

Another problem cited in the report concerns the age of animals at the time of euthanasia. A substantial number of the animals euthanized at shelters and pounds are kittens and puppies. Young animals, with their greater tolerance for oxygen deprivation, have been known to survive the entire procedure and emerge with internal injuries. The limited space capacity of the chamber as well as the inevitable troubles which occur with any mechanical device present additional practical disadvantages.

Eight states (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts and Virginia) have banned decompression chambers and the affected shelters are now using methods such as sodium pentobarbital injection or filtered carbon monoxide poisoning. The use of barbiturates, in particular, compares favorably in cost to the high altitude decompression chamber, requires no mechanical maintenance and is effective regardless of the animal's age or physical condition.

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) has not taken an official stand on the bill. However, OVMA Executive Secretary Gene King said that the association has "periodically reaffirmed" its agreement with the American Veterinary Medical Association's guidelines on euthanasia. The latest report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia states that although rapid decompression is a satisfactory procedure for euthanasia under ideal conditions, "...Because many difficulties have arisen in using decompression and because there is a general lack of understanding of how hypoxia affects animals, other methods of euthanasia are preferable" (*JAVMA* 173:59-72, 1978).

Hearings on the bill began in January 1980.

MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

British Small Animal Veterinary Association: 1980 Congress, April 11-13, 1980, Cunard International Hotel, London. Contact BSAVA Registration Office, 5 St. George's Terrace, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 3PT, UK.

Cetacean Behavior, Intelligence and the Ethics of Killing Cetaceans Week of April 28, 1980, Washington, D.C. By invitation. Contact Dr. Ray Gambell, International Whaling Commission, The Red House, Station Road, Histon, Cambridge, CB4 4NP, UK Telegram: INTERWHALE CAMBRIDGE.

American Society of Primatologists: Third Annual Meeting, June 3-5, 1980, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Contact Dr. David M. Taub, Dept. of Comparative Medicine, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 for local registration, and Dr. Douglas M. Bowden, Regional Primate Research Center SJ-50, University of Washing-

ton, Seattle, WA 98195 for enquiries on program content.

Ninth International Congress on Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination: June 16-20, 1980, Madrid, Spain. Contact Dr. Tomas Perez Garcia, INIA, Crida 06, Departamento de Reproduccion Animal, Avda. de Puerta de Hierro s/n, Madrid-3, Spain.

International Society of Animal Hygiene: Third International Congress of Animal Hygiene, September 10-12, 1980, Vienna, Austria. Contact Secretariat, Third International Congress of Animal Hygiene, c/o INTERCONVENTION, P.O. Box 35, A-1095 Vienna, Austria.

Israel Association for Buiatrics: Eleventh International Congress on Diseases of Cattle, October 20 - 23, 1980, Tel Aviv, Israel. Contact Dr. E. Mayer, Congress Secretariat, P.O. Box 9610, Haifa, Israel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACLAM Honors Harry Rowsell

Dr. Harry C. Rowsell, Executive Director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care, has become the first foreign veterinarian to receive honorary membership in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM). Dr. Rowsell accepted the award at the 1979 Annual Meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association in Seattle, Washington. He addressed some of his remarks at the presentation to the unique position held by the veterinarian in laboratory animal medicine: "The veterinarian in this field must stride with head erect, and be willing to take firm stands on the ethics of animal use, for there is no other scientist or individual who can do it with more assurance, based on scientific knowledge of the need for humane treatment of animals."

Animal Rights Network

Animal Rights Network, Inc. (ARN) is a new organization "dedicated to raising consciousness about our place in the network of life, [going] to the roots of all types of animal exploitation (not just one species or problem), and [harnessing] the efforts of caring people and groups all over the world..." (*Animal Rights Network News*, November 1979, p.1). A primary goal of ARN is the unification and expansion of the animal rights/animal welfare movements, through mass education via the media, to a point where they occupy a major place in public awareness.

Dr. Peter Singer, author of *Animal Liberation*, has been named honorary chairman of the group. For further information, contact Mr. Jim Mason, Animal Rights Network, Inc., P.O. Box 5234, Westport, CT., USA.



FILM REVIEW

The first American screening of the film **QUANTUM PHARMACOLOGY** took place in New York on January 19, 1980. The sponsors of the film (The National Antivivisection Society [UK] and the Dutch Society Against Vivisection) hope that it will demonstrate what can be achieved in biomedical research without the use of animals.