

MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: Worldwide Furbearer Conference, August 3-11, 1980, Frostburg State College, Frostburg, MD. Contact the Worldwide Furbearer Conference Office, Appalachian Environmental Laboratory, Frostburg State College Campus, Frostburg, MD 21532, or telephone 301-689-3115.

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.

British Veterinary Association: 1980 Congress, September 11-14, York University, England. Friday, September 12 session on *Welfare—The Role of the Animal*. Contact BVA Registration Office, 7 Mansfield St., London W1M OAT, UK.

American Association for Laboratory Animal Science: 31st Annual Session, October 5-10, 1980, Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact Mr. Joseph J. Garvey, Exec. Secy., AALAS, 210 N. Hammes Ave., Suite 205, Joliet, IL 60435 USA.

Institute for the Study of Animal Problems: Primate Symposium: *Non-human Primates in Biomedical Programs: Scientific and Philosophical Issues in Breeding, Husbandry and Experimental Use*, October 15, 1980, Golden Gate Holiday Inn, San Francisco, CA. Topics will include the breeding and use of nonhuman primates in the US; nonhuman primate cognitive abilities and social requirements; housing and environmental enrichment; scientific issues and regulation of primate use; ethical concerns in primate husbandry and use; humane concerns and guidelines for caging, breeding and husbandry (panel discussion); and humane concerns in primate use (panel discussion). Contact Heather McGiffin, Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, 2100 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20037, USA.

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.

MEETING REPORT

Animals in Research

Bates College hosted a conference on March 21-22, 1980 entitled *The Ethics of the Use of Animals in Research*. The gathering, held in Lewiston, Maine, was made possible through an anonymous gift by a Maine philanthropist. The meeting was divided into two sessions, one on philosophic and one on practical considerations.

After critically reviewing several positions on the ethics of our treatment of animals, philosopher Tom Regan (North Carolina State University) argued his own evolving thesis based on a concept of rights. Launching from Dworkin's *Taking Rights Seriously*, particularly the notion that "individual rights 'trump' the rights of the group," Regan offered several alternative principles describing where that trumping ought to give way. These would provide practical guidelines for the resolution of conflicting claims, instances where an individual's rights would be sacrificed for the sake of the group. An individual, human or nonhuman, possesses rights if he or she is "the subject of a life, for better or for worse." The primacy of individual rights over those of the group, Regan asserts, places the burden of justification on those who would abridge an individual's rights. The researcher must show why the subject of an experiment, if that subject is an individual with rights, must give up those rights for the sake of a group.

In his formal response, Mark Okrent (Philosophy Department, Bates College) charged Regan to further unpack his criterion for possession of rights. He argued that "being a subject" implies self-consciousness, a criterion which would exclude most nonhuman animals—Washoe's "me Washoe" notwithstanding. Agreeing that this was a critical problem for his position, Regan referred to an ability to remember as a further tentative ex-

plication of "subject." Memory is not yet self-awareness, but it is more than sentience.

In a second formal response to Regan, David Kolb (Philosophy Department, Bates College) suggested that we "stop talking about animal rights and start talking about animal values." Rights are the wrong foundation, in part because they are either possessed or not. Values come in degree and allow us to "move down the hierarchy of animals" in a search for alternative methods of research.

Speaking more directly to the question of practice, Tom Wolfle (National Institutes of Health) offered the weight of a brief history of biomedical breakthroughs to assert the indispensability of animals to research. Given that this role for the animal is critical to contemporary science, Wolfle is concerned with the adequacy of animal care. As a veterinarian and an animal behaviorist, he systematically assesses the animals' species-specific needs. Distinguishing between stress and distress, and holding the former to be a necessary part of life, he attempts to control the animal's distress. Partly based on a reading of Hans Selye, he would achieve this by "providing well-defined controlled stress so that the animal is better equipped to cope with his later life in the laboratory."

In a carefully argued response, Deborah Mayo (Philosophy Department, Virginia Polytechnic Institute) demonstrated the incompatibility of this adaptation training to the laboratory with the concern for the animal's natural needs. Socialization to the stress of the laboratory begs the ethical question of the limits of the conditions to which the animal should be required to adapt. Mayo also offered a number of arguments against the "scientific justification of animal experiments." She held that invalid research arises from the artificiality of laboratory conditions and of laboratory-bred animals, from the presence

of interspecific differences, and from the confusion of background with experimental variables.

Providing high contrast to Wolfe, both substantively and stylistically, clinical psychologist Emmanuel Bernstein (Saranac Lake, NY) delivered an evocative and impassioned plea that we lessen the amount of pain to which we subject animals in research. Bernstein's position is that much research is redundant and inapplicable and, hence, that the pain involved is unjustifiable. Taking the research paradigm of learned helplessness as an example, he tried to show that, while the suffering of the dogs is considerable, the phenomenon induced is not a valid analogue to human depression. Bernstein proposed the formation of groups within research disciplines to act as animal advocates.

An animal requires "a world to be what it is," offered John Cowgell (North Carolina State University), a doctoral candidate in zoology, with a background both in psychology and the philosophy of biology. The harm that comes from our denial to the animal of its peculiar world is a broader and more morally relevant criterion of abuse than pain. All animals deserve such consideration, independent of any positive prejudice toward those "star species" apparently more like us. Our ethical obligation to them ought not to be founded in human interest and empathy, but in our recognition of their reality, integrity and otherness.

Kenneth J. Shapiro, PhD
Bates College

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Abstract Exchange

The Institute for the Study of Animal Problems (*International Journal for the Study of Animal Problems*) and Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company (*Animal Regulation Studies*)

have agreed to exchange titles and abstracts of major articles for publication in their respective journals.

Animal Regulation Studies—Volume 2, Number 2, December, 1979:

The international ivory trade—Susan M. Wells and John A. Burton (IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC Group, 1 Marshall St., London W1, Great Britain)

The legal rights of animals in the United States of America—Christine Stevens (Animal Welfare Institute, P.O. Box 3650, Washington, D.C. 20007 U.S.A.)

Jewish attitude toward slaughter—I.M. Levinger (Roonstrasse 50, 5000 Cologne 1, Federal Republic of Germany)

Jewish method of slaughtering animals for food and its influence on blood supply to the brain and on the normal functioning of the nervous system—I.M. Levinger (Roonstrasse 50, 5000 Cologne 1, Federal Republic of Germany)

(For abstracts, see News and Review in this issue.)

New APHIS Administrator

Harry C. Mussman has been appointed administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), effective July 1980.

The new appointee, currently director of animal production and health at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy, held several management positions at USDA between 1971 and 1977, including the post of associate administrator of APHIS.

Dr. Mussman holds both a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine and a PhD in agricultural bacteriology. He has taught and directed veter-

inary research in the US and in South America.

Mussman succeeds Dr. Francis J. Mulhern, who retired in February to become director of animal health for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture.

Newsletter on the Human-Companion Animal Bond

The Group for the study of the Human Companion Animal Bond, formed in March 1979, has recently published a newsletter which includes abstracts of the papers presented at the British Small Animal Veterinary Association Symposium on the Human-Companion Animal Bond (See *Int J Stud Anim Prob* 1(3): 203-205, 1980). The Group hopes to publish quarterly and welcomes all relevant contributions. Submissions should be addressed to Dr. Peter R. Messent, Newsletter Editor, Animal Studies Centre, Freeby Lane, Waltham-on-the-Wolds, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE 14 4RT, UK.

Veterinarians for Animal Protection

The Veterinary Society for the Protection of Animals (SVPA—Société Vétérinaire pour la Protection Animale) is based in Brussels (Avenue Fonsny 41, 1060 Brussels, Belgium). The president of the organization, Dr. Raoul Hens, has a private veterinary practice in Brussels and has held a number of other posts including the presidency of the Scientific Committee of the Belgian National Council for Animal Protection.

The SVPA produces a quarterly Bulletin in French and Flemish, costing 20 Belgian francs. The latest issue (No. 3/4, 1980) contains a report on the twenty-first World Veterinary Congress (1979), where a resolution was passed urging all veterinarians to use their position and influence to call attention to animal suffering in exper-

imentation, farming and slaughter and to promote animal protection in general.

New Editor for Equine Study Group

The International Equine Behavior Study Circle announces a change in its North American editorship. Professor Andrew F. Fraser of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (Saskatoon), resigned as North American editor and coordinator, due to increasing professional commitments. His successor is Sharon E. Cregier, who is located at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, P.E.I., Canada C1A 4P3.

The Circle, founded in 1978 by Dr. Moyra Williams of Great Britain, collates information on the ethology of horses. It welcomes contributions from members on a wide variety of study topics including equine transport, traffic shyness, grazing behavior, evidence of extrasensory perception in horses, similarities and differences in the behavior of twin foals, and changes of breed characteristics in different habitats.

For further information contact Dr. Cregier and enclose a self-addressed stamped reply envelope.

Bibliography of Animal Ethology

A U.S. publisher of scientific books is interested in compiling a bibliography of animal ethology. Monographs, journal supplements, dissertations and articles with English abstracts are to be included as well as addresses of collections and source people. Studies should emphasize the philosophy and history of the animal ethology movement, the self-hood of animals or care of animals from an ethological perspective. Of special interest may be a section on equine ethology. Suggestions and recommended reading lists should be forwarded by December 1980 to Mrs. Sharon E. Cregier (address above).