

Death and Torture uncovered at Big U.S. Drug Testing Labs - SAEN charges 'Epidemic of Negligence within Corporate Labs'

WASHINGTON, DC – SAEN has unearthed federal reports revealing deaths and horrific injuries to animals in a number of major U.S. drug testing labs.

These reports reveal deaths due to drug overdose, traumatic injuries, and flubbed testing within the research laboratories of prominent companies – Charles River (MA), Wuxi Apptec (MN), and Merck Sharp & Dohme (NJ).

Charles River filed federal reports for a three year period (2009 – 2011) disclosing nine negligent animal deaths – four primates, four rabbits, and one dog due to “*gavage error*” – which means liquefied toxic chemicals were mistakenly placed directly into animals’ lungs – painfully drowning them. According to these same federal reports, dozens of rabbits were documented as suffering from severe debilitation -- losing as much as 33 percent of their body weight when euthanasia was delayed. SAEN has filed an Official Complaint with the USDA against Charles River for *unqualified personnel* and *improper animal handling*.



Federal reports filed by Wuxi Apptec log four animal deaths – one by overdose, one by vertebral fracture, and two suspicious animal deaths while in restraint devices. These animal deaths were the subject of another

Official Complaint filed by SAEN with the USDA for *improper animal handling* and *unqualified personnel*.

A 2011 federal report filed by Merck Sharp & Dohme recounts two primate deaths during oral toxicity tests after which staff were required to be ‘retrained’. An Official Complaint has also been filed against Merck Sharp & Dohme, again for *improper animal handling* and *unqualified personnel*.

“Charles River, Wuxi Apptec, and Merck Sharp & Dohme cannot deny these violations,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “They listed these incidents in their OWN reports.”

Potentially the most shocking part of this 15 death drug industry boondoggle is that the USDA had the documentation which outlined these criminal fatalities in its possession for as much as three years, and had taken absolutely no action.

“It is very disturbing that a federal regulatory agency possessed documents containing evidence of potentially criminal activity by three major labs and had done nothing about it,” said Karen Budkie, Co-Founder, SAEN. “Apparently, the USDA rubber stamped these reports and filed them without even bothering to read them.”

Since the USDA itself is just as negligent as the labs, SAEN has also taken decisive action against this regulatory agency, requesting an investigation of the USDA’s Animal Care Division by the Office of the Inspector General.



Please contact the Directors of the USDA’s Eastern & Western Regional Offices - insisting on immediate action against Charles River, Merck Sharp & Dohme, and Wuxi Apptec for negligently killing monkeys, rabbits, and a dog.

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Please contact the Inspector General to insist on an audit of the USDA’s Animal Care Division

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