



Stop Animal Exploitation Now!
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Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
USDA/APHIS/AC
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2000
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5/8/12

Dr. Goldentyer,

I am writing to you today regarding the inspection report for the MPI Research facility of Mattawan (34-R-0031) dated 4-10-12 which is attached to this letter. As you know, our previous complaints against this facility were relevant to animals which were euthanized as a result of receiving traumatic injuries. Issues relevant to this situation are discussed in the inspection report dated 8-3-11.

According to the most recent inspection report, negligence at MPI has continued and is still so commonplace that animals are receiving traumatic injuries sufficient to require euthanasia. The report states: “. . . two non-human primates have sustained injuries subsequent to being handled for study related purposes. Non-human primate 110:B sustained a right hind-limb fracture and non-human primate 159:c sustained a fracture in the right fore-limb during two separate restraint studies. These animals were euthanized as a result of these injuries.”

It has become clear from the multi-year pattern of traumatic injuries to animals at this facility which has led to the deaths of a number of animals that the staff of this facility is either not adequately trained in animal handling, or possibly is deliberately injuring animals. In either case, additionally citations must be issued against this criminal facility, including, but not limited to 2.32 personnel qualifications: “It shall be the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties. This responsibility shall be fulfilled in part through the provision of training an instruction to those personnel.”

It is clear from the number of repeated incidents of traumatic injuries to animals at this facility of a period of several years that the staff is either untrained or unqualified in animal handling, or both.

Therefore, additional citations are in order for this facility.

Additionally, I would like to make you aware that I have come into possession of the IES documents relevant to the animal deaths referenced in the inspection report of August 23 of 2011 (MI11084), which demonstrates that this previous case is not yet resolved.

I am appalled that despite the fact that this document lists a citation which is considered “serious” that no enforcement actions have been taken against MPI research. I have begun to question the functioning of the Eastern Regional Office relevant to the situation at MPI Research. I believe that the handling of this previous incident has been improperly slow, and that meaningful enforcement actions should have been taken much more quickly in response to the first of these deaths. It is possible that if a meaningful penalty had been issued, that changes could have been instituted at MPI which would have prevented the additional deaths. Therefore, I believe that your office may be just as responsible for the additional deaths of these primates as MPI’s negligent staff.

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

Sincerely,

Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.

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