National Research Watchdog Delivers Letter to Harvard President Demanding Release of Primates to Sanctuaries with Harvard Footing All Costs; Big Protest Set on Saturday

BOSTON – Prompted by this week’s announcement that Harvard will close its multi-million-dollar National Primate Center, a national research watchdog organization personally delivered a demand letter Friday to Harvard President Dean Faust calling for Harvard to relocate its 2,000 primate to sanctuaries and pay all costs for retirement of the animals.


A protest will be held at Harvard Saturday/April 27 at Harvard Square (Out of Town Newstand) at 1:30 p.m. This is part of World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week activities nationwide.

SAEN executive director Michael Budkie delivered the letter, which said in part:

"Due to Harvard’s negligence, Harvard’s profiteering from primate experimentation, and the pain and suffering inflicted on primates by Harvard, Harvard has an obligation to release these victims and provide for their care... the primates who have already suffered so much at Harvard’s Southborough facility will now endure additional agony through further experimentation is simply unacceptable. These primates deserve a future free from any future pain, suffering, deprivation, or neglect.

"Additionally, over the years Harvard has profited extensively from the use of primates in experimentation. It is clear that Harvard has received hundreds of millions of dollars for primate experimentation over the years. Harvard’s profits from primate exploitation have been monumental, and so Harvard’s bill has now come due."

"Therefore, we must insist that Harvard do these three things:
1. Release all primates who are currently held at the New England Primate Research center to sanctuaries.
2. Provide funding sufficient to pay for the construction of enclosures for all primates who are currently held at the New England Primate Research Center.
3. Provide funding sufficient to pay for lifetime care for all primates who are currently held at the New England Primate Research Center."

SAEN has photographs from inside the troubled Harvard primate labs, and other documents, and will make those public.