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**UC Irvine Admits Killing Six Animals, Violating Federal Law;
Watchdog Calls for Hefty Fine**

LOS ANGELES, CA. – The University of California, Irvine, has confessed that it negligently killed six research subjects when it violated federal law, as disclosed in internal documents which were never intended to be made public.

UC Irvine admitted the animal deaths in correspondence to a federal government funding agency, according to SAEN, an Ohio-based nonprofit watchdog group that monitors U.S. research facilities for illegal activity and animal abuse

SAEN said the correspondence revealed botched surgical procedures, a lack of veterinary care and unqualified staff caused the animal deaths.

The correspondence, added SAEN, discusses potential violations of multiple federal animal welfare regulations including requirements for qualified personnel, adequate veterinary care and proper animal handling.

SAEN has filed an Official Complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture alleging multiple violations and calling for the opening of a major federal investigation.

SAEN is also urging the leveling of the maximum federal fine of \$10,000 per infraction/per animal. All of the violations involve fatalities, with four rabbits, a sheep and a pig dying.

"Since this lab has documented multiple failures which led to fatalities, it is clearly time for the USDA to take action. Otherwise animals will continue to die unnecessarily, and federal funds will be squandered," said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., a co-founder of SAEN.

SAEN's USDA complaint and related documents are available at: <https://saenonline.org/media-University-of-California-Irvine-USDA-Complaint-9-17-18.html>