

Torturing Animals in Connecticut -- Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals

During most of our history, SAEN has focused primarily on the experimentation performed by colleges and universities. Never before have we examined the projects performed at a pharmaceutical company. However, our investigations have uncovered horrendous abuses at the Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceutical Company in Ridgefield, CT. During the first nine months of 2005, this laboratory accumulated 19 violations of the Animal Welfare Act including infractions in areas of veterinary care, environmental enhancement for primates, unqualified personnel, Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee, and housing/facilities.



On 4/5/04 a beagle died of asphyxiation at Boehringer after becoming trapped between the bars of a cage. No one at this laboratory even noticed that a beagle was dying. No one cared.

Another dog at this same facility suffered terribly during 2005. On

May 4 a USDA inspector found this dog to be:

“ . . . recumbent and shivering. According to personnel, the animals run a fever at this stage of the study . . . According to the dog’s medical records, the dog’s weight was 12.9 kg when the study began on 4/5/05 and the dog weighed 9.4 kg on 5/9/05 which is a 27% weight loss in 35 days. The dog experienced elevated body temperatures ranging from 103 to 106 degrees F for 24 to 48 hour periods of time on four separate occasions after beginning the study. There were multiple notations in the dog’s record that it did not eat during the febrile episodes.”

Despite this animal’s severe pain and suffering, the research facility had reported this study as one where the dog did not feel any pain or distress.

On 5/4/05 dog #1374 “exhibited substantial circling behavior.” However, this animal had not even been identified as needing veterinary care.

Boehringer also had multiple incidents that tortured primates. Cynomolgous monkey #497 was used in an experiment on September 2, 2004. Two days later all of the skin had sloughed off of both of this primate’s hands due to a thermal injury, resulting in the amputation of two fingers. Rhesus monkey #831 died after being run through a cage washer despite the fact that three different employees had checked the cage. A similar incident had killed another primate at this facility in 2001, and a rat was killed this same way on 8/30/04. Rhesus monkey #688 was found dead in his cage on 10/30/04 after having been “squeezed” in his cage on the previous day.

“A post mortem examination attributed the cause of death to be hemothorax (accumulation of blood in the chest) related to self-inflicted trauma or due to difficulties associated with the handling of the animal.”

Primates #779 and #916 are listed as severely stressed, because they are removing their own hair.

This lab has illustrated some of the most severe instances of abuse and neglect that we have ever seen. The USDA has responded to these instances of abuse by levying a fine of \$20,060 which is one of the largest fines we have seen in recent years.

Please contact this criminal corporation to express your outrage at their treatment of animals:

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
900 Ridgebury Rd
P.O. Box 368
Ridgefield, CT 06877

(800) 243-0127
(203) 798-9988

Taking Care of Animals Now and Forever

Your love for animals can live on even after you have left this world. You can insure that our work to end animal experimentation continues on to its final conclusion by remembering Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! in your will. This is a wonderful way to show your concern for animals.

Matching Gifts

Many U.S. companies generously match employees’ donations to their favorite charities. If you are employed, please check with your company to see if they match gifts and take the time to fill out the form. Most companies match employees’ gifts one to one, but some match two to one or even three to one.

Inside the UC Davis Primate Center (cont’d)



An infant primate which Cheri befriended had a sad end:

“I reached into the cage and “introduced myself.” It took little convincing and in no time the animal warmed up to me. I was able to get him to drink the liquid therapeutics provided and got him to eat a little of the rice cereal and grapes in his cage. He grew more and more comfortable with me and eventually even let me hold him. I stayed through lunch to care for him, and he seemed to be coming around. I left the animal for some time to feed the other animals I was responsible for that day, and quickly returned to his cage when I was finished. I carefully bundled the animal in a towel and removed him from his cage. I took a seat on a stool and just held him close. The animal became so comfortable that he fell asleep on my chest for what I was told was the first time since he had been in therapeutics.

The time for me to go home was quickly approaching, and I was having trouble with the idea of leaving him. I thought about staying, but for how long? I could not move in. I had to go home some time. Finally around 4:15 I decided I had done all that I could and certainly more than anyone else. He already was showing signs of improvement so I placed him back in his cage, still sleeping and went home for my two days off.

The following day I made a few calls to therapeutics to check on the infant primate but was not able to reach anyone and no one returned my phone calls. When I returned to work, I found out that the very next day, my first day off, they decided to euthanize him. I was told that there was nothing that they could do for him so they euthanized him. I could not believe it. I had done so much for him that resulted in so little. I have felt guilty for so long, because when I left I knew that no one would take the time to help him eat, drink, or even make him feel secure. But I know now that it was not my fault that the primate did not make it. It is the fault of the CNPRC for the ideas that they silently instill. To them the infant primate was just an animal beneath them, just a number that could be replaced this year or the next. To me he is one of many reasons to stand up against the evils of animal exploitation.”

The shocking information revealed at this news conference sped across media in northern California, with many television and radio stations carrying the story.

The following day SAEN announced the filing of an official complaint with the USDA, requesting an immediate investigation of the California Primate Research Center. This story again galvanized the media, with an Associated Press story speeding across the globe, even reaching media outlets as far away as France and Russia.

In a story carried by the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper, Dallas Hyde, Director of the CPRC, announced that a committee will conduct an internal investigation of the CPRC.

In addition to filing a complaint with the USDA, SAEN staff had requested a meeting with UC Davis staff. However, in an article published in the *Aggie* (the UC Davis student paper) UC Davis spokesperson Andy Fell said, "There are no plans for UC Davis representatives to meet with this group."

We cannot adequately thank Cheri Stevens for the courage she has shown by coming forward to tell the public the truth about the abuse and neglect experienced by monkeys at CPRC. We will continue to work with her to insure that her bravery will result in real changes. You can help by contacting UC Davis Chancellor Larry N. Vanderhoef to demand that he meet with SAEN’s Executive Director, Michael Budkie, to address serious concerns about the overall situation within the California Primate Research Center.

Chancellor Larry N. Vanderhoef
Mrak Hall, Fifth Floor
University of California, Davis
One Shields Ave
Davis, CA 95616

(530) 752-2065 Invanderhoef@ucdavis.edu

For further information, please go to the SAEN website at: www.saenonline.org where both Cheri Stevens’ statement and the prepared statement issued by SAEN’s Executive Director, Michael Budkie, are posted in their entirety for your reading. Other information on the SAEN website about the UC Davis laboratories can be found in our [Facilities and Reports](#) section and in the [Protocols for Animal Use and Care](#) section which contains over 170 UC Davis Primate Research protocols in their entirety.

University of Wisconsin – still torturing animals after all these years

The University of Wisconsin has a long history of causing severe suffering to animals of many different species. Whether we look at the infamous Harry Harlow's maternal deprivation experiments from decades ago or more recent events where primates were killed by negligence -- running them through a cage washer -- the University of Wisconsin is well-known for abusing animals.

During the first nine months of 2005, the UW piled up 20 violations of the Animal Welfare Act including infractions involving inadequate veterinary care, unqualified personnel, inadequate housing/facilities, and improper supervision of experimentation by the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee. It is not surprising that the abuses practiced by this entity involve many species of animals including dogs and primates.



One incident involved a dog that was allowed to suffer severely for months. Dog #458783 died on 7/5/05 at the UW. In the weeks before

death, this dog lost 41% of his/her body weight. This animal had been vomiting for more than sixteen weeks with this symptom being listed in the daily care log no less than seven separate times. Despite repeated notations of symptoms including vomiting, weight loss, lethargy, lack of appetite, and general non-responsiveness over a period of almost four months, no veterinarian was ever contacted. This dog simply wasted away until death ended this suffering.

On 4/26/05 rhesus monkey #04046 was observed by a USDA inspector to have an arm caught in the front of his/her enclosure. Upon further investigation the inspector learned that the primate had suffered from a similar situation repeatedly since 8/21/04, often being treated for swelling and trauma to this same arm. However, the veterinarian had not been informed of the cause of the problem, and so nothing had been done to rectify the situation. On this day the head animal care technician was called, and after lubricating the primate's arm attempted to free it by forcing the arm back into the cage. The monkey began to scream in pain, and the USDA inspector intervened and forced the UW staff to call for a veterinarian. The vet then anesthetized the monkey, and bolt cutters were used to remove part of the cage.

Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! exposed this abuse and negligence to Wisconsin media in mid-July. The story was covered by *The Isthmus*, *The Capital Times*, and the **Wisconsin Radio Network**. These media outlets revealed the reality of animal experimentation to hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin's citizens.

According to government reports, ongoing experiments at the UW deprive primates, hamsters, and cats of food and/or water. Primates are confined to restraint chairs for up to 16 hours. Cats are paralyzed, and coils are placed into the eyes of primates. A lab that has neglected and abused animals so severely is responsible for the care of thousands of animals every year. The incidents uncovered by the USDA are likely only the tip of the iceberg at this huge facility.

UW 2004 Animal Experimentation Statistics (not including rats, mice and birds)

Dogs	462
Cats	120
Hamsters	592
Rabbits	368
Primates	2429
Sheep	107
Pigs	906
Cows	155
Horses	30
Wild Animals	4034
Total	9203

Since the federal government is grossly ineffective at ending the abuse of animals in laboratories, Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! will continue to push the laboratory doors open to expose the truth to the tax-paying public. Only through our continued vigilance will the practice of animal experimentation eventually be ended.

The negligence and abusive behavior practiced by UW staff are simply inexcusable. They must not be allowed to continue this kind of callous indifference to the needs of animals in their care. Please write to the University of Wisconsin to express your outrage at their negligence.

Chancellor John D. Wiley
University of Wisconsin
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Madison, WI 53706

Exposing the University of South Alabama

On May 1, 2006, Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! held a dramatic news conference in Mobile, AL to expose the abuse of squirrel and owl monkeys within the labs of the University of South Alabama (USA). The news conference received excellent coverage from three television stations and the local newspaper, the *Mobile Press Register*. The newspaper story was picked up by Associated Press and spread across television, radio, and newspapers in three states.



The details of primate experiments within the University of South Alabama are very disturbing. During 2004 USA experimented on 728 primates and used another 75 for breeding or

conditioning. USA receives just over \$1.5 million from the National Institutes of Health for all primate projects.

The suffering of primates at USA is revealed in post-mortem records for 98 monkeys who died at USA during 2003 – 2004. 74 of these primates were immature monkeys who died of everything from failure to thrive to skull fractures. For a facility that has breeding of monkeys as one of the primary purposes, this appears to be an excessively high number of infant deaths. Additionally, the rate of stillbirths is high, and neonatal jaundice is rampant. Additionally, the parents are so severely stressed that they abuse their offspring, such as infant #3814 -- his hair was plucked and his tail was traumatized.

Negligence was clearly a factor in the anesthetic deaths of two adult monkeys at USA. One of these animals died of aspiration pneumonia -- from inhaling his/her own vomit. Six of the other adult deaths were marked by inanition (extreme lack of body fat). This condition indicates either long-term untreated illness or severe stress.

Some of the most significant pathologies for adult primates at USA appear to be mental. Ten USA primates exhibited significant hair loss, from over grooming which is considered to be the result of stress or stereotypical behavior. This behavior is usually associated with mental illness and is often followed by more severe acts of self-injurious behavior. USA primates suffered with eight instances of trauma either self-induced or caused by cage mates. In either case, this behavior is also associated with stress. Other primates at USA have had digits amputated as a result of self-inflicted injuries.

However, the most shocking of all the cases is primate 2685 who died on 12-10-04. She had developed an intussusception of the intestinal tract. This condition occurs when one part of the intestines slide up into another part, telescoping. The pain that this animal experienced must have been excruciating. She began to attack her own body, out of mental illness, to the point that she cannibalized her own intestinal tract.

Other causes of death show up in the USA primates including: gastric bloat (which is related to improper feeding), chronic anemia, chronic diarrhea, etc. In one instance the bloat led to gastric torsion which was neglected until the intestinal tract became necrotic. In fact, the records for these animals never discuss treatment of any kind. When a condition reaches a chronic level, the solution appears to be to put the animal to death.

We believe that our investigation of this facility will lead to a reduction in the amount of abuse at the University of South Alabama. Now the staff at USA knows that SAEN is watching their every move!



The photographs in this article actually came from the website of the University of South Alabama. While they do not show filthy cages or highly invasive experimentation, they clearly illustrate the cramped and stark environment in which the primates are housed. For animals whose natural environment includes trees, vegetation, and sunlight, this stainless steel indoor prison cannot possibly meet their needs. It is no surprise that many of these highly intelligent animals respond to their intense boredom and desire for escape with insanity. As long as our society imprisons primates, they will continue to pay for our folly with their minds.