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## **USDA Report Links Columbus-Based Battelle to New Negligent Deaths; Watchdog Group Files Complaint -- Calls for Federal Fine**

**COLUMBUS, OH** – A recently obtained federal report discloses that the Columbus-based Battelle Memorial Research Institute has again been cited by the USDA for negligence which has killed multiple animals.

A USDA report dated 9/3/14 reveals another incident of animals drowning in Battelle facilities due to negligence. In a repeat of the same negligence which drowned one guinea pig in 2013, the 2014 report delineates the deaths of three guinea pigs.

The recent inspection report also cites Battelle for inadequate veterinary care left several pigs with skin lesions up to two inches in diameter.

SAEN has filed an Official Complaint with the USDA and is pushing for the maximum penalty in the animal deaths, of \$10,000 per infraction.

"The Battelle Institute clearly considers guinea pigs to be disposable commodities, not sentient beings," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. "With this second incident of fatal carelessness, the USDA should throw the book at Battelle."

All USDA reports and SAEN's Official Complaint are available upon request.