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Contact: Michael Budkie, SAEN 513-575-5517 (cell); saenonline@yahoo.com

UC Davis Negligence Cooks Infant Monkey to Death; Watchdog Wants to Know: ‘How Do You Not Notice a Baby Monkey Dying in the Sun?’

DAVIS/SACRAMENTO, CA – The University of California, Davis has admitted breaking federal law in the negligent death of an infant monkey in a report it filed with government regulators and is now the target of a federal complaint filed by a national research watchdog.

SAEN, an Ohio-based national watchdog that investigates the nation's research facilities for illegal activities and animal abuse, said it obtained the document via FOIA and filed a federal complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, alleging UCD potentially violated multiple federal regulations.

The UCD report states: “An infant rhesus macaque in outdoor group housing was found . . . with its finger stuck in perch bar bracket. The animal was...treated for heat stress to which it succumbed.”

According to SAEN, the infant monkey death potentially violated federal law and regulations for Animal Handling, Adequate Veterinary Care, and/or Primary Enclosures.

The complaint also references the 2018 deaths of a rabbit and a guinea pig at UCD, each of which drew rare “critical” citations from the USDA.

SAEN is calling for a full investigation of the latest monkey death, and is seeking the maximum penalty for all three animal deaths — \$10,000 per infraction/per animal.

“UC Davis must be held accountable for this fatal negligence,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., SAEN co-founder. “How do you not notice a baby monkey dying in the sun?”