

URGENT NEWS ADVISORY

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Federal Oversight Agency Cites UW-Madison Primate Center for 36 Escapes, 3 Deaths & Burn Injuries After Watchdog Group Complaints; Watchdog Calls UW Lab 'Incompetent'

MADISON, WI – The University of Wisconsin, Madison has been cited by a federal oversight agency for 36 primate escapes, three deaths and an incident in which a monkey was burned, a national research watchdog group has revealed.

The UW is still reeling over a \$35,286 fine it paid in February of this year for federal violations from 2009-2012. The recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report documents that the UW has continued to violate federal law.

The most recent violations were in response to two "Official Complaints" filed by National Research Watchdog Group SAEN (Stop Animal Exploitation NOW) during 2014.

The SAEN complaint which garnered the USDA action was based on records SAEN obtained from the National Institutes of Health through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The federal reports detail the deaths, injuries and escapes referenced in the USDA inspection.

"The USDA citations against the UW for primate deaths, injuries and escapes are a good start," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director SAEN. "The USDA should throw the book at this incompetent lab."

"The UW has to be one of the most incompetent labs in the U.S.," added Budkie. "Not only can the unqualified staff of this lab not keep the monkeys in the cages – they apparently can't even keep them alive long enough to experiment on them."

The University of Wisconsin citation is the 16th time in 2014 that a SAEN complaint resulted in the USDA citing a research laboratory. eight of those cases have generated Official Warnings from the USDA. Additionally, five USDA fines issued during 2014 followed SAEN complaints.

All federal reports are available upon request.