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Contact: Michael Budkie 513-575-5517 saen@saenonline.org

**Feds Fine Alpha Genesis \$12,600
- Watchdog Group Calls Penalty Paltry**

CHARLESTON/YEMASSEE, SC – A major national animal dealer located here has been fined \$12,600 for six major violations which took place from 2014 - 2016. The fine document – which was obtained Tuesday – disclosed the deaths and abuse of over three dozen monkeys.

According to SAEN, an Ohio-based national nonprofit that monitors U.S. research facilities and animal breeders/dealers for animal abuse and violations of federal law, the USDA fine document was obtained Tuesday through the Freedom of Information Act.

The fine document provides details of six major violations. Collectively these incidents involved the escapes of 30 monkeys (one of whom was never recovered), depriving 6 monkeys of water (to the point where one of them collapsed), mistakenly placing a monkey in the wrong cage where he/she was attacked and killed, and fatally injuring one monkey during recapture.

In a letter to Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer, Director of USDA/APHIS/AC's Eastern Region, SAEN's Co-Founder, Michael A. Budkie, calls the \$12,600 Alpha Genesis penalty "extremely disappointing" and also brings up two recent fines levied against other primate labs/breeders/dealers which were \$185,000 and \$100,000.

Questions are also raised about incidents involving animal deaths at Alpha Genesis discussed in SAEN complaints, which were not covered by the federal penalty. Two primates died of electrocution, one died while caught in an enrichment device, and dozens more died of hyperthermia or trauma.

"These complaints were thoroughly documented and based on reports filed by Alpha Genesis. Their credibility cannot be questioned. Therefore I have one question, will Alpha Genesis be prosecuted again with additional penalties which could actually approach a level of significance?," said Budkie in the correspondence to Goldentyer.

The USDA fine document, correspondence to Dr. Goldentyer, and two recent SAEN complaints are available at: <http://www.saenonline.org/media-Alpha-Genesis-Fine-Documents-6-13-18.html>