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**Oregon Health Sciences University Slapped with Federal Fine;
USDA Imposes Paltry \$11,679 Penalty for Multiple Primate Deaths**

PORTLAND, OR – Documents obtained today reveal that the United States Department of Agriculture has slapped the Oregon Health & Sciences University with an \$11,679 fine for violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

The incidents recounted in the settlement documents issued today are relevant to multiple deaths of primates at OHSU, as well as escapes. According to the report two primates died due to dehydration, a third died due to improper sedation, and two others died after the administration of unapproved compounds.

The USDA fine is relevant to violations of the Animal Welfare Act relevant to: **3.80(a)(2)(iii)** Primary Enclosures; **2.31(c)(7)** IACUC (Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee); **2.32(a)** Personnel Qualification ; **3.83** Watering.

“The fine issued by the USDA for multiple federal violations is drastically insufficient,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “This is just a fraction of the fine that could have been issued.”

According to SAEN, the USDA has issued larger fines for incidents at other facilities with fewer animal deaths. For example, the Texas Biomedical Research Institute was issued a \$25, 714 for three violations which were relevant to only 1 primate death.

“The USDA is literally allowing OHSU to get away with murder,” added Budkie. “This fine makes a mockery of the law and sends the message that meaningful enforcement does not happen. Actions like this have led to the carelessness which has literally caused an epidemic of primate lab fatalities across the U.S.”

Recent USDA reports document negligent primate deaths at Harvard, Emory, Vanderbilt, Bristol Myers, University of Texas, Covance, and other facilities spread across the U.S.

The USDA settlement documents are available upon request from SAEN.

For more information about SAEN (Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!) -- www.saenonline.org