

Lab **State news capsules**

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Compiled from Associated Press reports

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Experimental monkey killed

MADISON—Procedures will be changed to prevent the repeat of an incident that led to the accidental death of a monkey used in eye experiments at the University of Wisconsin, an official said.

Jay Noren, vice chancellor of UW Health Sciences, said the incident occurred Oct. 12 at the UW Clinical Sciences Center's animal care unit.

The adult female monkey, which was being used in ophthalmology research, had been put in a holding cage so its regular cage could be steam cleaned.

But the monkey "apparently ran from one of the transport cages into its regular cage, which went into the steam cleaner" without being noticed by the animal caretaker, Noren said.

Noren said the UW will now require two caretakers to examine the cages to make sure the animal is not in the cage scheduled for cleaning.

Milwaukee paper

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Dead monkey spurs change

By Bruce Kauffman
Wisconsin State Journal

Two caretakers will inspect the cages at a UW-Madison lab to avoid repeating an incident last month in which an adult female monkey was steamed to death in a cleaning machine.

The death occurred Oct. 12 at the animal care unit of the university's Clinical Science Center.

On Wednesday, UW Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Jay Noren called the death "tragic" and "extremely rare."

Noren said the monkey was being put in a transport cage so its regular cage could be steam cleaned. The cages were flush to each other, the doors open. The female went into the transport cage, but then, without being noticed, went back into her regular cage.

There is a window on one of the cage's four sides, but the monkey wasn't noticed as the cage was placed in the steam cleaning machine.

The caretaker responsible has not been disciplined, but some action could be taken after an investigation by the animal care committee of the Clinical Science Center, Noren said.

"It's one of those human error things," he said. "There's no evidence of negligence."

Noren also said the worker involved has been depressed since the incident.

Reports of the death are being sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Public Health Service which have guidelines for the treatment of research animals.

From now on, Noren said, a caretaker must confirm with a colleague that cages are empty before they are washed.

The dead monkey was the subject of glaucoma research, what Noren called pharmacological ophthalmology. It was one of about 60 monkeys used for research at the center.

"In the experience of the veterinarians," Noren said, "this is the first time anything like this has happened in their memory, which goes back 15 years. It's one of those extremely rare events which

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UW lab makes changes after monkey dies

By BARBARA MULHERN
Capital Times Staff Writer

University of Wisconsin officials say they will notify two federal agencies of an adult monkey's accidental death in a steam cleaner at the UW Clinical Science Center.

The incident, which UW Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Jay Noren called a "tragic event," has been investigated internally.

As The Capital Times reported Wednesday, the accident happened Oct. 12 at the UW Clinical Science Center's animal care unit. The adult female monkey, being used in ophthalmology research, had been put into a transport cage so its regular cage could be put into a steam cleaning unit.

But the monkey "apparently ran from one of the transport cages into its regular cage, which went into the steam cleaner" without the monkey being noticed by the animal caretaker, Noren said.

He said both the Public Health Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture — which have established guidelines for animal care — will receive reports on the incident.

In addition to the internal review that has already taken place, Noren said the Clinical Science Center's animal care committee will also conduct an investigation.