REPORT TO HUMANITARIANS

No. 8 - June, 1969

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Society for Medical Research also approved the revisions.

juridical delays, what frequently happens is that all kinds of unfounded rumors and misinformation start to circulate. We believe it useful if we get available facts to you promptly, so you will not be sidetracked by conjecture.

The new bill, as promised. This should be a victory for the animals throughout their stay in the laboratory. Other revisions clarify various provisions of the bill to strengthen it and avoid some past misunderstandings.

and the need to support such efforts. The laboratories are likely to center around personalities than issues. This was shown in our Reports to Humanitarians Nos. 6 and 7. Another example is to be found in the humane society meeting in behalf of the National Humane Information Services is a tax-exempt organization, the Humane Society for Medical Research, under the leadership of Dr. Maurice B. Visscher, it is "nothing but..."

Avoidable Delays

The long and arduous path the bill was due mainly to events connecting

What Should You Do?

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...future. If we ask for more than that, we get nothing; if we ask for less, we do the animals a disservice. The answer to the question: this judgment are far more experienced in such matters than professional humanitarians.

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide special assistance for the improvement of laboratory animal research facilities; to establish further standards for the humane care and treatment of laboratory animals in departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States Government by recipients of grants, awards, and contracts from the United States; to encourage the study and preparation of the care, handling, and treatment of laboratory animals, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act be called the "Laboratory Animal Special Assistance Act of 1969".

DECLARATIONS OF POLICY

Sec. 2. The Congress hereby finds and declares that good health and high quality are essential in the laboratory animals used in biomedical activities vital to the health and safety of the people of the United States, and that laboratory animals used in biomedical activities should be spared unnecessary pain and discomfort.

DEFINITIONS

Sec. 3. For the purposes of this Act-
(a) The term "department or agency" and "department and agency" mean any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government.
(b) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.
(c) The term "laboratory animal research facility" means any facility where laboratory animals are used or held for use in biomedical activities and which is either (1) owned, controlled, or used by a person engaged in biomedical activities or a recipient of a grant or award from or has a contract with, or otherwise receives funds from, any department or agency; or (2) which is operated, controlled, or used by any department or agency.
(d) The term "laboratory animal" means any living vertebrate animal (other than a human) which is used in or intended for use in connection with biomedical activities.
(e) The term "biomedical activities" means research, testing, and education utilizing laboratory animals, except in elementary and secondary education, including training and testing with respect to the production and standardization of chemicals, deterrents, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and the like.
(f) The term "person" includes any individual, partnership, association, corporation (its affiliates and subsidiaries), trust, estate, and firm, joint stock company, and any department or agency.

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Laboratory Legislation

Sec. 5. (a) In order to effectuate the findings and declarations set forth in section 3 of this Act, the Federal Register standards and regulations for the humane care, handling, and treatment of those laboratory animals used in any research, testing, or experimentation which he determines such standards and regulations are necessary and desirable, and for the promulgation of such standards and regulations the Secretary shall with (1) departments and agencies of the Federal Government having jurisdiction over the conduct of research, testing, or experimentation; (2) the appropriate institutional authorities of any laboratory employing such animal research facilities; and (3) the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, (c) in the case of any such standards or regulations the Secretary shall consult with (1) the appropriate institutional authorities of any laboratory employing such animal research facilities; and (2) the appropriate institutional authorities of any laboratory employing such animal research facilities; and (3) the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, if such standards or regulations shall conform to the requirements presented below:

Explanation of Section 5(a) Above

Some proponents of laboratory research and experimentation consider regulations governing the use of animals as provided for in this Act would be equivalent to the laboratory animals "voting with their feet" by leaving such research facilities. This is not so. It must be understood that the laboratory animals by themselves have no power to vote with their feet. It is the people who employ and who will use the laboratory animals who will be affected by these regulations, and who will vote to leave the research facilities. This provision, therefore, is not designed to cause the laboratory animals to leave, but to prevent any such action by those who determine the conditions and care of the laboratory animals. In a strict sense, therefore, the provision does not relate to the laboratory animals at all, but to the people who employ and use them.

Explanation of Section 5(a) (2) Above

Some proponents of laboratory research and experimentation consider regulations governing the use of animals as provided for in this Act would be equivalent to the laboratory animals "voting with their feet" by leaving such research facilities. This is not so. It must be understood that the laboratory animals by themselves have no power to vote with their feet. It is the people who employ and who will use the laboratory animals who will be affected by these regulations, and who will vote to leave the research facilities. This provision, therefore, is not designed to cause the laboratory animals to leave, but to prevent any such action by those who determine the conditions and care of the laboratory animals. In a strict sense, therefore, the provision does not relate to the laboratory animals at all, but to the people who employ and use them.

Explanation of Section 5(a) (3) Above

Some proponents of laboratory research and experimentation consider regulations governing the use of animals as provided for in this Act would be equivalent to the laboratory animals "voting with their feet" by leaving such research facilities. This is not so. It must be understood that the laboratory animals by themselves have no power to vote with their feet. It is the people who employ and who will use the laboratory animals who will be affected by these regulations, and who will vote to leave the research facilities. This provision, therefore, is not designed to cause the laboratory animals to leave, but to prevent any such action by those who determine the conditions and care of the laboratory animals. In a strict sense, therefore, the provision does not relate to the laboratory animals at all, but to the people who employ and use them.
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**Laboratory Bill Discussion Complete?**

We do not want our readers to conclude from the amount of space devoted to laboratory animal legislation in this and other recent Reports to Humanitarians that this is the only subject we consider to be important! On the contrary, we have many other highly important humane problems ready for discussion. But the laboratory and related legislation now is at a critical stage; intelligent and crucial decisions by humanitarians depend upon having up-to-date facts available. We believe the essential principles and facts have been adequately treated in Reports 6, 7 and 8. We hope the issues will be devoted mostly to other subjects, some of which are given below:

- Why animal suffering is increasing much faster than the ability of humane societies to cope with it.
- Billions of poultry experience unnecessary suffering.
- Slaughter of dogs and cats in many animal shelters and pounds under conditions worse than in meat packing plants.
- A new approach to humane education, basic in animal welfare.
- Millions of baby chicks smothered to death.
- Are humane societies, as claimed by prominent television personality, just a racket?
- Antiquated laws affecting animals and how to improve them.
- How to obtain better enforcement of humane laws.
- Humane conditions in other countries -- why and how to improve them.
- What are the alternatives to "putting dogs and cats to sleep"?
- The use of carbon dioxide to reduce suffering of euthanasia and slaughter.

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**No Convention-Cruise!**

Somewhat to our surprise, quite a few of our members sent in the convention-cruise coupon from our Report No. 7. However, the preferred dates indicated by these were (1) from March 27 to April 1, 1969, and (2) from April 3 to April 7, 1969. While we have emphasized in-depth reports rather than discussion, we will agree that an objective, reasonable approach to government officials and others concerned with humane problems is much more effective than writing letters of denunciation. Persuasion is much more effective than attempted force. This is being demonstrated by the black student protests who seem bent on destroying much of the good will and accomplishments of the previous civil rights movement. Humanitarians may well learn something from events of the past year.

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**More About Housing Development Cats**

*Mrs. Virginia W. Sargent, President, of the Animal Protective Association, Inc., Fox Hill, New York,* writes: "We are glad that you have shown concern (about cats made homeless by housing developments) on page 4 of our Report No. 7). . . . Our Association (also) has been concerned about slum clearance and urban renewal. Cats, dogs and other animals, and their rescue has been one of its main activities. . . .

About Animals..."