



Stop Animal Exploitation Now!

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Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
USDA/APHIS/AC
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 2000
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7/13/12

Dr. Goldentyer,

I am writing to you today to file a second Official Complaint against the TRS lab oratories corporation of Athens (GA 57-R-0015). This facility has allowed dozens of dogs to go without adequate veterinary care, endangering their health and welfare as well as recently killing several animals through negligence. I insist that your office launch a thorough investigation and I officially request that they be issued the largest fine allowable under the law.

The most recent inspection report for TRS shows 8 new violations, which center around inadequate veterinary care, inadequate enclosures, inadequate functioning by the facilitie's IACUC, etc. Over 30 dogs are listed in this report with serious pathological conditions. Previous reports for this lab are no better.

As you know, two previous USDA inspection reports from March and April list a combined total of 10 separate violations at this facility. These include both repeat and direct violations. This is an extremely high number of non-compliances for one facility in such a short time. Additionally, the violations are severe in nature, leading to the deaths of several animals and extreme suffering for others. Several of the animals had "severe bite wounds." Others died in cages without access to water. Yet others showed signs of significant bacterial infections.

While the inspection report cites this facility for improper veterinary care lists that 14 animals were overcrowded in an enclosure without water, this incident could also potentially demonstrate untrained/unqualified personnel potentially violating another section of the Animal Welfare Act: 2.32 Personnel Qualifications, etc. It is vitally important that this facility also be cited for all other relevant violations, especially for Unqualified Personnel, because clearly if the staff of this lab were qualified and/or adequately trained, this monstrous incident would not have happened.

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 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 TRS Labs at the completion of your investigation.

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

Attachments: 6-4-12, 3-8-12 & 4-24-12 TRS Labs Inspection Reports