(No. 32) -- Alternatives to the Decompression Chamber

Humane Information Services, Inc.
Alternatives to the Decompression Chamber

of the important tasks of national societies is to help managers, officers and boards of directors of humane societies to learn more about alternative methods of euthanasia.

You can help by sending to Humane Information Services the names and addresses of the boards of directors and officers of your society, and the name and address of the Humane Information Services. We will put them on our mailing list without obligation, and they will be exposed gradually to new knowledge about this disagreeable subject. Ask your veterinarians about how your community's dogs and cats are destroyed to do this, and also to write us about the methods your community uses (i.e., not the needle, but intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital, etc.) used in your local shelters and pounds. Only a few have done this in response to the request in Report No. 31. If you don't know, you should. A telephone call to the shelter manager will do it. (4) Emotional impact on observers. Most shelters and pounds use this in one of the most important considerations governing the selection of a method. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) panel reported euthanasia, and other discussions of the subject, repeatedly refer to "aesthetic considerations." They put the emotions of a few people ahead of those of millions of animals.

(5) Safety to personnel. Some methods of euthanasia, particularly the popular gas chamber, really are dangerous to personnel. Decompression is a very safe method.

WHY SOME PEOPLE MINIMIZE IMPORTANCE OF PAIN IN "EUTHANASIA"
The five criteria discussed above all too frequently seem to take precedence over what should be the most important: humaneness. Otherwise, why do so many shelters and pounds continue to destroy their animals in ways which beyond doubt are not humane, and why do veterinarians and others continue to defend methods which even they admit are not as humane as others?

Even devoted animal lovers sometimes are inclined to minimize the importance of pain in euthanasia. "It is all over so fast, what difference can it make just how they go?"

Several of our members have written to remind us that people must experience pain in life, and frequently before death. Why is it so bad, they say, for animals to have a brief period of pain before death? It is the anticipation of death, rather than dying, that is most traumatic for humans. Contrary to popular belief, the euthanized animals do not have such anticipation.

We have watched dogs in the euthanasia room run around with tails wagging, curiously sniffing the pile of dead dogs in the corner, coming over to be petted. They showed no fear when the needle was inserted, and died peacefully without ever realizing what it was all about.

Alternatives to the Decompression Chamber

Opposition to the decompression chamber has also been heard from before. Recently we ran across the statement that decompression chambers are humane "if they are kept in proper condition and if operators are properly trained." But, as we tried to show in "Report to Humane Law Enforcement" (March, 1975), even if it were possible to improve the operation of the chambers, suffering on the part of a significant number of animals will be involved. We do not approve the use of these chambers under any circumstances.

It is growing. The City of Dallas, Texas, has passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of decompression chambers. They are substantially higher than for the man who throws the switch on the decompression chamber. We recently ran across a shelter using the following combination of drugs which a veterinarian would probably not administer even if operators are properly trained. Why, then, does this not become the universal method for euthanasia? There are two reasons: (a) a combination of several of the five criteria previously discussed; (b) the federal Drug Enforcement Administration regulations which restrict the distribution and use of all narcotic drugs including sodium pentobarbital.

This subject, as well as "practical" objections, will no doubt be coming up, will be treated fully in a subsequent article.

Meanwhile, we notice that shelters in this country are determined to use this humane method somehow manage to do so. And other shelters which employ full-time veterinary personnel would have no difficulty in obtaining sodium pentobarbital do not do so.

(See ALTERNATIVES, page 2, column 3)
We further state with great confidence that if the humane movement really wanted to see this method become generally adopted, they could take the steps necessary to make the drug available.

Actually, the professional shelter managers and their employees generally do not wish to use this method, and when members suggest such action they are overwhelmed by plausible arguments against it. Only if and when the members or at least the directors, of humane societies learn enough about euthanasia to be able to meet these arguments against euthanasia justifiably and in favor of other methods will they be successful in forcing paid staffs to substitute euthanasia for humane suffering. Only then will they be able to find the necessary information is in this series of articles. The latter may be boring, and dealing with a very disagreeable subject, but if humanitarians can’t take it, the so-called “euthanasia” in many shelters will never be made to deserve the name.

As a result of increasing restrictions on the purchase and use of barbiturates, a considerable number of non-narcotic injeetable agents for euthanasia have come on the market. These include the infamous curarfurin and other undesirable drugs. All of these are described and discussed in a future article in this series.

There are scores of other drugs the potentialities of which for euthanasia have never been considered. The possibilities are far greater than the availability of funds and qualified personnel to discover and test these drugs for this purpose.

You don’t have to take our word for it. William V. Lamb, D.V.M., Ph.D., in a paper read at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1974, said “Unfortunately, little research has been done to substantiate the proposed use of any of these chemicals in the veterinary field. Much of the evidence for the effects of various agents is subjective rather than objective. It is to the credit of the veterinarians that so many are now in use, obviously the paucity of knowledge regarding dozens of other potential drugs is even greater. Humane Information Services is doing all it can with very limited resources, in research looking to the possible discovery of methods of painless and humane euthanasia. You could help by sending a generous contribution for this purpose.

Gaseous Chambers. This group includes a considerable number of gases having similar results and problems. They have the common characteristic of depriving the animal of sufficient oxygen to maintain the life processes. The inhalant agent most commonly used in gas chambers is carbon monoxide from the exhaust of a gasoline engine. These carbon monoxide chambers are used in hundreds of shelters and pounds. The proportion of animals killed in these chambers vary, probably about the same as for decompression chambers. Two methods account for the great bulk of the pet animal deaths in these chambers, and pounds, amounting to many millions.

Other inhalants that have been used include chlorine, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, nitrous oxide, and ethyl chloride. However, all of these put together represent only 1% of the total kill, and the last three have been used only experimentally.

Most of these inhalant agents, taken theoretically, would render the animal unconscious as the temperature and amount of pollutants in the gas introduced into the chamber, its rate of flow, concentration and distribution in the chamber, are made available for the purpose. Unfortunately, this frequently is not the case. Gas inhalants are misused and misused are always abused, in our opinion. In many instances this results in a cruel death for the animals.

But entirely aside from this common abuse of gas chambers, Humane Information Services still is not completely satisfied that these inhalants, or gaseous inhalants, provide a painless death. We have given much attention to this question during the past several years, with the hope of finally unraveling this fundamental issue.

Veterinarians differ with respect to the sequence of events involved in the several stages of euthanasia. Using any of the three gases mentioned, the animals reach a stage of unconsciousness, experience with their bodies violently, scratch the sides of the chamber, and bite at nearby objects. In all cases, the animals are generally conscious at the time these manifestations occur, the latter must be taken as evidence of pain and suffering. Anyone who maintains that animals “go quickly to sleep” in these chambers must have assumed they are “asleep” by the time the “reflex actions” become so unnoticeable as to be meaningless. They are not. Many—probably most—veterinarians maintain this is true. But some eminent veterinarians, and most humane professionals maintain knowledge as a basis for reaching such a conclusion. Humane Information Services is seeking objective evidence bearing on this important question.

When these and other problems—including the relative advantages and disadvantages of these inhalant agents—have been sufficiently resolved to provide the basis for more definite conclusions and recommendations, Humane Information Services will comprehensively with the subject of gas chambers in an article in Report to Humanitarians. Meanwhile, we are not going to allow ourselves to be hoodwinked into viewing this method merely because of the increasing restrictions on use of barbiturate drugs.

Electric Chair. "Electric chair" is a term included in the catalogue of drudge and recommendations. Humane Information Services referred to the Royal Society of Physicians, and recommeded not to use the term "euthanasia" in any discussion of this subject.

"Electrocution and shooting. The use of the “electric chair” for human capital punishment has suggested that it should also be suitable for killing animals. There are reports appearing in the press about power company linemen being electrocuted, with death in great detail (imagine an American general magazine devoting a major article to such a subject).

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)‑‑which was organized in 1840 to stop the cruel practices of the 19th century—published a report following the death of a man in a so-called decompression chamber. The RSPCA’s conclusions were in line with those of the Society of Physicians in London. The Royal SPCA concluded, following the death of a man in such a decompression chamber, that pain and suffering was caused by this three-dimensional system, the Society “was no longer content with the虐视 the evidence and could not regard the procedure as humane in every case." To remove any possible chance of error it was recommended that certain modifications (in the wiring of the cabinets) should be made. Further discussions and expert advice caused the RSPCA to question whether even these modifications were adequate, and, as a result, the use of this apparatus was completely discontinued. The British Standard 2909, which required the appropriate modifications, was established in 1957. Since then, other possible malfunction of the...
The controlling officers of some of the societies have seemed to operate pretty much on the basis of some very decided "hang-ups," rather than a broad and common-sense understanding of the humane movement to deal with them. In fact, some of these leaders at times have seemed dominated by a direct pathological anxiety about certain subjects, losing the objectivity and calm analysis which are the hallmarks of genuine improvement. This has been especially important in creating an unfavorable public image for the humane movement.

These deficiencies seem to be conducted more for the benefit of their founders or officers than for really helping the animals. The anxiety and desperation exhibited by some leaders has resulted in what some observers have referred to as "the great animal society ripoff." We have discussed this subject frankly in a series of articles now appearing in our Report to Humanitarians.

The staff members of national humane societies frequently have been criticized for the required training. They have come, generally, from two sources: (a) people who have been involved with some local humane animal shelters, whose problems are quite different in many respects from those of national societies; (b) people with little experience in the kind of activities necessary for successful development of local humane programs. These deficiencies of staff have resulted in too frequently in highly amateurish organization and conduct of national humane work.

The founders of Humane Information Services believed they definitely had much to offer in helping to correct those glaring deficiencies of the humane movement.

HOW IT OPERATES

Humane Information Services operates in four fields: (1) that designed to improve the understanding of humanitarians, especially society directors and officers of humane societies, (2) that designed to improve the understanding of legislators, especially public officials and community leaders, (3) that designed to provide for the regulation of humane legislation, and the funds, accounts and activities of the two societies are kept strictly separate.

Services to Other Humane Societies and Humanitarians

The objective of Humane Information Services carries on an extensive communication with other humane societies, public officials, and individual humanitarians. It is designed to provide them with answers to the questions not carried in our regular reports, to aid them in making policy decisions, and to help organize and promote humanity of activities carried on by individual workers in the field.

Dr. Frederick L. Thomsen, president of Humane Information Services. He also is president of his sister society, Humane Legislation, Inc., formed in 1969 by some humanitarians who are also behind Humane Information Services. However, no paid employees of the latter society take any part in the work of the National Association for Humane Legislation, and the funds, accounts and activities of the two societies are kept strictly separate.

Services to Other Humane Societies and Humanitarians

Dr. Thomsen works full-time without salary.
Human societies have seemed to think that "humane education" consisted primarily of the exchange of leaflets and other materials among humanitarians. Real education of this sort is very much needed, but merely to circulate literature among them regarding such things as the need for neutering dogs and cats gets us nowhere. They already are familiar with these simple ideas, and no action stirred up by such exchanges of humane literature will ever get to the greatest numbers of people with sufficient force to do any good. All that is accomplished by such an activity cannot be sufficient to make any significant impression on the vast, hard-to-impress public. Soap firms spending millions just to increase their percentage share of the market by a point or two. Obviously, we have been getting nowhere with humane education of the adult public. And, although there has been much interest in the need for reaching children, so far this has been confined largely to talk stage.

Obviously, although humane education is the key to changing public attitudes toward animals, we have not yet scratched the surface. This failure is reflected in people's attitudes toward animal cruelty, as brought out in the article which appears in this issue, "Why People Are Cruel to Animals." Humane Information Services has under development several unique projects in this important field.

INFORMATIVE PUBLICATIONS

The publications of Humane Information Services are very different in both format and content from those of any other national society.

We use as our primary form of publication an inexpensive newspaper format. These publications are printed on the same big offset presses that are used to print daily newspapers and shoppers. We benefit from the same low rates paid by such publications. We are able to do all of our own typesetting, headlining and other preparation of final copy.

Contrasted with the more colorful magazine-type printing of other national humane society publications, this format seems very utilitarian. It is intended to be, it cuts our publication costs to the absolute minimum. No expensive slick white paper for us.

This format also reduces mailing costs. Although the envelopes are received at our office, they require only one fold and staple before mailing. No expensive envelopes are required. The cost of stuffing envelopes is eliminated.

All of our mailing, from putting names and addresses on stencils to placing the bundles of SLP-coded reports in mail sacks properly labeled for state of destination, is done by us. We do not turn any part of the mailing to high-priced computer firms or professional mailers. This permits better control of address changes, and reduces costly returned mail and address change cards from the post office.

These efficient publishing processes not only save us a lot of expense, they permit us to operate with a minimum staff. Our regular staff does the work and is accustomed to operating as a well-coordinated team. As a result, we now do, within a few days, what formerly took a roomful of volunteers working frantically for several weeks.

Report to Humanitarians

This is our principal publication, which also "carries" the inserted publications of other types. It has had an amazingly good reception by the humane movement, as indicated by the brief comments elsewhere on this page, excerpted from only a few of the very large volume of complimentary letters we receive. These excerpts are not included just to brag about our accomplishment to the membership itself, of the great need for the kind of educational materials we are distributing. We hope you will read these excerpts.

Name (please print)

Name of society, if an officer or director

Return Coupon

To: Humane Information Services, Inc. 4521 4th Street South St. Petersburg, Florida 33705

Please send me your humane publications.

Please enroll me as [ ] a patron member (annual dues $5.00 or more) [ ] an associate member (annual dues $1.00 to $4.99). I enclose $ .

Name (please print)

HIS, INC. — FROM PAGE 3

Note: These excerpts are selected from among those most importantly indicating the purposes and financial integrity of the society.

PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION

(Article II of Charter)

Section 1. The over-all purposes of this corporation are the prevention of cruelty to animals and the relief of suffering among animals.

DIRECTORS

(Article V of Bylaws)

Section 1. The concerns, direction and management of the affairs of the corporation shall be in the hands of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Any voting member is eligible for election as a director, except that no person employed by or receiving a salary, fee or other remuneration (except expenses) from the corporation or any person who derives his livelihood from the sale, use, care or commercial exploitation, determined to be of the humane movement, shall continue if his membership ceases, or while he is not in good standing.

NO PROFIT PROVISIONS

(Article X of Bylaws)

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, no part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, director or officer.

Section 2. No incorporator, director or member shall have any vested right, interest or privilege of, in or to the assets, functions, affairs or franchises of the corporation, or any right, interest or privilege which may be transferable or inheritable, or which shall continue if his membership ceases, or while he is not in good standing.

EXCERPTS FROM A FEW OF THE MANY HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS FROM READERS

"You are producing exceedingly valuable information—much needed and very hard to come by—in the areas of humane concern."—A California humanitarian.

"I really am learning a lot from your work."—A humanitarian in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

"Human Information Services, Inc., has got to be the greatest publication in the field of humane education in this country."—A Virginia humanitarian.

"You are supplying the biggest need of the animal world. Thank you for a wonderful job."—Official of a dog club in Maine.

"As usual, your work is quite helpful. Head and shoulders above anything else. HIS is a real inspiration to us all. Thanks again."—President of a local humane society in Florida.

"Your services are unbelievably good, unbelievably useful: intelligent, informed, and honest to a degree no other humane organization has managed to reach, I believe, and I belong to a good number."—A humanitarian in California.

"The information in your reports is always available whenever I'm in a hassle on humane issues. I can depend on getting the clearest, most concise information from you. And I've tried hundreds!"—Wisconsin humanitarian.

"I believe that yours is the kind of voice needed desperately in the humane movement."—A humanitarian in Michigan.

"Just a word to tell you how wonderfully your latest report, again!"—A humanitarian in Paris, France.

"Hang in there! Of all the organizations you surely are the best and get at the whole truth."—A New York humanitarian.

"There is no doubt that the Humane Information Services' report plays a prominent and almost unique role in providing well-balanced, informative and constructive commentaries on the many problems which beset the animal welfare movement. I think Humane Information Services deserves the moral and financial support of all individuals and groups involved in, or interested in, the welfare of animals."—General manager of a humane society and animal shelter in Ontario, Canada.

ed team. As a result, we now do, within a few days, what formerly took a roomful of volunteers working frantically for several weeks.

Report to Humanitarians

This is our principal publication, which also "carries" the inserted publications of other types. It has had an amazingly good reception by the humane movement, as indicated by the brief comments elsewhere on this page, excerpted from only a few of the very large volume of complimentary letters we receive. These excerpts are not included just to brag about our accomplishment to the membership itself, of the great need for the kind of educational materials we are distributing. We hope you will read these excerpts.

Name (please print)

Name of society, if an officer or director

Your address

EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION

(Article II of Charter)

Section 1. The over-all purposes of this corporation are the prevention of cruelty to animals and the relief of suffering among animals.

DIRECTORS

(Article V of Bylaws)

Section 1. The concerns, direction and management of the affairs of the corporation shall be in the hands of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Any voting member is eligible for election as a director, except that no person employed by or receiving a salary, fee or other remuneration (except expenses) from the corporation or any person who derives his livelihood from the sale, use, care or commercial exploitation, determined to be of the humane movement, shall continue if his membership ceases, or while he is not in good standing.
People are cruel to animals; not just a few individuals, but an enormous proportion of humanity. One need only review history to realize that the treatment of all kinds of animals, in relation to any dictionary's definition of "cruel," to be convinced of this fact.

According to Alex A. acute, we have detailed the suffering of millions of animals every year, due to the indifference of their owners. We have estimated the number of deaths of the kinds of animals, laboratory animals, pet animals, wildlife, and wild animals by the billions. Every year, a great number of animals die in captivity, during the lifetime of any reader of this essay, with only a handful of humanitarians feebly lifting their voices to protest these cruelties. The worst feature of this melange of mistreatment of animals is that most of it is completely unnecessary. The reason people are cruel to animals is real human need, for most of it. People just don't give a damn!

PUBLIC ATTITUDES
HINDER ELIMINATION OF CRUELTY

Unfortunately, to obtain relief of this treatment of animals, and to bring about affirmative action, either voluntary or through legislation, by people in general, requires a degree of dedication from humanitarians generally prove unavailing, unless the attention and active support of the general public.

Many of our readers write to us suggesting that we put out a release or write a magazine article about this or that treatment of animals. Frequently, from those who assume that just by calling public attention to some condition involving animal suffering in their community, a thing can be done. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Legislators have been snowed under by thousands of letters from individuals, without being moved to action. An equal volume of mail from businessmen or the members of some church group about some pet project of theirs would have brought immediate attention and action. Has any reader of this essay ever heard a candidate for the state or federal legislature, making a speech to a general audience, refer to some animal welfare problem? Has not the national and local election campaign, with thousands of candidates vying for votes, is conducted without a word of reference to any of the important human issues. The platform drafters of both parties obviously see little or no political hay to be had from offering some spectacular planks dealing with humane goals. They obviously believe that voters in general are indifferent.

Ecology became a popular subject only when people became aware that, as well as the animal world, could be greatly injured by neglect of the environment. It was fear of pollution affecting humans that brought general public interest in wildlife.

CONTEMPT FOR HUMANITARIANS

Any active humanitarian has experienced the kind of insults, evasions and various forms of retribution that are passed out to them by those on the other side. "Oh, you're one of those animal nuts!" "Don't you think there is enough suffering among people deserving of your attention?" "How many Do No Evils are there?" "You and those other ninnies just give it to some organization that is trying to help humans." "Yes, I think we have enough suffering on our hands to be concerned about the animals."

One needs only to review man's treatment of all kinds of animals, in relation to any dictionary's definition of "cruel," to be convinced of this fact.

Any active humanitarian has experienced the kind of insults, evasions and various forms of retribution that are passed out to them by those on the other side. "Oh, you're one of those animal nuts!" "Don't you think there is enough suffering among people deserving of your attention?" "How many Do No Evils are there?" "You and those other ninnies just give it to some organization that is trying to help humans." "Yes, I think we have enough suffering on our hands to be concerned about the animals."

The basic distinction between man and animals which is the root of Christian people's attitudes toward the treatment of animals, is the recognition of the three features of the Christian religion:

1) The belief that man was created "in the image of God," given him a created opinion of his great superiority and a corresponding low regard for other creatures.
2) The announcement in Genesis 1:28 of man's dominion over all other forms of life.
3) The concept of an immortal soul which is given to man but not animals. Man, having a soul, has rights; animals, not having souls, have no rights. And man can have no ethical constraints against hurting some thing which has no rights.

Of these beliefs, the third is by far the most important in affecting man's attitudes toward animals. Even if man is made in the image of God, he is not God, but a creature, made in the image of God, as are also the animals. And dominion implies mutual responsibilities as well as mutual benefits. A man has "dominion" over his children, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely. It is the distinction between man and animal, which philosopher would interpret as freeing him of the responsibility for treating them humanely.

The role of religion in establishing human rights has been a controversial issue from time immemorial. Those who want to diminish man's brutal treatment of his fellow men...Christianity is the most anthropocentric religion the world has seen...Man is great because he is man...not because of any superiority of nature...Christianity...not only established a dualism of man and nature but also insisted that it is God's will that man exploit nature for his proper ends.

RELIGION'S VIEWS OF MAN AND ANIMALS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

By the time of the Middle Ages, the "rights of animals" doctrine was deeply ingrained in the Christian religion. The Thomist philosophers of the Dominican St. Thomas Aquinas (A.D. 1225-1274) took an extreme position toward the difference between man and animal. Animals lack of any rights. Man has the duty to rule over other animals, and for this reason, the use of animals a conscionable act. They frequently seem to as­sume that just by calling public attention to some condition involving animal suffering in a place or a thing can be done. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Legislators have been snowed under by thousands of letters from individuals, without being moved to action. An equal volume of mail from businessmen or the members of some church group about some pet project of theirs would have brought immediate attention and action. Has any reader of this essay ever heard a candidate for the state or federal legislature, making a speech to a general audience, refer to some animal welfare problem? Has not the national and local election campaign, with thousands of candidates vying for votes, is conducted without a word of reference to any of the important human issues. The platform drafters of both parties obviously see little or no political hay to be had from offering some spectacular planks dealing with humane goals. They obviously believe that voters in general are indifferent.

Ecology became a popular subject only when people became aware that, as well as the animal world, could be greatly injured by neglect of the environment. It was fear of pollution affecting humans that brought general public interest in wildlife.
CRUEL TO ANIMALS — FROM PAGE 5 —

personality, as a mathematical genius with a passion for clear thinking on the one hand, and knowledge of his own as well as other's, a loyal Catholic genuinely attached to traditional theology. One can only speculate about what Descartes might have thought had he produced in this area of thought if he had not been so intensely religious. Descartes "really abandoned altogether the metaphysical study that had occupied him so much in favor of an entirely new, particularly narrow medieval theology." 43

But Descartes's philosophy influenced subsequent thought. There had been a marked tendency in his day, and even before, to equate theological study with an attempt to efface the sharp distinction between man and the lower animals by crediting the latter with more ability to exercise the rational intelligence. Descartes tried to save the situation by regarding even the human body as a machine, and treating mechanically all such human experiences as might conceivably also be credited to lower animals, but claiming unique privileges for (man's) rational soul. 44


44Ibid., p. 252.

Thus, the marriage of religious dogma and metaphysics was brought about at a time when the point of view of the animal was not taken into consideration. Indeed, the only consideration for the animals' feelings was the status of the latter as mere "things."

THE "THRESHOLD" OF ABILITY

The differences between the abilities of man and animals to store and communicate information from one generation to the next are so great as to be almost incomprehensible. The differences between two frogs, alike in all respects except their jumping ability, are as great as the difference between man and the other nine inches. Now, place the two frogs at the bottom of a staircase, each one step or riser of which is nine inches. Now, place the two frogs at the bottom of a staircase, each one step or riser of which is nine inches. Now, place the two frogs at the bottom of a staircase, each one step or riser of which is nine inches. Now, place the two frogs at the bottom of a staircase, each one step or riser of which is nine inches. Now, place the two frogs at the bottom of a staircase, each one step or riser of which is nine inches. Now, place the two frogs at the bottom of a staircase, each one step or riser of which is nine inches. Now, place the two frogs at the bottom of a staircase, each one step or riser of which is nine inches.

The difference of one inch in the jumping ability of the lower animals is capable of accounting for the tremendous difference in their accomplishments. In this illustration of the great importance of the "threshold" of ability. Just one small difference in degree of jumping ability of the two frogs, if it represents a crucial threshold of ability, accounts for the tremendous difference in their accomplishments. It is a difference very much in the same way that the difference between a frog and a rabbit is much greater than the difference between rabbits and humans.

The "crucial threshold" accounting for de being a result of anatomical differences as it is of differences in brains. If man's vocal apparatus for the purpose of vocalization, if man did not have hands with which to print books and build libraries, he would be less intelligent than the purpose to store and communicate knowledge. The differences of anatomical construction, from the hand to the brain, limit the ability of any species to duplicate the accomplishments of the Chimpampanzees even if they could imitate word sounds, but when taught the sign language used by human mates have achieved extensive vocabulary and even some sentence structures.

ANIMALS DIFFER FROM HUMANS — Much LESS THAN HAS BEEN ASSERTED

The foregoing facts indicate very clearly, it seems to us, that the differences between man and animals on the scientific basis for much less dualistic ontological concepts of man and animals has been.

BRAIN AND INTELLIGENCE

The neurophysiologists have explored in great detail the differences and similarities of human and animal brains. Various bases for such differences have been proposed. These include brain size, brain weight in relation to body weight, the ratio of brain weight to body surface area, and weights of various parts of the brain (of thought and consciousness). For our purposes of contrasting the intelligence of man and animals, there is one feature of the latter that is particularly revealing. The orignal measures seem ideally lacking.


The intrinsic cortex is the locus in the brain of higher order of mental activity. The intrinsic cortex is the area of the brain's cortex in which the more complex and highly developed mental processes take place. The difference of cortex to total cortex, in addition to the total cortex area, might be taken as a good indicator of intelligence. This percentage is about 10 percent for the rat, 50 percent for the cat, 75 percent for the monkey, and 85 percent for man. The whale and dolphin have a greater amount of intrinsic cortex than man, and about the same ratio to total cortex as do more complex animals. Whales, dolphins and porpoises are said to have brains, aside from size, that are very simply constructed. The cerebral cortex is convoluted similarly to the brain of man. All of the brain characteristics that roughly approximate the proposition of intelligence from mouse to rat to rabbit to dog to monkey to chimp to human, continue to progress to higher levels from man to which they might exercise more intelligence by living as the elephant does, the latter. Yet, to all appearances, man is more intelligent than the latter. It is man who captures and kills whales, not vice versa.

It is extremely easy, however, to become involved in comparisions when comparing the intelligence of different beings. A porpoise's rating on a regulation intelligence test would be low but would increase should he be limited to the world who could not communicate with the tester. If man had the body of an elephant he might be limited to the world of living by doing as the elephant, than by trying to use his trunk to make TV sets or accomplish other things which are assumed by man to be indicative of the relative intelligence of man and elephant. Any comparisons of intelligence must take into account the differences in the level at which those being compared have been raised and are called upon to exercise their intelligence, as well as the limitations imposed by construction of their bodies.

If human babies, abandoned as infants in the wild like Nomius and Remus, grew up without any instruction in the ways of man and animal, their ability to store and communicate information from one generation to the next would be far less than that of either the religious or scientific "dualists" have alleged.

The conscientious human, whether he be a devout Christian with an unshakable faith in God's word, or a scientist who believes equally strongly in the doctrine of evolution, cannot rely on fewer than a few principles to justify indifference to animal suffering. Yet, their so differently rationalized concepts of ontological dualism seem to have the principle of humanism as the almost universal mistreatment of animals.

The significance of these conditions in relation to the humanist's ability to obtain the support of the churches and other social institutions for humane programs have been examined in other issues of Report to Humanitarians.

In this essay we set out only to identify the particular element that seems to have been a primary factor in man's treatment of animals and all nature.
ALTERNATIVES—FROM PAGE 2—
could cause the current to take an altern­
ate course and not pass through the 
head, and the substitution in some of the 
cases of unsound metal, or the small place of the leg electrode (to save time in 
attaching the latter) could cause the 
current to bypass the brain should one of 
them become detached. The Ontario 
Canine Association, quote the AVMA 
panel’s approval of the decompression 
method.

Since only a few of these electrocution 
device had been sold and used in the 
United States, and apparently none remain 
in use, it was obvious that no clinicians 
are concerned these events served only to 
emphasize the importance of looking before 
leaping, and adopting any method of euthanasia.

In Canada, however, which t ods more to 
Dr. Lamb states, “You’ll find a good home for them, won’t you?”

“Not one showed any reaction after the 
stroke, and the substitution in some of the 
chambers! (One of the ear electrodes become detached. (One 
current to bypass the brain should one of 
them become detached. The Ontario 
Canine Association, quote the AVMA 
panel’s approval of the decompression 
method.

Since only a few of these electrocution 
device had been sold and used in the 
United States, and apparently none remain 
in use, it was obvious that no clinicians 
are concerned these events served only to 
emphasize the importance of looking before 
leaping, and adopting any method of euthanasia.

In Canada, however, which t ods more to
Dear Readers:

The two articles found on pages 3-4 of this issue of Report to Humanitarians which are now out of print, they are intended for new readers.

The first article serves as our "brochure," to introduce newcomers to Humane Information Services and Report to Humanitarians. We are acclimatizing to elaborate and expensively-printed brochures of other societies, they may wonder why we are not doing the same. The reason is not that we do not appreciate the aesthetic sensibilities of people. Our members have repeatedly expressed approval of our inexpensive but practical, easy-to-read format.

There has been a steady demand for the article on "Why People are Cruel to Animals," which we have shortened to fit our "brochure." Perhaps some of our long-time members also would like to re-read this discussion of some of the basic conditions affecting man's treatment of animals.

FLORIDA BANS DOGFIGHTS!

As we go to press, the Florida legislature has passed a bill to ban dogfights and associated evils in that State.

As originally introduced, this legislation extended the bill to ban cockfighting. This went through the House and a Senate committee, but was eliminated by an amendment on the floor of the Senate. Florida legislators approved the change by a floor vote. Floor debate in both branches of the legislature disclosed strong support for cockfighting in a number of Florida rural counties and in Miami, where Cuban emigres are said to enjoy the sport.

Our sister society, the National Association for Humane Legislation, and the Florida Federation of Humane Societies put on a vigorous campaign for this legislation.

Another bill, which was intended to ban the wholesale sale of union live hogs, was buried in committee. An appeal court has lifted the injunction recently obtained against such use of live animals in advertising. Whether or not we have halted the wholesale sale of live rabbits for this purpose are right back where they started. Well, another year, another legislature and hope that some change will be forthcoming.

CIVIL RESESSIONS IMPLICATIONS

During the recessional months of the 94th Congress it has been preoccupied with legislation relating to the economy and foreign problems, and nothing of substance has been accomplished on legislation affecting animal welfare in our section of the field. Hopefully, this situation will change during the latter half of the year and we may see more activity on human problems.

The National Association for Humane Legislation informs us that just as soon as the Resolutions have been published in the Senate Legislation Digest, which will be sent to its paid members and to all humane societies on its mailing list. If anyone else wishes to receive the Digest or contribute to NAHL, write: National Association for Humane Legislation, Inc., 675 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

THIRD "RIPOFF" ARTICLE TO APPEAR LATER

Because of our urgent need for reprints of the two articles which appear on pages 3-6 of this issue (it costs much less this way than to reprint separately), we had to postpone the final article in our series on "rioffs" in the humane movement. It will appear in the next issue.

A few of our readers have done some real research on humane organizations they suspected of being ripoffs, and have produced some notable results. We thank them for submitting this material, which will be used in future articles.

We still cannot afford to print every article that will be submitted to us. We simply can't risk expensive court action. If we didn't amount to much, financially and professionally, this collection of articles would go out of business. Now notice the attorneys' fees, running into hundreds of thousands of dollars, for defending some of these former public officials who in other articles claim to be the headlines? Even if you win, you lose!

No Ripoff Here!

The operating statement for Humane Information Services, Inc., for the year 1974, shown below reflects the strong support for cockfighiting in northern states and the south of the United States. In 1974, and later the House approved this legislation.

The income and principal of this fund of cash-equivalent securities and remainder to be placed in a contingency fund, which was to be augmented by an amendment on the floor of the Senate. Floor debate in both branches of the legislature disclosed strong support for cockfighiting in a number of Florida rural counties and in Miami, where Cuban emigres are said to enjoy the sport.

Our sister society, the National Association for Humane Legislation, and the Florida Federation of Humane Societies put on a vigorous campaign for this legislation.

Another bill, which was intended to ban the wholesale sale of union live hogs, was buried in committee. An appeal court has lifted the injunction recently obtained against such use of live animals in advertising. Whether or not we have halted the wholesale sale of live rabbits for this purpose are right back where they started. Well, another year, another legislature and hope that some change will be forthcoming.

CIVIL RESESSIONS IMPLICATIONS

During the recessional months of the 94th Congress it has been preoccupied with legislation relating to the economy and foreign problems, and nothing of substance has been accomplished on legislation affecting animal welfare in our section of the field. Hopefully, this situation will change during the latter half of the year and we may see more activity on human problems.

The National Association for Humane Legislation informs us that just as soon as the Resolutions have been published in the Senate Legislation Digest, which will be sent to its paid members and to all humane societies on its mailing list. If anyone else wishes to receive the Digest or contribute to NAHL, write: National Association for Humane Legislation, Inc., 675 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022.