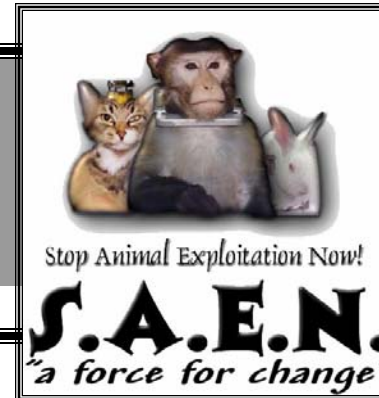


## Stop Animal Exploitation NOW!

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# THE DEFENDER

Spring 2007

## SAEN Makes International News!!

### Inside the UC Davis Primate Research Center

SAEN's work against animal experimentation is usually based on information obtained through in-depth investigations. It is very rare to have the opportunity to work with someone who has been on the inside and has seen the realities of animal experimentation first hand.

In February of 2006, we were contacted by Cheri Stevens, a former animal caretaker, who had worked at the California Primate Research Center (CPRC) for approximately 3 years, ending in 2005. She truly cared for the primates which were her responsibility and worked to give them the best possible quality of life. She left voluntarily due to conflict with management -- they knew that truly caring for the animals was her first priority.

On Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> SAEN's Executive Director, Michael Budkie traveled to Sacramento to coordinate the dramatic news conference which would release Cheri Stevens' detailed statement to the media along with information from internal documents obtained by SAEN through the California Public Records Act.

CPRC records revealed that primates within this facility suffered from many serious pathological conditions including pneumonia, enteritis, and peritonitis. Many of these animals had reached a point of severe emaciation (starvation) or dehydration (lack of water). This clearly indicates that they had been allowed to suffer unnecessarily and may have been denied adequate veterinary care.

Trauma is also frequent among the primates at CPRC. Both adult fighting and infant abuse is commonplace, clearly exposing the severely stressful nature of life inside a laboratory.

Cheri's statements revealed extreme cruelty and neglect at CPRC. She spoke in general terms and about individual animals. She discussed a highly invasive procedure which is common at many facilities:

*"There is nothing humane about placing a post on an animal's head that is held in place with dental acrylic. First, there is little room for error in the surgical procedure necessary to provide such an inhumane way to ensure an animal will remain still, whether they voluntarily wish to do so or not. More often than not infections will develop at the site of the head post unless cleaned more often than just daily."*



Her experiences with two individual primates, Buzz and an infant, reveal the overall situation at CPRC. Buzz's problems began when a researcher injured him during a procedure:

*"Barnes wounded the animal's eardrum, possibly unbeknownst to her, for nothing was done to care for the injuries received. Buzz was reported several times by animal techs during morning health rounds for having oozing ears. . . . When he finally was taken in by therapeutics, it was found that what had started out as an outer ear infection created by the wound inflicted by Barnes had at that point escalated into a brain abscess."*

*Buzz was in much pain during his last days. I expressed concern and asked why he was being kept alive even though he was clearly in pain; I was told that they were waiting to be able to collect data. If they euthanized him to end his suffering, all research data would be lost. . . . By prolonging his death for research the investigator clearly stated that this animal's welfare was secondary to her research."*

(continued on second inside page)

### What People are Saying about SAEN:

"Thanks so much for sending the USDA inspection reports for Wake Forest University. They came at exactly the right time and were very useful to me in showing the University of Colorado that it would not be beneficial to send monkeys to WFU. We hope this will help to convince CU that the monkeys should be released to a sanctuary."

Rita Anderson, The Committee for Research Accountability

"Our current campaign against the University of Connecticut Health Center would not have been possible without the diligent work of Michael Budkie and SAEN. Without a group like this, it would be nearly impossible for all of us to navigate through and make sense of the myriad of information out there about every institution that conducts animal experimentation."

Justin Goodman, President of UCONN Animal Rights Collective, CT

"Thanks for ALL your help with this. I would have not had ANY answers for the press if it hadn't been for your help. I thank you, and I'm sure the animals would thank you as well if they could. One day, they will!"

Billye Thompson – Nashville protest coordinator

### STOP ANIMAL EXPLOITATION NOW!'s MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! is to empower local activists on a nationwide level by providing them with as many different kinds of support as are possible. Presently, resources are available for providing technical support in the areas of media relations, investigations, and campaign coordination.

An additional goal of Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! is to draw together local, regional, and national animal protection organizations as a means to bringing about change for animals in the immediate future. There is strength in unity and coordinated, effective action. The means will include effective media campaigns, letter-writing, networking, and other powerful measures. Our goal is to end the suffering now, not in 100 years.

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## ***From the Desk of Michael Budkie, SAEN's Executive Director***

I'm not sure if it is possible to feel both exhausted and elated at the same time, but if so, then that is what we are feeling right now. The last several months have been both tiring and rewarding. Our campaign to expose the truth about animal experimentation has led us literally across the length and breadth of the U.S. Our work has taken us to 16 cities, and we have supported activist groups in dozens of other cities across America.

**SAEN's work to expose animal abuse in the media has been amazingly successful, even generating international coverage.** By working with a former animal caretaker at the University of California (Davis), we were able to bring the reality of the brutal laboratory environment to light, which forced the university to launch an internal investigation. Our expose' of the conditions within the University of South Alabama was reported in news media across three states, reaching hundreds of thousands of people. Breakthrough media coverage of our work in Baltimore exposed evidence of primate abuse within federally-owned laboratories. The suffering of dogs and primates in laboratories from Wisconsin to Massachusetts and Connecticut has also been revealed by SAEN campaigns. **During 2006, SAEN reached millions of people with over 70 different pieces of media coverage on the animal experimentation issue. We have done more to expose cruel and abusive laboratories than anyone else. SAEN is fighting for these innocent victims and winning!**

In lab after lab we have seen incontrovertible evidence of inadequate veterinary care, severe stress, and indisputable negligence. This information comes from the very government agency that is charged with protecting animals in laboratories and provides a compelling indictment of both the callousness of the laboratories that routinely break this law and the utter inability of the USDA to fulfill the mission that it has been given to protect animals. We have reached a point where the law that was designed to protect animals has actually become little more than a smokescreen, allowing criminals to hide the heinous reality of what they do. It is now up to us to utilize this law both to reform this agency and to end animal experimentation. For if this law was given its full scope, I believe that it could actually prevent some of the most abusive kinds of animal experiments.

Whether a single facility is abusing animals or a government agency is failing to enforce federal regulations, SAEN has stepped up to fight for animals. Wherever this fight takes us, we will continue to be a powerful and effective advocate for the innocent animals who are imprisoned within our nation's laboratories, and we need you to get involved. We need your help to keep the pressure on labs across the U.S. to end the abuse of animals – get involved in **World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week** events in your area (see [www.wlalw.org](http://www.wlalw.org) for event listings) – or plan your own event with our help.

We have launched an immense investigation which will literally lead us inside the corridors of every laboratory in the United States. We have begun the process of obtaining government documents relevant to 1100 research facilities that imprison animals. Since the government has proven itself incapable of ending the abuse of animals within laboratories, it appears that this huge responsibility has been left to us. We will not shrink from this challenge -- for millions of animals are depending on us.

Just as countless millions of primates, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, mice, cows, pigs, sheep and other species are depending on SAEN to end their suffering -- **SAEN is depending on you to make all of our work possible.** We cannot take on this prodigious task without your help. Our work simply cannot be done without you. You are an integral part of SAEN.

I am sincerely grateful for all of your previous donations which allowed us to achieve so much for the animals. What will we accomplish in 2007?? Only you can make this decision. Please continue to give generously so that we can target even more adversaries. We cannot hope to be successful without you!

**Your donation of \$25, \$50, or \$100 will help us to fight for millions of imprisoned and suffering animals. Larger gifts of \$250, \$500, or \$1000 will help us to take on the 1100 laboratories that blanket the U.S. with animal exploitation. Your continuing financial support will make it possible for us to keep fighting the cruelty and abuse that is intrinsic to every animal experiment. Thank you in advance for your gift.**

**Dear Michael,**

**I, too, am shocked and saddened by the suffering of innocent animals in labs today. This must be exposed and ENDED.**



Stop Animal Exploitation Now!  
**S.A.E.N.**  
"a force for change"

Please accept my tax-deductible donation to help with this cause:

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### **International Primate Protection League**

The International Primate Protection League (IPPL) has been very supportive of SAEN's work to end the use of primates in laboratories for several years, first providing a grant to SAEN in 2004. IPPL's generosity continued in 2006 with grants totaling \$8000 which have enabled us to continue our ongoing investigations of major labs like the University of California (Los Angeles, San Francisco & Davis), University of Wisconsin, etc.



Courtney greeting guests

IPPL's bi-yearly membership meeting took place in March of 2006. This meeting provides a unique opportunity to educate a group of people who are very concerned about primates regarding the reality of a primate's daily existence within a research facility. SAEN's Executive Director, Michael Budkie, was invited to speak about the plight of primates in U.S. laboratories. *Life in the Lab*, the PowerPoint presentation used by Michael, is currently posted on SAEN's website in the Articles and Reports section.

IPPL's next meeting will take place in March, 2008. It is always held at the IPPL headquarters in Summerville, SC which is also the site of the IPPL gibbon sanctuary. Visiting this sanctuary is always a wonderful experience, because at IPPL, primates come first.

### **Vegetarian Summerfest 2006**

The 2006 Vegetarian Summerfest took place in Johnstown, PA from July 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. This conference brings together hundreds of people who are interested in vegetarianism for five days of workshops on health, cooking, and animal & environmental issues.

Michael Budkie, SAEN's Executive Director, made two presentations about animal experimentation issues for the hundreds of attendees at this conference. The first presentation – *The Facts About Animal Experimentation and What You Can Do About It*, informed attendees about the true scope of animal experimentation. After providing good overall information, this workshop then delved into the methodology which is used by SAEN staff to investigate laboratories. Utilization of SAEN's website, specifically the Resources and Links section, made it possible for anyone to find out what is happening at research labs across the US.

Michael's second presentation, *U.S. Primate Experimentation – Behind the Lab Door*, briefed activists on national trends and also exposes the abusive conditions which exist in many labs that imprison primates.

Participating in the Vegetarian Summerfest provides an opportunity to reach a unique audience with the facts about animal experimentation. Vegetarian Summerfest 2007 takes place July 25 – 29.

