

SAEN finds Shocking Conditions in Vanderbilt & Emory Research Labs – Primate Deaths Only Tip of Iceberg Across the U.S.

SAEN's investigations have uncovered a series of primate deaths – and some of the most horrendous conditions – in our nation's research labs.

In two of the worst examples, SAEN, using federal public records, has discovered that both universities, Vanderbilt and Emory, have racked up severe violations of federal law.

In the case of Vanderbilt, federal reports dated July of last year reveal a negligent primate death, denial of water to primates for extended periods, and failure to consider alternatives to painful procedures.

The citation issued for the negligent primate death, recorded in the USDA inspection report, details a primate en route for a medical procedure suffering a broken bone severe enough to require euthanasia. Additional citations were issued for earlier incidents where several primates were carelessly denied water for 36 to 48 hours, along with being cited for failure to adequately consider alternatives to painful surgical procedures.

“If the staff cannot even move a primate without causing a broken bone serious enough to warrant euthanasia or remember to show up for work to give primates water, then this facility clearly has untrained and unqualified staff,” said Budkie in official correspondence to the Director of USDA's Eastern Regional Animal Care Office. “Therefore, I insist that you take the most severe action allowable under the Animal Welfare Act and immediately begin the process of issuing a fine against Vanderbilt University,” added Budkie.

In the case of Emory, SAEN uncovered evidence in federal reports of at least one negligent primate death and failure to control pests at its Yerkes Primate Center Field Station.

A USDA inspection report dated July of last year reveals Emory being cited for a rhesus macaque monkey being killed after being placed in the wrong enclosure following a medical procedure. Additional citations reveal serious issues concerning roach and rodent infestation, which endanger the health of the primates at the Field Station.

“If the staff of this facility cannot even remember which enclosure the monkeys belong in, then something is seriously wrong here,” said Budkie in official correspondence to the USDA.



Even though Vanderbilt and Emory have both been cited for multiple federal violations, SAEN is insisting on additional citations for *unqualified personnel* and federal fines by filing Official USDA Complaints.

Incidents at Vanderbilt and Emory are only the latest in a string of primate fatalities at major U.S. labs with the death toll from negligence continuing to climb. Apparently, situations like these are actually very commonplace with the truth just now surfacing from labs spanning the U.S.

- **Harvard Medical School**, site of one of the National Primate Research Centers, is currently embroiled in a controversy over the negligent deaths of four primates along with a host of other violations, leading to the Director's resignation and subsequent closure announcement.
- **Wisconsin Primate Research Center** is the target of a major federal investigation covering dozens of violations over multiple years.
- **Washington National Primate Research Center** has a SAEN complaint recently filed against them over negligent deaths and primate escapes.
- **UC Davis Primate Research Center** was recently cited by the USDA, based on a SAEN complaint, for 19 primate deaths, mostly infants, due to inadequate veterinary care. This lab is also responsible for a primate found dead with a bungee cord wrapped around her neck.
- **Bristol Myers Squibb** (NJ) has received USDA citations for two primate deaths.
- **Covance** (WI) has been cited by the USDA for the negligent death of a primate.

Please contact the USDA to demand that both Emory and Vanderbilt be severely fined.

Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
Director, Eastern Region
USDA/APHIS/AC

920 Main Campus Dr, Ste 2000
Raleigh, NC 27606

Betty.J.Goldentyer@usda.gov (919) 855-7100