Non-manipulative procedures may involve vertebrate animals, i.e., mammals, birds, reptiles or fish.

Acceptable Types of Study

No experiments or procedures may be performed on any vertebrate animal that might cause physiological or psychological reactions indicating pain, suffering, anxiety, stress or any interference with its normal health. Vertebrate experiments may only involve:

- Observations of normal living patterns of wild animals in the free living state or in zoological parks, gardens or aquaria.
- Observations of normal living patterns of pets, fish or domestic animals.

Chicken embryos (eggs collected in the wild are not acceptable) may be used in observational studies only. If normal egg embryos are to be hatched, satisfactory arrangements must be made for the humane disposal of chicks. If such arrangements cannot be made, then the chicken embryos must be destroyed on the nineteenth day of incubation. No eggs capable of hatching may be exhibited in science fairs.

Cells such as red blood cells, other tissue cells, plasma or serum purchased or acquired from biological supply houses or research facilities may be used in science fair projects.

No living vertebrate animal shall be displayed in exhibits in science fairs.

Supervision

All experiments must be directly supervised by a qualified science teacher or scientist who shall approve the student's protocol before the study is initiated. Students must have the necessary comprehension and abilities for the work contemplated. The supervisor shall oversee all experimental procedures, shall be responsible for their non-hazardous nature and shall personally inspect experimental animals during the course of the study to ensure that their health and comfort are fully sustained.

Care

If vertebrate animals are to be used, the housing, feeding and maintenance of all subjects should at the minimum accord with the standards of animal care as outlined in the HSUS Guidelines for the Study of Live Animals in Elementary and Secondary Schools. Clean drinking water shall be available at all times and a palatable and balanced diet shall be provided in sufficient quantity for normal growth and maintenance.

Note: Educators and students may obtain a free listing of recommended study projects and/or project book for pre-university levels by writing to one of the following sources:

- Animal Welfare Institute
  P.O. Box 3650
  Washington, DC 20007

- The Humane Society of the United States
  2100 L Street, NW
  Washington, DC 20037

- Canadian Council on Animal Care
  1105-151 Slater
  Ottawa, Ontario

- The Humane Society of the United States
  2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037

Model Bill on the Study of Animals in Elementary and Secondary Schools and in Science Fairs

Introduction

Elementary and secondary school study of live animals should foster a humane regard for living creatures. The Humane Society of the United States finds animal experimentation that interferes with normal health or causes pain, suffering, anxiety or stress to be incompatible with this principle.

The HSUS has determined that a significant incidence of animal abuse is occurring in the schools today. Attempts to achieve voluntary reform have proven unsuccessful, and legal remedies are therefore necessary. Existing state anti-cruelty laws are generally considered inapplicable since the use of animals for all forms of research is expressly exempted from the cruelty statutes in several states, and in other states, the general statutes have not been interpreted by the courts to cover cruelty incidental to research.

The HSUS suggested model law is based on California and Massachusetts laws. It is designed to cover both classroom work and extracurricular activities such as science fairs.

It is recommended that this law be an amendment to the anti-cruelty statute, although placing it within the education statute remains another option.

AN ACT TO PREVENT CRUELTY TO ANIMALS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSES AND SCIENCE FAIRS.

Section 1

a) The term "animal" means any member of the kingdom Animalia.

b) The term "vertebrate animal" means any animal belonging to the subphylum Vertebrata of the phylum Chordata, and specifically includes all mammals, fishes, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Section 2

No school principal, administrator or teacher shall allow any live vertebrate animal to be used in any elementary or secondary school, or in any activity associated with such school, such as science fairs, as part of a scientific experiment or procedure in which the normal health of the animal is interfered with, or in which fear, pain, suffering, or distress is caused. Such experiments and procedures include but are not limited to surgery, anesthetization, and the inducement by any means of painful, lethal, stressful, or pathological conditions through techniques that include but are not limited to:

a) administration of drugs;

b) exposure to pathogens, ionizing radiation, carcinogens, or to toxic, hazardous, or polluting substances;

c) deprivation, and
d) electric shock or other distressing stimuli.

Section 3

No person shall, in the presence of a pupil in any elementary or secondary school, perform any of the procedures or experiments described in Section 2 or exhibit any vertebrate animal that has been used in such manner. Dissection of any dead animal, or portions thereof, shall be confined to the classroom and to the presence of students engaged in the study to be promoted thereby.

Section 4

Science fair projects originating in other states that do not conform with the provisions of Section 2 shall not be exhibited within the State.

Section 5

Any live animal kept in any elementary or secondary school shall be housed and cared for in a humane and safe manner and shall be the personal responsibility of the teacher or other adult supervisor of the project or study.

Section 6

Any person convicted of violating this Act or any regulation promulgated under any provision of this Act shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than ______ months or fined not more than ______ dollars ($) or both.* Every violation of this Act shall be considered a separate offense.

*The penalty should be the maximum for a misdemeanor for the state in question.

Note: Guidelines for the Study of Live Animals in Elementary and Secondary Education and Code of Practice for Animal Related Projects in Science Fairs are available from HSUS for use in schools and science fair competition.

The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037