

**URGENT NEWS ADVISORY**

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**Watchdog Group Files USDA Complaint against UM;  
Primate Deaths and Denial of pain relief to Animals Spur Call for \$60,000 Fine**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN** – Recently obtained federal reports reveal multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) at the University of Minnesota (UM), said SAEN (Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!) today.

UM letters to the National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, detail several negligent primate deaths as well as failure to provide pain relief to other animals.

SAEN is calling for a federal investigation by the USDA, and a potential fine as high as \$60,000, or \$10,000 each for six potential infractions -- the maximum penalty allowed under the AWA.

"University of Minnesota negligence killed two monkeys and denied adequate pain relief to other animals," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Co-Founder, SAEN. "This lab deserves the maximum penalty under the law."

The National Institutes of Health has issued a statement claiming that these and other incidents have been handled. However, the Animal Welfare Act is enforced by the USDA, not the NIH. Tanya Espinosa, a spokeswoman for the USDA , has said "The NIH and the USDA do not regularly share information about violations in animal labs."

All federal reports are available upon request.