



October 14, 2021

The Honorable Donald D. Landry  
District Attorney for the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court

Via e-mail: [dlandry@15thjdcda.org](mailto:dlandry@15thjdcda.org)

Dear Mr. Landry:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, including over 3,000 in your district, and PETA U.S. is the largest animal rights organization in the world—to notify your office of apparent violations of Louisiana's prohibitions against cruelty to animals, specifically the apparent neglect of five infant rhesus macaques whose care is the responsibility of the University of Louisiana–Lafayette, 104 E. University Ave., Lafayette, LA 70503. PETA respectfully requests that your office initiate an investigation and file appropriate charges against UL-Lafayette for any violations of Louisiana law prohibiting people from “fail[ing] to provide” animals “with ... proper drink.”<sup>1</sup>

According to an inspection report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on August 26, 2021,<sup>2</sup> five infant rhesus macaques died of dehydration after university employees neglected to ensure that the animals had access to water, which constitutes a basic standard of care and was not related to any experimental water-deprivation procedure.

The USDA report describes that on July 19, “there was an unresponsive infant rhesus macaque showing signs of dehydration with a poor prognosis which was euthanized,” and on July 20, “two infant rhesus macaque deaths were reported” and two more baby monkeys “were euthanized.” Apparently, UL-Lafayette's employees neglected to notice that “the pressure regulator to the ... housing room/lixits was not working properly, thus reducing the water pressure to the animal room excessively,” which caused the infant monkeys to endure a slow, painful death.

Thus, it appears that UL-Lafayette may have violated Louisiana law by unjustifiably failing to provide these five infant monkeys who were in its custody with “proper drink,” which resulted in their deaths. PETA respectfully requests an investigation into these apparent violations of state law.

<sup>1</sup>La. Stat. Ann. § 14:102.1(A)(1)(c).

<sup>2</sup>The report is attached.

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have. You can contact me at [AmyM@peta.org](mailto:AmyM@peta.org). PETA would appreciate having the opportunity to discuss this topic, and I will follow up with you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent than the last name "Meyer".

Amy Meyer  
Primate Campaigns Manager  
Laboratory Investigations Department

cc: Lafayette Animal Shelter & Care Center  
([LASCC@lafayettela.gov](mailto:LASCC@lafayettela.gov))