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**WATCH: HIDDEN CAMERA SHOWS APPARENT ABUSE, CRUELTY AT BAIE D'URFÉ ANIMAL TESTING FACILITY**

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An animal rights group has released what it says is hidden camera footage of animal cruelty at a Montreal-area animal testing facility.

An edited video, released online by Last Chance for Animals, appears to show technicians at ITR Laboratories Canada in Baie D'Urfé slamming animals onto operating tables, dogs being harshly thrown into cages, and pigs and monkeys being restrained in distress.

The video is viewable below, but may be not be suitable to all readers.



"The [undercover] investigator filmed numerous violations of the Animal Welfare and Safety Act, the Regulation Respecting the Safety and Welfare of Cats and Dogs, the Act respecting the

Conservation and Development of Wildlife and the Regulations Respecting Wildlife in Captivity," said a statement from the Los-Angeles-based animal rights group.

"LCA has submitted evidence in official complaints to the [provincial] ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ), the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP), the ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (MERN)," the LCA statement continues.

The group alleges in a news release that its undercover investigator also saw:

"Animals thrown, slammed, suspended by their ears or limbs, and struck in the face  
Beagles and macaques denied any chance of exercise and socialization with humans or other animals, in some instances for the duration of a nine-month study (at the end of which the animals were killed);

Technicians instructed not to take note of hair loss in macaque monkeys developed through the stress of confinement in inappropriate housing;

An anecdotal instance of a macaque monkey being left unsupervised while restrained in an inhalation device and subsequently suffocating to death.

ITR Laboratories Canada is disputing the claims of animal cruelty."

"ITR operates in compliance with industry standards and federal, and provincial guidelines for animal care in a laboratory testing environment," the company said in a statement. "We take our responsibility to treat the animals in our care with the utmost respect very seriously."

Portions of the LCA video were shown to the Executive Director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care, a national body that monitors animal treatment in research labs, by CTV's investigative program W5.

"I do not want to pre-empt or preclude the work of the panel," CCAC Executive Director Louise Desjardins told W5. "I really think that they need the time to do that work and gather all the facts."

It is estimated about 3.5 million animals are used for scientific testing in Canada each year -- usually they are exposed to experimental drugs, cosmetics and household products. That is said to include 12,000 dogs and 5,000 monkeys for advanced testing.