

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Contact: Michael Budkie, SAEN 513-575-5517; 513-703-9865

Baby Pig Dies, Watchdog Group Files Complaint Against University of Pennsylvania Laboratory With USDA After Federal Violations

PHILADELPHIA, PA – At least one baby pig was killed because of the negligence of a University of Pennsylvania researcher at Penn's New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, a national research watchdog group said today after obtaining federal inspection reports.

SAEN, which monitors research laboratories like those at the Penn facility, is asking for tens of thousands of dollars in federal fines to be levied against Penn in a letter sent to Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer at the U.S. Dept of Agriculture Regional Office in Raleigh, NC

SAEN said, according to a federal inspection in mid-May of this year, that the University "violated AWA (Animal Welfare Act) sections relevant to improper Animal Handling and Inadequate Facilities. However, the Animal Handling violation is extremely disturbing."

A University staff person didn't follow policy for "properly administering anesthesia, didn't follow University requirements for anesthesia administration training and for assistance with the procedure. As a result of improper animal handling, the piglet being used in this procedure was killed," said SAEN in its letter.

" I officially request that you initiate an investigation of this situation, and that at the conclusion of your investigation of the University of Pennsylvania, your office issue the largest fine allowable under the Animal Welfare Act, \$10,000 per infraction," said Michael Budkie, executive director of SAEN in his letter to the USDA.

All inspection reports, and the letter to the USDA are available from SAEN upon request.