



Coalition of Leading Primate Sanctuaries Encourages Reversal of USDA Decision to Remove Inspection Reports from Website

February 6, 2017

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance ([NAPSA](#)), a coalition of eleven of the leading primate sanctuaries in the U.S. and Canada that cares for over 670 nonhuman primates, disagrees with the decision of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to suddenly make unavailable its inspection reports of licensed animal care facilities.

USDA licensure is one of the requirements for sanctuaries to join NAPSA. The transparency offered by the public's ability to view USDA inspection reports was one way to ensure that facilities housing animals are held accountable for the animals in their care. The time delay involved in requesting documents via the Freedom of Information Act makes this secondary procedure much less useful and practical, and it is no replacement for website access to information to which the public is entitled. By no longer permitting instant access to USDA inspection reports, the USDA is protecting only those facilities who have been discovered providing substandard care. Such report findings are precisely the information to which citizens need access.

The decision of the USDA to remove public access to its inspection reports has a negative impact on the welfare of animals in USDA licensed facilities. NAPSA strongly urges the USDA to reverse this decision as soon as possible.

For more information contact:

North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance
Erika Fleury, Program Director
860-806-4542
admin101@sanctuary-alliance.org
www.primatesanctuaries.org