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Update

Vol. 1, No. 7
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HSUS POLICY - USE OF ANIMALS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND TESTING

A major session in our 1973 National Leadership Conference will be a forum on the uses of animals in biomedical research and testing. It seems appropriate, therefore, we should be fully aware of the policy of The HSUS in this important area. It will also help regional offices to respond accurately when asked our position.

The HSUS is not an anti-vivisection society. It recognizes that uses of animals in biomedical research and testing are many and varied and only a fraction of this use involves unmitigated pain and suffering. The Society also recognizes that valuable contributions to the welfare of both men and animals have resulted from animal experimentation.

We are
~~All of us should be~~ aware that, within the past two decades, scientists have developed and brought into use many research techniques which complement, reduce, or eliminate the need for living animals. Tissue and organ cultures, computer simulation, electron microscopy, and mass spectrometry are among the more significant alternative techniques which have been developed.

In spite of this, it is clear there is a senseless, expensive, and tragic waste of animal life in experimental facilities with many animals needlessly being subjected to painful tests or other procedures. Antiquated laws, medical traditions, and scientific interest in repetitive experimentation help to create a demand for an exorbitant number of research animals. And there are still no real legislative restraints except the small control exercised through the Animal Welfare Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-579) in the acquisition, care, and handling of laboratory animals. It should be noted here that this federal law does not control the conduct of researchers during actual experimentation.

The HSUS, while not opposing animal experimentation, objects strongly to unnecessary and painful uses of animals in biomedical research and testing laboratories. We are especially concerned with projects in which animals are not given appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing agents. We believe this is a vast area where improvements can be made. For example, we would like to see the elimination of government drug testing requirements which arbitrarily and probably unnecessarily require researchers to use living animals. In saying this, it should be remembered that use of replacement methods will not become a reality unless the research community accepts these methods for whatever reason - humane, economic, or for convenience.

~~As you know~~, The HSUS established a Committee on Uses of Animals in Biomedical Research and Testing with Bob Bay in the chair. Some good work has been done by this Committee, but the field of animal experimentation is vast and it will take time to develop a comprehensive report and strategize where and how we can be the most effective. Be certain, though, this program is very much alive and you will be hearing more about it in the months ahead.

Attached hereto, you will find a listing of the numbers and species of animals used in biological medical research. We do not suggest these figures are entirely accurate (in all probability they are low), but they are published by the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, Rutgers University, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They, at least however, will give you data to work with when you are questioned.

FACTORY FARMING

Little has been done by HSUS in this area of concern because of lack of manpower and resources. We are now hopeful, however, that regional personnel, as they travel around their territory, will be able to document factory farming practices. In some states - Texas, for example - work has already begun with hatcheries and livestock.

Dale Hylton has put together some excellent suggestions on how to go about getting information on modern methods of intensive animal husbandry. We hope you will read them carefully and discuss them with your traveling personnel. Here is what Dale suggests:

1. Plan an investigation of factory farming methods very carefully before making any contact.
2. Learn and use the properly accepted farmer's terminology to make access easier to these operations.
3. Read a copy of the book, ANIMAL MACHINES, by Ruth Harrison. It is a documentary of factory farming in England and, although many details of methods used there do not apply here, the concepts are represented.
4. Bear in mind how population and economic pressures have been the big motivating factors which have promoted installation of machinery and mechanized systems - all classified, of course, as improvements over the oldfashioned methods used by past generations in raising animals.
5. Approach the owners or management of each facility and say you want to visit to learn about the modern methods they are using and the mechanized equipment they depend upon for quality control of meat.

6. Obtain the names and addresses of the largest and most sophisticated mechanized farms from your county extension agent. On your actual visits, express interest in the number of animals one man can handle with mechanized equipment, automatic self feeders, and temperature control. Express interest, too, in the production through modern techniques of meat, eggs and milk.

In reality, however, you will be looking for:

- (a) The feedlot, without a blade of green grass, with a foot and a half of muck and manure - the only floor on which the steers may walk or lie.
- (b) The monoculture of huge grainfields and cornfields, chemically fertilized, to produce the cattle feed.
- (c) The power equipment and machinery required to produce large crops and transport them to the feedlots.
- (d) The vehicles used for transportation of meat animals to the slaughterhouse and the distances they must travel to get there.
- (e) The so-called environment control system of raising hogs, whether in farrowing or finishing pens. In finishing pens, "sweat boxes" are used where high temperatures are maintained to force faster weight gain. Look in this situation for symptoms of cannibalism (like tail-biting) and the chemical deterrent that may be in use to reduce this problem. Also, observe the susceptibility to bruising of animals raised by this method. Observe, too, the often used slat-floor method of raising hogs and sheep, a method defended for its convenience in cleaning and maintenance.
- (f) The battery cage operation in poultry farms that prevents a chicken from ever coming into contact with the earth, or ever being able to scratch for food, or sit on a clutch of eggs, or even obtaining a variety in its diet. Here you may learn about preventive measures to reduce the chance of disease infection in enclosed buildings that in many cases house thousands of birds.

We hope there will be times when you can make this kind of investigation and document the information you gather. Use the standard investigative form, but do not hesitate to attach additional sheets with comments so we will have as complete a report as possible.

VETERINARIANS NEEDED

The National Academy of Sciences reports there are about 28,000 veterinarians who look after the health of more than 82 million animals in the United States. This amounts to more than 29,000 animals per veterinarian. It is estimated that at least 42,000 veterinarians will be needed before the end of this decade.

There will be only one new veterinary college - in Louisiana - in the United States this fall. At present, there are 18 other veterinary medical colleges graduating about 1,400 students each year. Young people who inquire about a career in veterinary medicine should be encouraged to excel in the biological and physical sciences in high school and to strive for the superior high school grades needed to gain admission to veterinary school.

NEW PRODUCTS: KIT-E-TRAINER

Believe it or not, you can now train your cat to go on the toilet. A new scientific Kit-E-Trainer is currently on the market for pet owners who want this kind of product. It consists of a piece of plywood cut in the shape of the toilet lid, with a hole 8 inches in diameter, and with a gold colored plastic pan. The trainer fits under the lid of the toilet.

The Trainer and instructions on how to train the cat are distributed by BBDR & Company, P.O. Box 5330, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

PET FRANCHISE FIRM PENALIZED

Docktor Pet Centers, Inc., the nationwide franchising firm selling dogs and other animals, and three of its stores have agreed to a settlement of \$51,000 and adoption of a set of high operating standards as a result of legal action filed in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento.

The investigation into Docktor revealed the stores involved spawned about 100 complaints over a three year period from persons who purchased puppies under a warranty which the district attorney's fraud division considered fictitious. It was alleged the stores sold mongrels or dogs of "questionable ancestry" while promising to deliver purebred registration papers. The official complaint also accused the stores of improperly caring for puppies before sale, not having personnel able to care for any illness which might develop in a puppy, and representing as a 10-year warranty a guarantee on each dog that, in reality, only provided a 25% discount on the purchase of another dog.

Although especially directed at stores in northern California, the judgment is expected to affect the 130 retail outlets franchised nationwide by Docktor. Also, the standards which the pet chain has agreed to adopt sets criteria for examining and treating puppies as well as determining if they are in condition for sale. These standards, approved by veterinarians at the University of California, could revolutionize the retail sales pet industry if widely and voluntarily adopted. Since there are Docktor franchised stores in most regions, we think it important for regional personnel to know of this case.

HSUS IN BOY SCOUTS MERIT BADGE BOOK

Anyone working with the Boy Scouts in a humane education program should have the new edition of the "Dog Care" merit badge handbook. It is a comprehensive manual encompassing a history of the canine, care of puppies, feeding schedules, first aid, and obedience training. It also has information about The HSUS and other humane societies.

Mrs. Lois Stevenson, HSUS New Jersey Branch Director of Education, worked with an extension veterinarian at Rutgers University to revise and update the handbook. Our most sincere, if somewhat belated, thanks go to her.

CORRESPONDENCE AND THE KIND PROGRAM

In answering letters from young people, regional staff are reminded that mention should be made of the KIND program and a descriptive leaflet enclosed in the reply. This, of course, would not be appropriate in cases where the young person who has written has indicated he or she is already a KIND member. We do feel, however, that frequent mention of this youth program can give us a great deal of exposure if everyone will mention it routinely, when appropriate.

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THE USE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH
AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES IN 1971 IN THE U.S.A.

Rodents

Mice	27,000,000
Rats	15,000,000
Hamsters	1,500,000
Guinea Pigs	1,000,000
Others	<u>877,000</u>
Total Rodents	45,377,000

Rabbits	700,000
Dogs	500,000
Cats	200,000

Primates

Old World Primates	50,265
New World Primates	32,799
"Other" Primates	<u>2,219</u>
Total Primates	85,283

Swine	46,624
Sheep	22,961

Birds

Chickens	1,500,000
Pigeons	66,908
Turkeys	58,327
Coturnix	48,569
Quails	15,310
Ducks	10,896
Other	<u>24,269</u>
Total Birds	1,724,279

Frogs	15,000,000 to 20,000,000
Turtles	190,415
Snakes	61,177
Lizards	51,005

About 3 trillion total the other species, such as: drosophila, the fruit fly, used in heredity studies; the cockroach in studying circadian rhythm (biological clocks); ovian egg tissue used to feed mosquitoes in virus studies; or fish used in the study of acoustic orientation and ultrasonic tracking.