEN, an Ohio-based national research watchdog nonprofit that monitors the nation’s research facilities for illegal acts and animal abuse.

SAEN said the Washington State University reports reveal three infant bats died when they were separated from their mother too soon, developing "cachexia" a wasting disease which was fatal. The federal report does not list any attempt by Washington State University to treat the infants.

The report also documented how two calves were denied anesthesia before castration as is required in the approved WSU protocol.

The new revelations of negligent deaths and abuse come at a time when Washington State University has already received seven separate citations for federal violations since May of 2017. The latest violations follow the issuance of a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Official Warning for violations that led to fatalities which were the subject of a November 2016 inspection.

Citations for woefully inadequate sanitation of bat enclosures are among the seven recent citations. SAEN has obtained photos of the filthy enclosures from the USDA.

"Clearly, the recent USDA Official Warning was ignored by Washington State University," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., executive director and co-founder of SAEN. "Washington State University thinks that it is above the law. It is time for the USDA to take actions which truly penalizes this criminal laboratory"

SAEN's Official Complaint which contains all relevant federal reports and USDA documents, as well as photos taken within WSU labs are available at: <https://saenonline.org/media-Washington-State-University-Official-Complaint-8-12-18.html>