USDA Raises Ventilation Requirements

A U.S. Department of Agriculture ruling which became effective 18 July 1980 has raised the ventilation requirements for crates used to ship dogs and cats from 8% to at least 14%. The percentage refers to the ventilated area of each wall and not to the total amount of ventilation. Therefore, to fulfill the requirement, a crate must have either 28% ventilation on two opposite walls, 8% on two opposite walls and 50% on a third wall containing the door, or an average of 14% on all four walls with no less than 8% on any side.

The original USDA proposal, presented last March, called for an increase in the requirement to 18%.

Correction

In an article on the Schroeder Bill (J Stud Anim Prob 1(4):264-266, 1980), it was stated that an earlier version of the bill, which was introduced into the Colorado State Legislature, was "endorsed by the deans of both the medical and veterinary schools in Colorado." In fact, the Colorado bill had the support of the Assistant Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University and the Chancellor of the University of Colorado Medical School. However, neither individual actually endorsed the bill. We regret the error.

MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS


Institute for the Study of Animal Problems: Primate Symposium, Nonhuman 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 McEwan, Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, 2100 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20037, USA.

Israel Association for Biometrics: 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, or Eastours, Inc., 1140 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, USA.


The Foundation of Thanatology: Veterinary Medical Practice: Pet Loss and Human Emotion, March 27-29, 1981, Alumni Auditorium, Black Building, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, NY. Contact Dr. Austin H. Kutscher, Foundation of Thanatology, 630 West 168th St., New York, NY 10032, USA.

MEETING REPORT

Association for the Study of Animal Behavior

Most members of the public acknowledge that animal research is an unfortunate, but necessary, element in the advance of biomedical knowledge, which is itself a desirable goal. However, there are some fields of animal testing and research which are accepted less readily than others. The campaign against the use of animals in certain cosmetic tests has widespread and growing public support. Similarly, the use of animals in psychological and behavioral research has also been questioned. Some of the concern has originated among psychologists and behaviorists as evidenced by the enquiry set up by the British Psychological Society in 1975. The final report (BPS Bulletin 32:44-52, 1979) stated, inter alia, that "in all psychological investigation involving animals, the dominant criterion should be the amount of stress or suffering to which the animal is exposed in relation to the likely gain deriving from the investigation...To the extent that any experiment carries ethical costs, in terms of animal suffering or interference with the life pattern of animals, such an experiment requires commensurately more justification."

This concern among British psychologists spread to the related group, the Association for the Study of Animal Behavior (ASAB). They have now established an ethical committee to advise members, to consider publication policy for their journal, and to provide a forum for discussion of legislative initiatives and guidelines on animal research. The ASAB also organized a meeting on animals at Durham University (U.K.) on 20 March 1980. As is usual at such events, the presentations and debate varied from good to bad to indifferent. However, the first presentation by Dr. Mary Midgley (Department of Philos-