



Stop Animal Exploitation Now!

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Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
USDA/APHIS/AC
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2000
Raleigh, NC 27606

1/10/12

Dr. Goldentyer,

I am writing to you today to file an Official Complaint against the Harvard Medical School (14-R-0019), and to insist that serious punitive action be taken against this facility for recent violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

The most recent USDA inspection report (attached – dated December of 2011) reveals another negligent primate death, which came after a primate escape. As you know, this is now the third negligent primate death at Harvard's Medical School in 1 ½ years, with two occurring at the New England Primate Research Center.

In a USDA inspection report dated 7/19/11 this facility is cited for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act including a citation for Unqualified Personnel. This citation for unqualified personnel resulted from the overdosing of a primate during surgery resulting in untreatable renal failure, which made euthanasia unavoidable.

As you know, this is the second incident of negligence related to the death of a primate at this facility in just over 1 year. On June 29, 2010, Harvard received five USDA citations for violating the Animal Welfare Act. The violations involved unqualified personnel inadequate veterinary care, and inadequate cleaning/sanitation procedures. This inspection report recounted an incident in which a primate was found dead in a cage that had just gone through the cagewashing system.

An Official Warning was issued against Harvard on June 29, 2010. This Official Warning was not sufficient to prompt Harvard to take corrective action and prevent further negligent deaths.

It is clear that the staff of this lab, according to the inspection reports of the USDA is UNQUALIFIED. This has not changed in over a year. Repeated citations have not worked (i.e. the Dec. 2011 report also issues a repeat citation for improper enclosures), an Official Warning has had no effect. Why has serious action not been taken against this facility? How many more animals have to die due to negligence before the Eastern Regional Office of the USDA does something about it? It is clear that the only enforcement action which will be effective against Harvard is a fine.

I know that your office considers major violations of the Animal Welfare Act to be very serious in nature, especially when these violations take the lives of animals. The treatment of animals at this facility illustrates attitudes of carelessness and negligence that must be severely punished so that meaningful changes can be made. Therefore, I also insist that you take the most severe action

allowable under the Animal Welfare Act and immediately begin the process of issuing a fine against the Harvard Medical School.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future about the fate of this facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.,
Executive Director, SAEN

Attachments: Harvard Medical School Inspection Report