



November 7, 2023

Dan Templeman  
Chief of Police  
Everett Police Department

Via e-mail: [police@everettwa.gov](mailto:police@everettwa.gov)

**Re: Request to investigate Altasciences Preclinical Seattle LLC for Apparent Violation of Cruelty-to-Animals Laws**

Dear Chief Templeman:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, over 127,000 of whom live in Washington—to request that your agency investigate and pursue all appropriate charges against Altasciences Preclinical Seattle LLC (located at 6605 Merrill Creek Parkway in Everett) for apparent violation of RCW 16.52.205, RCW 16.52.207, or EMC 6.04.070. Altasciences conducts experiments on live animals, and evidence indicates that Altasciences staff intentionally caused trauma to an endangered long-tailed macaque and did not provide him with humane care and treatment.

PETA obtained a September 28, 2023, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection report, which is attached, that documents that an Altasciences employee intentionally and repeatedly tossed a sedated long-tailed macaque into the air on May 16, 2023. In one of the tosses, the employee did not catch the monkey and he fell to the floor. The animal's chin was noticeably injured.

Washington law provides that a “person is guilty of animal cruelty in the first degree when, except as authorized in law, he or she intentionally (a) inflicts substantial pain on [or] (b) causes physical injury to” an animal. RCW 16.52.205(1). Even if you don't find that this conduct constitutes animal cruelty in the first degree, a “person is guilty of animal cruelty in the second degree if, under circumstances not amounting to first degree animal cruelty: (a) The person knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence inflicts unnecessary suffering or pain upon an animal.” RCW 16.52.207(1). Additionally, Everett municipal law provides that (“[u]nder circumstances not amounting to first degree animal cruelty” under state law) failure to provide an animal “with humane care and treatment” is prohibited. EMC 6.04.070(C)(2).

In this incident, Altasciences caused physical injury to a sedated monkey; sedated monkeys are defenseless, as their natural reflexes remain inactive. The injuries included chin abrasions, as well as other possible pain and injury from falling—likely several feet—to the floor. Each toss of the sedated monkey also likely compromised his airway because his head and neck were not being supported. The conduct of tossing a monkey into the air—multiple times—and causing him

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- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

to fall to the floor also in no way constitutes humane care and treatment, as required by Everett municipal law.

Further, this incident does not fall within an exemption to the Washington cruelty statute. Tossing a sedated monkey into the air repeatedly and dropping him onto the floor, which resulted in injury and likely pain, does not receive the protections granted to “properly conducted scientific experiments” under RCW 16.52.180: such conduct is not a scientific experiment. Even if it were, it cannot be considered “properly conducted,” including because the USDA found that Altasciences’ conduct violated the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Additionally, the USDA inspection report citations under the AWA do not insulate Altasciences from liability under state law because the AWA expressly does not preempt the field.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the enforcement of state law for the protection of animals is crucial given that the AWA provides only minimal protections—and even those have been routinely found by the USDA’s own internal watchdog to be inadequately enforced (Altasciences itself is a repeat violator of the AWA), and the conduct here appears to fall within the prohibitions of Washington state or Everett municipal law.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter regarding Altasciences’ apparently causing injury to and not providing humane care and treatment for an endangered long-tailed macaque. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at [AmandaSc@peta.org](mailto:AmandaSc@peta.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Amanda Schemkes, J.D., M.S.  
Laboratory Oversight Specialist  
Laboratory Investigations Department

cc: Flora Diaz, Esq., Lead Prosecutor, City of Everett ([FDiaz@everettwa.gov](mailto:FDiaz@everettwa.gov))  
Glynis Frederiksen, Director of Animal Shelter & Services, City of Everett  
([gfrederiksen@everettwa.gov](mailto:gfrederiksen@everettwa.gov))

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<sup>1</sup>7 U.S.C. §§ 2143(a)(8), 2145(b); *see also* USDA OIG, CONTROLS OVER APHIS LICENSING OF ANIMAL EXHIBITORS, AUDIT REP. 33601-10-Ch, at 4 (June 2010), [https://www.rexano.org/RegAgency/OIG\\_Audit\\_USDA\\_Exhibitors2010.pdf](https://www.rexano.org/RegAgency/OIG_Audit_USDA_Exhibitors2010.pdf) (stating that “[t]he AWA does not supersede State and local authorities or restrict them in any way when their laws are more stringent than the AWA”).



### Inspection Report

Altasciences Preclinical Seattle LLC  
6605 Merrill Creek Parkway  
Everett, WA 98203

Customer ID: **505169**  
Certificate: **91-R-0075**  
Site: 001  
ALTASCIENCES PRECLINICAL  
SEATTLE LLC

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION  
Date: 28-SEP-2023

**2.38(f)(1) Critical**

**Miscellaneous.**

On May 16, 2023, an employee was observed tossing a sedated male cynomolgus macaque lightly in the air and then catching it in her arms. In one of the tosses, the animal was not caught and fell to the floor. Non-bleeding abrasions were noted on the animal's chin after the incident. The animal was observed for 24 hours and recovered from sedation without incident.

Failure to implement proper handling procedures exposes the animals to potential injuries and undue stress.

Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Corrected by the time of inspection.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

Charles Palmer, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Prepared By:** LYNH LY  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Date:**  
05-OCT-2023

**Received by Title:** Facility Representative

**Date:**  
05-OCT-2023



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
505169	91-R-0075	001	ALTASCIENCES PRECLINICAL SEATTLE LLC	28-SEP-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
001505	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	CRAB-EATING MACAQUE / CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY
001505	<b>Total</b>	