(No. 28) -- Is Ritual Slaughter Really Humane?

Humane Information Services, Inc.
Is Ritual Slaughter Really Humane?

The slaughtering of food animals to produce meat religiously acceptable for consumption and montage according to religious precepts is technically known as "carotid section", and is technically known as "rib cutting". The ancient word for animal slaughtering is kosher, because it is easier and less costly to devise that part of the animal in which the heart is much larger than otherwise would be required to satisfy the demand for kosher meat by the Jewish population. The correct term for this process is "Shechita", and is the claim made by Jews and Muslims who are to make intelligent choices of alternative programs offered by the different societies.

RITUAL SLAUGHTER

The slaughtering of food animals to produce meat religiously acceptable for consumption and montage according to religious precepts is technically known as "carotid section", the severing of the carotid arteries. The Jew will typically encounter this term when he reads the reviled holy book of the Muslims, Qur'an, which describes the process by two technical terms, Zabah and Zokak (cutting and draining the blood). It is commonly referred to as "ritual slaughter" and "kosher slaughter". The term "kosher" literally means "fit", and applies to any food including meat processed in conformance with the Jewish dietary laws.

The slaughtering methods used by the Jews and Muslims are similar, although the Muslims use several unique techniques that are not used by the Jews. These differences in techniques are said to accept kosher meat. Although slaughter by Muslims is not important in this country, in the world as a whole it is more commonly practiced than Jewish slaughter.

The term "human slaughter" as ordinarly implied means that the meat has been rendered unconscious and insensitive to pain before being shackled, hoisted and cut or skinned. But orthodox Jews and Muslims claim that their method, by which the throat is cut while the animal is conscious, is also humane.

NOT ANTI-SEMITISM

In some of the largest population centers such as New York City it is difficult for the gentile consumer to purchase non-kosher-slaughtered meat except at a few butcher shops. Many Jewish people will buy only kosher meat, so the trade ceters to this demand. No signs are encountered in butcher shops saying that the meat sold there is non-kosher, because most gentiles do not care. Another reason why only kosher-slaughtered meat must be sold to the gentile trade. These conditions combined result in a volume of kosher meat much larger than otherwise would be required to satisfy the demand for kosher meat by the Jewish population. The correct term for this process is "Shechita", and is the claim made by Jews and Muslims who are to make intelligent choices of alternative programs offered by the different societies.

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

In Report to Humanitarians No. 17, issued in March of 1974, there appeared an article entitled "Pre-Slaughter Handling for Ritual Slaughter". Subsequently, it was shown that there are two alternative ways of approaching the problem of ritual slaughtering, and that the ritual cut itself is painless, and that the ensuing rapid loss of blood from the severed carotid arteries produces almost instantaneous unconsciousness. This claim is made by Jews and Muslims who have attempted to explain and justify the method of slaughter. If this claim is correct, then the only problem involved in making ritual slaughter is to invent and obtain the use of humane equipment for positioning the animals for slaughter. At present, in kosher slaughtering plants the animals are shackled and hoisted and then subjected to the throats of the suspended animals then are brought into position for the ritual cut. This whole process of pre-slaughter handling or positioning for Shechita is conducive of extreme pain and suffering. These inhumane pre-slaughter handling methods have no religious justification whatever, but are merely for convenience and efficiency. Yet, as in the ritual slaughter exemption contained in the federal Animal Welfare Act, thewhole process from beginning to end is included, and is defended by those in the Jewish community who object to any requirement for humane positioning of the animal.

The Council for Livestock Protection, Inc., which was established partly to deal with this problem, appears to have been operating under the assumption that the claims made by the Jews that slaughter by ritual section itself is painless are correct, and hence that attention must be given only to the development of such equipment and methods in order to achieve the remedy. Although this was the conclusion drawn by the Council for Livestock Protection, Inc., this conclusion is not shared by the editors of THIS REPORT TO HUMANITARIANS.

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Frederick L. Thomsen, Ph.D.

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Miss Emily F. Gleckler

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FOR THE PREVENTION OF ANIMAL SUFFERING

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RITUAL SLAUGHTER—FROM PAGE 1

BASIS FOR THE CLAIM

THAT CAROTID SECTION IS PAINLESS

The best description and defense of the Jewish method of slaughter which we read is in an article by Bernard Homa, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., chairman of Shechita Committees. He attended in 1963 the symposium on "Humane Killing and Slaughterhouse Techniques" conducted by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. The symposium was arranged under the auspices of M. R.C.S., L. R.C.P., chairman of Shechita Committees. Mr. Homa, in the course of his address, said that the Shechita cut, produces a sudden substantial fall in blood pressure throughout the body. "The blood supply to the brain is of great importance in determining whether any blood can still reach the brain by any other route..." (Annual "Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Experimental Animals," 1962). The animal remains perfectly still at the time of this momentary cut, which would be less than two seconds... The convulsive response of the carotids, the blood vessels in the neck by which the brain is supplied to the brain, normally reaches the brain mainly via the carotid arteries. The blood supply to the brain is of great importance in determining whether any blood can still reach the brain by any other route... "Apart from the two large carotid arteries, there are two much smaller vessels, the vertebral arteries, which pass along the spinal canal and are cut as a part of Shechita..." The blood from the vertebrals, which in the case of bovine animals would otherwise go to the brain, falls to zero on severance of the carotid arteries through Shechita. The rapid unconsciousness... It would appear that unconsciousness is primarily due to the carotid section, the blood pressure in all arterial blood supply to the brain is completely and immediately halted; and 3) that as the animal had been previously anaesthetized and clamps placed on their carotid and vertebral arteries, which could be occluded at a time or in combination to show the animal grazing normally after both carotids and one vertebral artery had been occluded. In a few minutes bleeding from the vertebral supply was cut of the sheep fell unconscious after ten seconds, and recovered completely when the clamps were released. (a) "Humane Killing and Slaughterhouse Techniques," a symposium conducted by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, 230 High Street, Hertfordshire, Potters Bar 582 England.

TIME REQUIRED

FOR LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

According to Dr. Homa, the animal must be alive and healthy and have suffered no injury at the time of Shechita, otherwise the meat is Trefah—it may not be eaten... The laws of Shechita demand that the animal be alive and healthy and that the cut be made with a knife of perfect sharpness. The animal remains perfectly still at the time of Shechita, otherwise the meat is Trefah—it may not be eaten... The laws of Shechita demand that the animal be alive and healthy and that the cut be made with a knife of perfect sharpness, and that conscious examination for any un-"The Shechita cut made with a knife of perfect sharpness is absolutely painless. The rapid unconsciousness... It would appear that unconsciousness is primarily due to the carotid section, the blood pressure in all arterial blood supply to the brain is completely and immediately halted; and 3) that as the animal had been previously anaesthetized and clamps placed on their carotid and vertebral arteries, which could be occluded at a time or in combination to show the animal grazing normally after both carotids and one vertebral artery had been occluded. In a few minutes bleeding from the vertebral supply was cut of the sheep fell unconscious after ten seconds, and recovered completely when the clamps were released. (a) "Humane Killing and Slaughterhouse Techniques," a symposium conducted by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, 230 High Street, Hertfordshire, Potters Bar 582 England.

FACTS WHICH HAVE CAUSED QUESTIONING OF THE FOREGOING CLAIMS FOR SHECHITA

These views that the Shechita cut, and (2) whether the animal is unconscious at the time of Shechita... In the case of some animals, especially ruminants, before reaching the carotids the blood from the brain to the brain... The blood pressure in all arterial blood supply to the brain is completely and immediately halted; and 3) that as the animal had been previously anaesthetized and clamps placed on their carotid and vertebral arteries, which could be occluded at a time or in combination to show the animal grazing normally after both carotids and one vertebral artery had been occluded. In a few minutes bleeding from the vertebral supply was cut of the sheep fell unconscious after ten seconds, and recovered completely when the clamps were released. (a) "Humane Killing and Slaughterhouse Techniques," a symposium conducted by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, 230 High Street, Hertfordshire, Potters Bar 582 England.

FURTHER EVIDENCE FOR THE CLAIM

"The Shechita cut made with a knife of perfect sharpness is absolutely painless. The rapid unconsciousness... It would appear that unconsciousness is primarily due to the carotid section, the blood pressure in all arterial blood supply to the brain is completely and immediately halted; and 3) that as the animal had been previously anaesthetized and clamps placed on their carotid and vertebral arteries, which could be occluded at a time or in combination to show the animal grazing normally after both carotids and one vertebral artery had been occluded. In a few minutes bleeding from the vertebral supply was cut of the sheep fell unconscious after ten seconds, and recovered completely when the clamps were released. (a) "Humane Killing and Slaughterhouse Techniques," a symposium conducted by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, 230 High Street, Hertfordshire, Potters Bar 582 England.

THAT CAROTID SECTION IS PAINLESS
HUMANITARIANS ENTER THE LIONS’ DEN

When humanitarians meet with veterinarians, some of whom advocate pound seizure and other controls to control the dog and cat population, and some of whom support the animal welfare activities of animal-welfare organizations, there is a possibility of conflict. Here are some suggestions on how humanitarians can help to prevent this conflict and build bridges between the two groups.

1. **Educate yourself**
   - Learn about the issues and concerns of both groups. This will help you to understand their perspectives and work towards a mutual understanding.

2. **Engage in open dialogue**
   - Initiate conversations with veterinarians about their concerns and how they relate to animal welfare. Listen actively and be respectful of their opinions.

3. **Focus on solutions**
   - Work towards finding solutions that benefit both animals and the human community. Highlight the benefits of cooperation.

4. **Use evidence**
   - Support your arguments with evidence and data. This can help to build a stronger case for animal welfare.

5. **Be a good listener**
   - Allow veterinarians to express their concerns and ideas. This will show that you are committed to understanding their perspectives.

6. **Be patient**
   - Change does not happen overnight. Be patient with the process and work towards long-term solutions.

7. **Be transparent**
   - Keep your goals and strategies clear and honest. This will build trust and credibility.

By following these steps, humanitarians can help to build bridges and prevent conflicts between humanitarians and veterinarians. This will ultimately benefit both animals and the human community.

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By following these steps, humanitarians can help to build bridges and prevent conflicts between humanitarians and veterinarians. This will ultimately benefit both animals and the human community.
The truth of the oft-reiterated contention of the National Association for Humane Legislation (NAHL) that frustratingly little progress will be made in obtaining important humane legislation during the present Congress has been well demonstrated in the current Congress.

The humane societies, including their legislative arms, continue to go their individual ways, working on legislation for which they have been working for years and have been arguing with wool growers and other agricultural interests. The work of the humane movement completely revises its approach has again been demonstrated in the current Congress.

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A good example of how these principles work was demonstrated by the bay-Anderson trapping bill, and the Gunter bill which would require the use of humane handling and slaughtering practices in foreign plants which import high-quality meats to the United States. The Gunter bill was introduced at the request of NAHL. These are by the humane societies, and the first humane bill which has been before the present Congress.

A meeting of humane society representatives called by the National Association for Humane Legislation early last year, appeared to have been unanimously agreed that efforts should be given to these two bills, and that a united effort would be made to get them passed by the 94th Congress. In consequence, the societies present at that meeting, much less the Hill representatives called by the National Association for Humane Legislation, ca and then conduct a united, coordinated and all-out program to obtain passage of the bills. These efforts, as we shall see, have not been to the point that they represent the movement in a good sense.

These two bills, and the proposed Humane Milk Protection Legislation, are the only exceptions to this rule. It is no significant opposition from outside groups, which will involve no consequential allegiances, and which the Congress may decide to pass as a sop to those seeking more prominent legislation. But passage of the bills is important to our humane purposes.

On H.R. 204 and related measures designed to establish a wildlife refuge for tule elk. Last September the House Subcomittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation held hearings on the legislation for a period of two years. At the end of the session, the bills have passed in every session of Congress. The Gunter humane slaughter bill, for example, has been mentioned a few times by the societies that participated in the meeting, but with no aggressive backing from most of them.

The TULE ELK

The Marine Mammal Protection Act, so widely heralded when passed, is turning into another pooper. To NAHL, its most important feature was designed to end the annual slaughter of hundreds of thousands of porpoises, possibly the most intelligent of all animals, who would be cast back into the sea after they have been entangled in tuna nets. In order to allow time for the development and adoption of humane and non-lethal methods of fishing which would end this unnecessary slaughter, West coast tuna fishermen were exempted from the provisions of the act for a period of two years. As the deadline of next October approaches, the Secretary of Commerce has devised an interpretation of the law that would completely nullify its original intent. This is only one of several efforts to weaken the law. If you wish to protest these new regulations, you may wish to write to Robert M. White, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. or Louis Frey, Jr., of Florida, who will continue to press for the adoption of these new regulations.

The controversy which has been raging over animal birth control research, has, for the most part, been taken for granted that the bill has no chance for passage and recent objections have been no more than a natural extension of any kind of which we are familiar.

The bill does have its advocates, and a few of them will go on record to protest against the use of animals for research purposes. But while the Congress has been toooccupied with the problems of today, it is clear that the full Senate will not be able to consider the bill before the end of the session. The truth of the oft-reiterated contention of the National Association for Humane Legislation (NAHL) that frustratingly little progress will be made in obtaining important humane legislation during the present Congress has been well demonstrated in the current Congress.

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tobarbital and by the frequent requests received for information about the effects of the decompression chamber. But as we have gone deeper and deeper into the facts relating to these different methods, we have had more opportunity to observe the vari-
ous methods as they are used in different shelters. In this section we will try to tell you how little is really known about them, and how ineptly the methods are applied in actual use.

We have asked different veterinarians and physiologists pertinent questions about the effects of different euthanasia methods, and asked them to state their opinions. The plain fact of the matter is that nobody knows what we really need to know about methods. We have not the slightest idea of how little is really known about them, and how ineptly the methods are applied in actual use.

Our conclusion from all of this study is that nobody real-
tly knows what we really need to know about methods. We do not yet know enough about the subject, and we do not believe that anyone else does, either! Cruel people are inclined to advert its own hay for the sake of its own interest.

Our survey has shown us the importance of obtaining supplies of sodium pen-
tobarbital. Barbiturate is used for euthanasia in many different ways. Barbiturate is not working properly to produce a very important and specific application. So, we have noted that many people are working in this field. Barbiturate is not working properly to produce a very important and specific application. So, we have noted that many people are working in this field.

In the case of the cruelty to animals in this world, we have found in connection with the death of the animal, and asked why we couldn't devote a great deal of mail relating to her departure.

Our unanswered letter file has grown and grown, to become almost an apparition of nightmarish proportions. It haunts us constantly. Every day we re-
ceive more of these letters, and day by day the fear of what lies ahead increases. We have a flock of technical experts running about the office, these letters generally in other hands, and we have noted that they may stay for long periods while he is away on a field trip or working on some non-postponable project. Then when we have a lot of mail to deal with, we wait to mail those letters having a time priority, and the remainder may be left in the box until the next day. So, please be patient. We will get to it just as soon as possible. And thank you very much for your interest and willingness to cooperate.

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**PET SURVEY EVOKES INTEREST**

The pet ownership survey reported in our last issue was the object of approving comments from more readers than we had ex-
pected. A number expressed interest in getting involved in local animal welfare com-munities, and requested the forms and in-
structions. Sending these off on our offset press we would like to be sure that no other requests will be coming along later. In any event, we have now been busy checking and answering requests to re-supply the forms and instructions. To those who already have written, please be patient. We 'll get to it just as soon as possible. And thank you very much for your interest and willingness to cooperate.

**Euthanasia Survey Develops Appalling Facts**

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CHICAGO CONFERENCE—FROM COLUMN 2

Improvements Made at Jackson Pound

Subsequent to preparation of the article in the June issue of Animal Control Survey, which appeared in Report to Humanitarians No. 17, the Mississippi Animal Rescue League, the American Kennel Club, and others made further improvements in the operation of the pound, with encouraging success. The American Humane Information Service, working through the Humane Association, the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a local group of humanitarians, with the aid of the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi regarding certain problems.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another animal organization—which appears to be a little jealous of our success—publicly expressed surprise that we should receive financial support "for doing nothing but get out a quarterly report!" Because we do not brag about every little accomplishment in each issue of Report to Humanitarians, which we reserve for constructive analysis of humane problems, even some of our members may get the impression that we are just editorial writers, telling others how to run their businesses and not accomplishing anything ourselves. We would be glad to compare actual accomplishments with any other animal society, large or small. But we publish the letters our readers put into the box. It's more objective. If you feel fed up with the compliments in these letters to the editor, we're sorry. But we never get tired of reminding our readers that while we favor the exceptional letters that demonstrate your approval is not unanimous. Don't hesitate to let us have it with both barrels! You can't make us mad, even though we may disagree.

THANK YOU!

"You people are doing a darn good job down there, and I don't know any organization anywhere that is doing any better or as good. I hope you have many more years to do good work like that."--Mrs. Muriel Verizzi, West Hartford, Connecticut.

"Your organization appears to be one of the few, if not the only, humane group with an intellectual appeal. I think this practical and intelligent approach is essential to influencing other people."--Mrs. H. H. Ray, Pennsylvania.

"Thank you for your excellent publication. I always read every word of it. It seems to me the most thorough and comprehensive of any report that I receive."--Mrs. Francis C. Rogers, Duxbury, Massachusetts.

NOT HER CUP OF TEA

"I enjoy HISO as is, no expensive format but solid information. The folksy' aspect is not my cup of tea, but since spreading in information is the purpose, spread information, not a course in literature. Congratulations, best wishes and deep appreciation."--Mrs. Mathew Griswold, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

REPLY:

You will have to blame old "Doc" for the folksiness. Emily is all business. Our readers seem to like our old-shoe style, but, as Emily says, perhaps we don't hear from those who don't. At his age Doc is unlikely to change, so please forgive him for just being natural.

THOSE FELES AGAIN!

"That info about brewer's yeast and fleas was worth the dues for the year! I have six spayed poodles and a blind cocker, and really need help! Trouble is, they won't eat it in their food."--Mrs. Carl E. Barron, Ocala, Florida.

REPLY:

If any other readers have tried using brewer's yeast for fleas, we would like to hear from them. Emily now gives it to Teddy by placing a tablet of the yeast in his throat. Teddy is a good dog, and swallows it without fuss. Why not try that method with your pets?

WHAT INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIANS CAN DO

The millions of small turtles sold annually as pets for children are not miniatures, but are the same organisms, which has not worked.

REPLY:

Wedo not brag about every little accomplishment in each issue of Report to Humani­tarians, which we reserve for constructive analysis of humane problems, even some of our members may get the impression that we are just editorial writers, telling others how to run their businesses and not accomplishing anything ourselves. We would be glad to compare actual accomplishments with any other animal society, large or small. But we publish the letters our readers put into the box. It's more objective. If you feel fed up with the compliments in these letters to the editor, we're sorry. But we never get tired of reminding our readers that while we favor the exceptional letters that demonstrate your approval is not unanimous. Don't hesitate to let us have it with both barrels! You can't make us mad, even though we may disagree.

THAT GREAT OLD MATCHING FUND!

"The enclosed check for $500 is intended for the matching fund started by a contributor, mentioned in your March Report, we use the dollars and don't spend an additional penny on anything but the matching fund!"--(Name withheld request)

REPLY:

A donation for human welfare never went to a greater use. If you do not use the dollars and don't spend an additional penny on anything but the matching fund!"--(Name withheld request)

MEMORIAL FUND

"I like very much the idea of a field man to locate the place the senseless, often tasteless, displays of expiring flesh are most common. I wish I could say that I'm better about the idea, but I feel that the enclosure check for $50 is a step in the right direction. We finally had one taken which does us justice!"

"Thank you for your excellent publication. I always read every word of it. It seems to me the most thorough and comprehensive of any report that I receive."--Mrs. Francis C. Rogers, Duxbury, Massachusetts.

NOT HER CUP OF TEA

"I enjoy HISO as is, no expensive format but solid information. The folksy' aspect is not my cup of tea, but since spreading in information is the purpose, spread information, not a course in literature. Congratulations, best wishes and deep appreciation."--Mrs. Mathew Griswold, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

REPLY:

You will have to blame old "Doc" for the folksiness. Emily is all business. Our readers seem to like our old-shoe style, but, as Emily says, perhaps we don't hear from those who don't. At his age Doc is unlikely to change, so please forgive him for just being natural.

THOSE FELES AGAIN!

"That info about brewer's yeast and fleas was worth the dues for the year! I have six spayed poodles and a blind cocker, and really need help! Trouble is, they won't eat it in their food."--Mrs. Carl E. Barron, Ocala, Florida.

REPLY:

If any other readers have tried using brewer's yeast for fleas, we would like to hear from them. Emily now gives it to Teddy by placing a tablet of the yeast in his throat. Teddy is a good dog, and swallows it without fuss. Why not try that method with your pets?

WHAT INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIANS CAN DO

The millions of small turtles sold annually as pets for children are not miniatures, but are the same organisms, which has not worked.

REPLY:

Wedo not brag about every little accomplishment in each issue of Report to Humani­tarians, which we reserve for constructive analysis of humane problems, even some of our members may get the impression that we are just editorial writers, telling others how to run their businesses and not accomplishing anything ourselves. We would be glad to compare actual accomplishments with any other animal society, large or small. But we publish the letters our readers put into the box. It's more objective. If you feel fed up with the compliments in these letters to the editor, we're sorry. But we never get tired of reminding our readers that while we favor the exceptional letters that demonstrate your approval is not unanimous. Don't hesitate to let us have it with both barrels! You can't make us mad, even though we may disagree.

THANK YOU!

"You people are doing a darn good job down there, and I don't know any organization anywhere that is doing any better or as good. I hope you have many more years to do good work like that."--Mrs. Muriel Verizzi, West Hartford, Connecticut.

"Your organization appears to be one of the few, if not the only, humane group with an intellectual appeal. I think this practical and intelligent approach is essential to influencing other people."--Mrs. H. H. Ray, Pennsylvania.

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WHAT INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIANS CAN DO

The millions of small turtles sold annually as pets for children are not miniatures, but are the young of animals that can reach a length of nearly a foot when mature. Nearly all of them die slowly of starvation, abuse and lack of care. But they have time during their short life span to transmit salmonella and the Arizona organism to the children who handle them. This is an important public health hazard. Consumers Union has led humane organizations in a move to have the sale of these pet turtles banned altogether in the United States. This ban would replace a system of certification by public health agencies in the states of origin of the turtles that are free of these organisms, which has not worked.

The Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D. C., is considering a complete ban on the sale of turtles as pets. And the Postcard now tells us that the certification system be improved. Humane Information Services believes that the second of these alternatives would be ineffective in protecting the children's health, and completely ignores the humane aspects of the problem.

We therefore urge our members to write the Food and Drug Administration to support this motion. It simply favors the first of the two alternative means of dealing with the public health problem presented by the sale of baby turtles, as set forth in the Federal Register for Tuesday, May 29, 1974. In other words, you favor a complete ban on the sale of these turtles.

Are you a member of your family, relatives and friends. We have been asked by several members to print a picture of the editor. We finally had one taken which does us justice! (Photograph from PRECON en defensa de los animales, No. 76; Julio-August, 1971; Barcelona, Spain. This publication has about