

LEGISLATION and REGULATION



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.

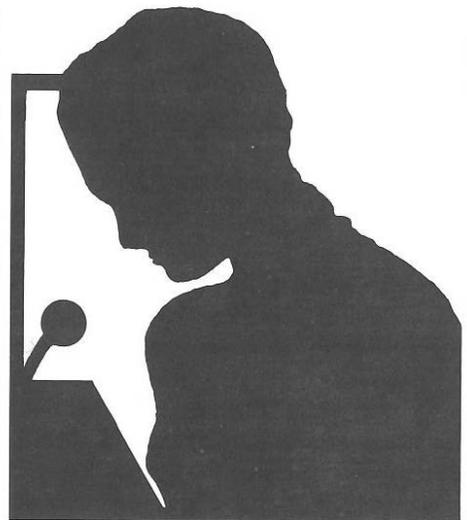
The original USDA proposal, presented last March, called for an increase in the requirement to 18%. (Abstracted from *JAVMA* 177:129, 1980).

Correction

In an article on the Schroeder Bill (*Int 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

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare: 1980 Symposium: *The ecology and control of feral cats*, September 23-24, 1980, University of London, Surrey, UK. Contact The Secretary, UFAW, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 3QD, UK.

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

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 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, or Eastours, Inc., 1140 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, USA.

United States Animal Health Association: 84th Annual Meeting, November 2-7, 1980, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact Mrs. Ella Blanton, Asst. Exec. Secy., United States Animal Health Association, Suite 205, 6924 Lakeside Ave., Richmond, VA 23228.

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-

ophy, University of Newcastle) on "The price to be paid for knowledge" provided an excellent start.

Dr. Midgley argued that two aims of manifest importance to modern society have led to the present conflict over animal experimentation. These aims are the avoidance of suffering and the increase of knowledge. Common opinion is unlikely to support a complete dismissal of animal suffering as not being "real" suffering. The question thus arises as to whether the value of knowledge can be judged infinite and therefore, that justification can always be found for the infliction of suffering inside laboratories. To do this, one must determine what is meant by knowledge, as it could range from the aimless collection of facts (gathering and recording the weight of sand grains on the beach) to the wish to *understand* experience. Midgley argued that the value of knowledge is based on the extent to which serious and vital human needs are served and that while often high, such value is never infinite. "Like all other values, it can be understood only in the context of a complete view of life."

In contrast to Midgley's ordered presentation, there was a rather disjointed exploration of the meaning and consequences of individuality in laboratory animals by Dr. M. Morgan (Department of Psychology, Durham University). Dr. Morgan concentrated on whether or not human beings have the right to kill animals. Suffering was not discussed. The talk ranged from a condemnation of the concept of "speciesism" (he said that one might just as well talk of kingdomism or carbonism) to an opinion that animal models of mental disease are unacceptable. Dr. Morgan then argued that the right to kill a certain animal should be based on the extent to which individuals could recognize other individuals of the same species. Since rats, he claimed, have a very limited perception of individuality,

there was nothing morally wrong in killing rats. Not surprisingly, Dr. Morgan's own research involved rats. During subsequent discussion, Morgan argued that he was mainly inveighing against the speciesism concept and that there was much to be said for holding a moral line where it can be defended, namely, between human beings and other animals.

Roger Ewbank (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) injected a note of practicality into the proceedings with his address on ethical committees for local institutions. Although local ethical committees would add another step to the administrative procedures standing between a researcher and a research grant, they would also confer a number of advantages. Ewbank suggested that the local committees could be employed to provide temporary approval for visiting academics and new researchers to conduct live animal research while waiting for license applications to negotiate the lengthy Home Office registration procedure. In addition, under the committee system, grants would be reviewed by peers in the institution with a specific focus on ethical issues, which would help to alleviate public concern. However, one possible disadvantage of the ethical committees is their potential to reduce scientific freedom and to provide avenues through which 'intellectual vandals' could operate to the detriment of proposed research.

The general consensus among those attending the meeting was that the papers were interesting and provided valuable insights into how one might approach some of the ethical issues in behavioral research. However, it was evident that a few of the speakers had either not read some of the recent philosophical and biomedical arguments on this controversial topic or they had not understood them. These speakers had obviously moved beyond the simplistic (and

frightening) argument by George Steiner that all knowledge is of equal and incomparable value and that no justification is needed for any enquiry. At the same time, it is important for the leaders of discussions on the ethics and practice of animal research to read and digest thoroughly the major arguments in the field.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Essay Competition for U.S. Veterinary Students

The Institute for the Study of Animal Problems is sponsoring an animal welfare science essay competition for veterinary students in the U.S. Two \$500 prizes will be awarded. The deadline for receipt of the essays is 15 December 1980.

Competition Rules:

1. All enrolled veterinary students in the U.S. (including those who have graduated within six months of the deadline) are eligible to compete.
2. The two best essays, selected by a panel of judges comprised of veterinarians, philosophers, ethologists and other relevant scientists, will be awarded a cash prize of \$500 and a Certificate of Appreciation.
3. Essays should be between 4,000-5,000 words and may be based on literature analyses, data gathering projects or personal viewpoints. All essays should be thoroughly documented using the JAVMA format.
4. The winners will be welcome to submit their essays to the *International Journal for the Study of Animal Problems* for consideration of publication.
5. Copyright of the winning entries will be transferred to the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems as a condition of receiving the award. The author's rights will be reserved.
6. Candidates who are in doubt about the suitability of proposed topics are invited to contact Dr. Michael

Fox for advice. Examples of subjects from which essay topics may be selected include: *trapping, predator control, farm animal husbandry and welfare, use of animals in teaching, humaneness and veterinary ethics, ethical and legal aspects of animal rights, euthanasia techniques, laboratory animal welfare, zoo animal behavior problems, welfare of circus animals, rodeo animals/racehorses, companion animal welfare and owner/breeder responsibilities.*

Send essays or enquiries to the attention of Dr. Michael Fox, Director, Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Animal Rights Law Reporter

The Society for Animal Rights (421 South State St., Clarks Summit, PA 18411) has begun publication of the *Animal Rights Law Reporter*. Edited by Henry Mark Holzer, Professor at the Brooklyn (NY) Law School, the *Law Reporter* is aimed at animal rights activists who need access to information on developments in animal rights law. Interested parties are urged to send in clippings, legislative proposals, case decisions, animal rights law bibliographies, etc., to the above address.

Italy Offers Prize for Research in Alternatives

The "Premio Jurio Rustichelli," an annual prize of 1 million lire, is being offered in Italy for scientific papers which present and/or discuss the development of alternatives to the use of laboratory animals in biomedical research. Papers may be submitted from any country, in Italian or in another language, and will be judged by a panel from the faculty of the University of Milan. For more information, contact the Italian Antivivisection Union, 20121 Milano, Corso Porta Nuova 32, Italy.