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## **Harvard Announces Closure of Primate Research Center; Watchdog Group Applauds Move; Calls for Retirement of Primates**

**BOSTON/SOUTHBOROUGH, MA** – Harvard Medical School has issued a statement announcing that the New England Primate Research Center will be closing within 24 months.

Harvard's New England Primate Research Center has been embroiled in an ongoing controversy following the negligent deaths of at least 4 primates. The facility is currently under investigation by the USDA and faces a potentially major federal fine for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

"Harvard wants the public to believe that this closure is due to economics," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN (Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!). "That is simply not true. The only way Harvard could quash this scandal is to close the primate center, because even last year's resignation of the Center's Director could not end their ineptitude. This closure is the direct result of pressure from activists led by SAEN."

"The closure of Harvard's Primate Research Center is the best news I have ever heard," added Budkie. "The potential exists to bring freedom to many monkeys and to redirect millions of dollars into clinical and epidemiological research which will more directly benefit humans."

SAEN has announced plans to contact the Harvard Medical School's administration to explore the possibility of placing at least some of the primates in sanctuaries.

"These primates have suffered enough," added Budkie. "They deserve a chance to have a new life in another environment where their needs will be put first."