President Faust,

I am contacting you today to discuss the New England Primate Research Center which is funded through Harvard’s Medical School. As you know, the decision has been made to close the Primate Center, with a gradual phase-out over the next 24 months, ending during 2015.

A statement recently released by Harvard stated:

“The primates will either be transitioned to other sites, including the other national primate research centers, or be managed at the NEPRC in accordance with approved protocols.”

The concept that the primates who have already suffered so much at Harvard’s Southborough facility will now endure additional agony through further experimentation is simply unacceptable. Allow me to enumerate some of the realities which primates at NEPRC have endured, according to Harvard’s own annual report as filed with the USDA (see attachment):

- 999 primates were socially isolated
- 35 primates were deprived of access to water
- + 4 primates were subjected to withdrawal from addictive drugs

Total 1038

The reports from the Harvard Medical School clearly delineate that 45% of the animals housed at the Primate Center experienced conditions that do not conform to the Animal Welfare Act, albeit legally. As you know, at least 4 non-human primates died due to negligence at the Primate Center. Additionally, there have also been traumatic injuries. Considering that the Primate Center housed approximately 2000 primates at one time, I doubt that these were the only incidents – they were the only ones which were discovered. It is clear that the primates at this facility have endured enough pain, suffering, and neglect. 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. A recent article in the *Boston Globe* stated that Harvard will receive $27 million this year for the Primate Center. This same article stated that the Primate Center is 51 years old. 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.

Due to Harvard’s negligence, Harvard’s profiteering from primate experimentation, and the pain and suffering inflicted on primates at the Primate Center, Harvard has an obligation to release these victims and provide for their care.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.,
Executive Director, SAEN