FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA Issues Official Warning Against Harvard University; Watchdog Group Calls Warning ‘a Betrayal’

BOSTON, MA – Documents obtained today reveal that the USDA has issued an ‘Official Warning’ against Harvard University for the dehydration deaths of over 40 animals.

A previously obtained USDA 5/24/12 report revealed the negligence at Harvard University, causing the deaths of 41 animals. The USDA report revealed that 41 Peromyscus mice died due to dehydration caused by an unnoticed malfunction in a watering system. This followed a 6-15-11 USDA report which disclosed the death of a goat due to an anesthetic overdose at Harvard University. Today’s warning did not address the death of the goat.

“This virtually meaningless enforcement action taken by the USDA is a betrayal of the 41 animals who died at Harvard,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “The USDA has effectively sent a message that these animals were worth nothing more than a paper slap on the wrist.”

This incident follows multiple primate deaths and injuries at Harvard Medical School facilities within the last several years. The have been at least four primate deaths connected to Harvard. Two primates have been reported to have died of dehydration, while another passed on mysteriously after a routine diagnostic test. One primate was discovered deceased in a cage which had been sterilized.

“The general public should be outraged about the USDA’s refusal to take action in this incident,” added Budkie. “This federal agency is allowing Harvard to literally get away with murder.”

The USDA warning is available upon request from SAEN.

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