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(No. 18) -- More Hope for Laboratory Animals

Humane Information Services, Inc.
REPORT TO HUMANITARIANS

Humane Information Services

HUMANITY ACT OF 1970

We are deeply involved in the controversy over laboratory animals and the effectiveness of protest and action. We agree that the laboratories have been making progress, but we are disappointed that the public has not responded. The legislature has not passed any new legislation, and the courts have not ruled on the issue.

We believe that the public has not responded because the laboratories have not done enough to prove their case. The laboratories have not been able to show that they are not using animals for experiments. They have not been able to show that they are not using animals in a humane way. They have not been able to show that they are not using animals for experiments that are not necessary.

We believe that the laboratories need to do more to prove their case. They need to show that they are not using animals for experiments. They need to show that they are using animals in a humane way. They need to show that they are using animals for experiments that are necessary.

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LABORATORY ANIMALS — from page 1

The most important scientific discoveries have been made throughout the years by means of animal experimentation. Is it ethical to allow laboratory animals to be exposed to pain and suffering? Is it necessary to sacrifice so many animals to advance scientific knowledge? These are questions that have been debated for years. However, the issue of animal experimentation continues to be a topic of debate, and the answers to these questions are not always clear.

The Reverend Charles N. Herrick, Sr., who is an expert in the field of animal rights, has discussed this subject with the Humane Information Services. Herrick argues that the use of animals in scientific research should be limited and that their rights should be protected. He believes that animal experimentation is necessary only when it is strictly for the benefit of humanity.

However, some scientists argue that animal experimentation is necessary to advance scientific knowledge. They believe that the use of animals in research is essential for the development of new treatments and cures for diseases. They argue that animal experimentation is a necessary evil that is necessary for the advancement of science.

Ultimately, the question of whether animal experimentation is necessary or unnecessary remains unanswered. The issue is complex, and there are many different perspectives on the matter. It is up to society to decide what is acceptable and what is not, and to ensure that the rights of animals are protected in all cases.

With the laboratories for the purpose of presenting their views about various problems. Although this may now appear to be a visionary possibility, certain recent developments to be discussed later offer hope that it may be attainable.

(3) Reducing the use of laboratory animals is a major challenge, and many of the most humanitarian concerns with the plight of laboratory animals was centered almost entirely on the use of animals for testing procedures. But more recently this attention has shifted to the use of animals for experimental and testing procedures. For example, in the past few years, tests on animals have been conducted to determine the effects of new drugs on the human body. However, this approach has been criticized by many animal rights activists, who argue that it is not necessary to sacrifice animals to advance scientific knowledge.

Teddy knows our members will contribute generously at Christmas, but that many months come afterwards. So he thriftily buries his bones in our back yard. Unfor­tunately, the sly fox knows this and wants to steal the bones. And so the sly fox, the wise squirrel, not Teddy, will benefit.

Actually, replacement is only one of two ways of reducing the number of animals used in laboratories. The other is called "reduction" and "replacement," the former seems to have much the greater potential in the present stages of development of the respective techniques involved. Probably "replacement" has received so much more attention in human circles because, first, it meets the test of the antivivisectionists for complete elimination of animals, and, second, because it is possible to describe some of the techniques involved as "replacement": i.e., the sly fox is replaced by a second animal. "Reduction," on the other hand, involves the use of highly complicated, technical test animals, which few humanitarians could understand even if they tried.

Reduction

The late Fred Myers, a remarkable man, when he was president of ISU some years ago, was quite familiar with the possibili­ties of "replacement" theory. He was a well-respected professional firm specializing in experimental design, data analysis, and scientific research. He conducted a scientific study of the use of animals in biomedical laboratories by means of experimental design and statistical methods for analyzing the data.

Westast drew an authentic random sample of 4 articles, each of which was from 19 articles of which 23 reported research involving experi­mental animals, of which 173 were reported completely or partly. The results indicated that the "replacement" theory could be completely or partly eliminated. The judgment concerning the adequacy of their experimental design. After careful analysis of the data, it was clear that the replacement theory could account for no, or 70.6, could have, by use of proper statistical design, employed reduced animal groups, which would have been of great statistical significance. Many of these could also be criticized on the grounds of inadequate or improper analysis of the data. In fact, only four percent of the 173 articles were judged to have been both well ana­lyzed and well designed. When one considers (See LABORATORY ANIMALS, page 3, column 1)
LABORATORY ANIMALS — from page 2 as statistically deficient the articles on research which did not report numbers of animals, 217 of 226 experiments employed inadequate or inappropriate design, analysis, and reporting procedures. Remarkably large reductions in numbers of animals used in these projects could have been achieved by proper design and analytical procedures.

No one considers the great amount of both humane and scientific value that has been lost by inadequate experimental design and statistical analysis. When one considers the utter outside blindness of anyone. There is some very good reasons for this sensibility. Obviously, it is fraught with dangers as censorship of the press. But does this mean that the researchers should be forced to do their first job to the public and do their work without any kind of effective review by their peers, with a view to making procedural suggestions designed to improve the prospective quality of the results, which incidentally would also lead to reduced costs? Did you ever ask yourself what the potential uses of available funds for biomedical research of real benefit to the public might be if the research has been conducted with supervision of the research should stand by statistically while animals are used and the resulting evidence be the products of which "only four percent are judged to have been well analyzed and well designed.

Can any reasonable scientist feel that he is fair, and speaking in the best interests of his kind? Does it not occur to him that all humane concerned with these matters as antivivisectionists and crackerjacks?

Frequently we are called upon to present good statistical procedures in biomedical research, although it would produce some worthwhile results for the researcher. But voluntary assistance by scientific peers, to alert the researcher to the dangers of inappropriate statistical design, analysis, and reporting procedures. Remarkably large reductions in the number of animals used.

Here, again, the finger points to the potential role of effective in-house committees.

Replacement

The possibilities of reducing the number of animals used in the laboratories by replacing them with non sentient or less sentient biological models have been realized by many scientists and by a few humanitarian workers. This has been the case all throughout the history of animal experimentation. One of the most effective ways of getting scientists involved is the cooperation of those scientists who are most aware of the possibilities of replacement methods, and have been working in the various fields of replacement. They can be joint with enlightening humanitarians to obtain greater support from Congress and others.

Prospective Action

In the foregoing review of what can be done to reduce the use of animals in biomedical research, stress has been placed on the desirability of working for voluntary action by the biomedical laboratories. Certainly there is little prospect of obtaining the needed action by legislation in the near future, partly because of the seeming impossibility of ever persuading humancarians to agree on any potentially effective measure which has a real chance of success. Voluntary action, on the other hand, can be promoted by individuals contacting fellow scientists and encouraging evidence that such communication between scientists and humanitarians could be effective in pursuing mutually desirable ends.

Emily bosses Doc around, but Teddy bosses her. He has the final word on everything. The only society, apparently, with sufficient interest in and understanding of the problems of replacement animals is the Humane Society of the United States. At the EBSU annual convention in June, 1971, the executive committee had voted to provide funds to employ a specialist in this field. Humane Information Services, of course, cannot presume to speak in any way for the EBSU, but we hope that they will proceed in the directions outlined in this article.

We also hope that the EBSU will not make the mistake of putting the cart before the horse, by starting out with specific plans for action programs designed to promote replacement, or other specific measures.

All humane organizations and any group of enthusiasts in any field are invited to participate and to try to find some consensus of opinion among well-informed and interested scientists regarding the possibilities, limitations and priorities of different approaches. That should take at least a year of work after the passage of the Animal Welfare Act of 1966. He should be free of the kind of pulling and hauling in different directions of which some humanitarians have been guilty. He must have the opportunity to exercise great independence and set the tone of which is expected of him. Above all, he should not have to start balancing off the viewpoints of different groups in the interest of everybody.

In my approach of this kind, much will depend upon the training and ability of the man selected to do the job, and the kind of over-all direction he receives. From what we have learned about some of the interests, we are distinctly encouraged.

One potential result of this project is to bring together all the various findings needed to bring up to date the very fine useful book published in 1969, The Principles of Humane Legislation. This was a report of work conducted under university research grants by the Humane Information Services, of course, cannot presume to speak in any way for the HSUS, but we hope that this might be a useful book. It might be a useful book. It could be of service to everyone. The task is expected of him. Above all, he should not have to start balancing off the viewpoints of different groups in the interest of everybody.

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This issue marks the completion of the sixth year since Humane Information Services was incorporated. During the past year and a half, we have concentrated our efforts on laying long-run plans and preparing action programs. The first Report to Humanitarians was issued in September of 1967, and since then it has been issued quarterly.

These have been six years of most gratifying progress. It has been gratifying for three reasons: (1) our methods of working have been constantly improving, although much of our work has been devoted to laying long-run plans and preparing action programs to carry them out; (2) we have established a very successful personal relationship with many of our members; and (3) our work has been going better than we had ever expected, exceeding our fondest expectations.

**Growth in Members**

Our membership and readership have reflected this acceptance, growing substantially. We now have members in every state, and our Reports reach a large percentage of individual humanitarians and practically all humane societies in this country. We have used bulk mailing lists, telephone books, dog license lists, newspaper advertisements, and any other means of distribution. Practically all of the 15,000 names on our mailing list were sent to us by members. There are not many more interested people, but mostly dedicated animal lovers who take an active part in humane work. It is heartening to know that we are reaching a cross-section of our fellow citizens. Our success has been in no small measure upon this cooperation. Please keep it up.

If our mailing list were three times as large, derived from miscellaneous sources, our circulation would not carry more influence. From the standpoint of actual work, the present list is about as large as any other national humane society.

We have plenty of evidence that the readership of our Reports, because they contain the kind of material that means something, So, we have grown in importance and in applications more than in members of humanitarians reached.

**Influence in Humane Movement**

Influence is shown by the continuing flow of letters received from all over the world, complimenting our work and thanking us for the help and other assistance. In our last Christmas issue we included excerpts from a few of these letters, and could quote one in particular about about as large as any other national humane society. And we have plenty of evidence that the readership of our Reports because they contain the kind of material that means something, So, we have grown in importance and in applications more than in members of humanitarians reached.

**Action Programs Need Support**

Humane Information Services is by no means only a source of information about immediate humane problems and alternative solutions of these problems. We try not to duplicate the work of other societies, but when other societies have not treated a highly important problem we conduct our own action programs (43). These include (1) developing better methods of euthanasia for animal shelters and pounds, and promoting their adoption; (2) developing the humane education of humane societies in obtaining much-needed humane legislation; (3) developing methods of the public in relation to humane legislation; (4) developing and promoting new programs for control of surplus breeding of dogs and cats; (5) developing and furnishing technical materials needed for solution of different humane problems and alternative solutions.

All of these and other action programs are under way at Humane Information Services.

**Budget Does Not Measure Accomplishments**

If Humane Information Services had to hire all of this work done, paying competitive salaries, and have office expenses, it would have to raise more money for specific projects. Some of these needs are described in an accompanying article.

**Crafting Progress of H.I.S. Inc.**

Poor old Doc! Daily puts him to work re-pairing a shed roof.

**Report to Humanitarians No. 16 - December, 1971**

Humane Information Services, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida 33705

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Progress sometimes is painfully slow, almost entirely because of lack of funds. We have carefully prepared, complete plans of action in each case. The elements that are lacking are manpower and money for expenses. We have run out of qualified persons who are willing to work for nothing! What we desperately need for the program that is so eagerly awaited by the thousands that have been waiting for it, is a paid field man, with travel expenses, to try out different euthanasia methods under practical operating conditions. We will be conducting experiments to persuade shelters and pounds to adopt the methods found to be most appropriate for the different conditions in each locale.

This would require an amount of money as large as our entire present operating budget.

We believe that in the present national Christmas season some of our more affluent members will make contributions of sufficient size to carry on this extremely worthy project. If they desire, we can furnish as-

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