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Athens Lab Piles up 18 Federal Violations; Dozens of Dogs seriously ill; other animals dead

ATHENS, GA – Recently obtained federal reports reveal that negligence at the TRS lab of Athens (GA) has left multiple animals sick/dying resulting in 18 federal violations in three inspections.

The Most recent (6/24) USDA report reveals 8 new violations in areas of inadequate veterinary care, research supervision by the lab's Animal Care & Use Committee, and inadequate enclosures. Veterinary care violations show more than 30 dogs are suffering from serious pathological conditions.

USDA inspection reports for TRS labs reveal a total of ten violations from 3/8/12 – 4/24/12 in areas of veterinary care, housing, sanitation, enclosures, and experimental supervision.

Sick animals including dogs and gerbils have been documented by federal inspectors. Several animals died without access to water. One animal had "severe bite wounds." Another showed signs of a severe bacterial infection.

Research Watchdog Group SAEN has contacted the USDA to insist on a federal fine for the deaths of these animals.

"When animals suffer and die through negligence, incompetent labs should pay the price," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director SAEN. "Allowing animals to die without water, receive severe bite wounds, and suffer from lack of veterinary care is in excusable."

Federal reports reveal that in 2011 TRS labs experimented on 241 dogs, 129 cats, 18 hamsters, 18 ferrets, and 793 gerbils.

All USDA reports are available upon request from SAEN.