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## **Covance Boils Rabbit Alive & causes Traumatic Injuries to Primates; Watchdog Group calls for Multiple Federal Fines**

**PRINCETON/TRENTON, NJ** – Covance Research Products, headquartered in Princeton (NJ), is the target of multiple Official Complaints filed with the USDA by Research Watchdog Group SAEN, (Stop Animal Exploitation Now).

The complaints allege that multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act in Covance facilities in Pennsylvania and Texas led directly to the deaths and injuries of primates and rabbits.

Recently obtained federal reports reveal that the Covance facility in Denver (PA) boiled a rabbit alive in a cage washer. According to a USDA inspection report dated 7-21-11 a rabbit was found dead inside the cage washing apparatus, which sterilizes cages with hot water.

Records obtained from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), reveal that several primates shipped by Covance had to be euthanized upon arrival or shortly thereafter, while others had a history of traumatic injuries.

The fate of Primate RQ5977 was particularly grisly. Apparently RQ5977 had a history of SIB (self-injurious behavior) prior to shipping. The stress of shipping drastically increased this behavior such that the primate was euthanized the day she arrived at UCSF. Other Covance primates shipped to UCSF are missing ears, fingers, toes, etc. The USDA has also recently cited this facility for primate injuries due to frostbite.

“Horrible acts of negligence like this, which literally boiled a rabbit alive, must be severely penalized,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “Carelessly causing an already disturbed monkey to become even more self-destructive is beyond callousness. If a private individual did this they would go to jail.”

SAEN has contacted both the Eastern and Western Regional Offices of USDA/APHIS/AC to demand that fines be issued against both Covance facilities.

The USDA inspection reports and primate records are available upon request from SAEN.