

URGENT NEWS ADVISORY

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**5 Primates Strangulated, 1 Dead from Infection at San Antonio Lab;
National Research Watchdog Group Urges Hefty \$40,000 Federal Fine for TBRI**

SAN ANTONIO, TX – A recently obtained government inspection report documents yet another primate strangulation death – the third over the last 12 months – at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute (TBRI), according to a national research watchdog organization.

Nonprofit SAEN, which monitors laboratories across the nation, said it has filed a third USDA complaint against TBRI calling for a \$40,000 federal fine.

A USDA report of Jan. 29 of this year revealed that another monkey has died of strangulation after becoming entangled in cage cables. This is the third such death at TBRI reported in 12 months. Correspondence between TBRI and the National Institutes of Health indicate two more monkeys strangulated when their collars became entangled in an enclosure, and a chimpanzee was euthanized due to a severe infection following a surgical procedure.

The TBRI lab should be heavily fined - \$40,000, said SAEN, which uncovered the deaths and has filed a federal complaint with the USDA, which oversees research laboratories.

The Texas Biomedical Research Institute has a history of breaking federal laws. This same facility also paid a \$25,714 fine during 2012 which again involved improper handling of primates and deaths.

“Five monkeys have now died of strangulation, and a chimp was euthanized due to a severe bacterial infection at TBRI,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “This facility deserves the maximum penalty allowable under the law.”

All records are available upon request.