



Stop Animal Exploitation Now!

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1081-B St. Rt. 28 #280
Milford, Ohio 45150
513-575-5517
www.saenonline.org

Dr. Robert Gibbens
Director, Western Region
USDA/APHIS/AC
2150 Center Ave.
Building B, Mailstop 3W11
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117

1/25/12

Dr. Gibbens,

I am contacting you today because I believe that it is necessary that the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (LRRI) be investigated for the deaths of several hundred animals during the Summer of 2011. In July of 2011 SAEN was contacted by a whistleblower connected to his facility.

The information revealed to us by this Whistleblower disclosed that the administration of the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute planned to slaughter 300 primates and after the conclusion of this process a significant number of beagles were to be killed as well, and that all of these killings were due to the loss of a contact with a client.

Initially, there was no way to document this situation. However, the attached USDA inspection reports now confirm the deaths of these animals. As you can see from the attached USDA inspection reports for 3/3/11 and 9/14/11 the inventory of non-human primates and dogs changed drastically during this period.

To be exact, on 3/3/11 the primate inventory for LRRI was 951 and the dog inventory was 293. However, by 9/14/11 the primate inventory had plummeted to 646 while the dog inventory had declined to 183. So, during this time period the primate inventory at LRRI dropped by 305 and the dog inventory declined by 110. Therefore, these federal reports clearly confirm that during this time period the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute Committed the mass murder of hundreds of animals.

The information that had been released to us by the whistleblower provided to us indicated that as many as 30 primates were to be killed per day, and that the dogs were to be killed in large numbers as well.

I am very concerned that with these animals being killed in such large numbers that proper euthanasia procedures may not have been followed and that these animals may have suffered unnecessarily due to performing these procedures too quickly, or improperly. Improperly performed euthanasia would clearly violate section 2.33 Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care. Additionally, supervision of this entire process may potentially have been insufficient which may also lead to violations of Section 2.31 Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee.

Therefore, I request that this issue be investigated immediately to ascertain if and how often these or other sections of the Animal Welfare Act may have been violated during this whole sale slaughter of hundreds of animals. I expect that your office will reply to this correspondence within five business days.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T.

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

Attachments: USDA Inspection Reports
CC: Office of the Inspector General