

Current Events

MEETING REPORTS

London Symposium on Alternatives

A 1-day symposium on alternatives to animal research was sponsored by the Air Chief Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research in London on November 5, 1981.

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The meeting was designed to take an objective view of recent developments in animal replacements.

During the morning session, the results were reported from a multi-center project carried out in London, Glasgow, Sheffield, Paris, Stockholm, Belgrade, and Rome. This investigation involves the use of human placenta as a replacement for the LOSO for predicting the toxicity level of new drugs and industrial chemicals. Placenta costs nothing, since it is usually discarded. Also, its use as a test material may help circumvent the problem that so often compromises the LOSO: differences in toxic levels found among the various species. Because of these differences, data extrapolated from results in animal tests are often virtually worthless for estimating toxicity in humans.

Another alternative to the LOSO was described by Dr. Bjorn Ekwall from the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Dr. Ekwall showed that doses poisonous to a human tissue-derived cell line, the HeLa cell, approximated the estimated human lethal doses 75 to 80 percent of the time.

An alternative to the Draize test is being investigated by Dr. W.H.J. Douglas from Tufts University in Boston. He is using human eye tissue that has been determined as unsuitable for transplantation as a test material for eye irritancy. Again, an ancillary benefit of using human tissue would be the alleviation of inter-specific differences in test results.

A second possible alternative to testing for irritancy in live rabbits was reported by Dr. Joseph Leighton of the Medical School of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Dr. Leighton's test medium is the chorioallantoic membrane, which is discarded during development of the hen's egg. The membrane contains no sensory nerve fibers, yet can be used for measuring the extent of inflammation caused by irritants.

Dr. I.F. Purchase, from ICI's Central Toxicology Laboratories at Alderly Park, reviewed results of international studies on the efficacy of the Ames and other similar tests as predictors of carceno-

genicity. He concluded that such *in vitro* test systems provide the best method for performing primary assays, although a second assay, usually a non-animal test, should be used as a check on the results of the primary assay.

Dr. P.D. Minor, National Institute of Biological Standards and Control, London, described his research on the characterization of polio viruses. If his investigation is successful in this early phase, it could produce a reliable replacement for the current method of assessing the virulence of polio viruses - tests in monkeys.

Finally, Dr. John C. Petricciani of George Washington University in Washington, DC, described his work with tissue culture systems for testing the cancerous potential of human cells. This test medium can be used as a replacement for immunologically deficient mice, the most widely used test animal at present. His most recent investigations have involved a human muscle organ culture system, which remains viable for 15 days and may offer a quick and inexpensive way of screening anti-cancer drugs for efficacy and toxicity.

Infectious Diseases and Wildlife

The mechanisms by which diseases of humans and domestic animals affect wildlife populations are poorly understood. The complexities of the epidemiology of infectious illness in wild animals were discussed at a symposium held on November 26-27, 1981, by the Zoological Society of London.

W. Plowright, of the ARC Institute for Research on Animal Diseases, described an epidemic of rinderpest that swept through Africa between 1889 and 1898. Devastating losses occurred among both domestic cattle and wild ungulate species. Although the disease was finally eliminated from southern Africa, a small area of mild, permanent infection remained in the Serengeti region. However, an attenuated tissue culture vaccine for the disease was introduced in the area in the early 1960's; by

1964, rinderpest was wiped out in the Serengeti as well. As a consequence, buffalo and wildebeest populations have doubled between 1961 and 1971. These animals are unprotected against rinderpest, and the possibility of another massive epidemic remains. Plowright advocates that epidemiologists begin careful planning to ensure that this possibility does not become a reality.

F. Steck of the Bacteriological Veterinary Institute at the University of Bern reported on experimental use of an attenuated virus to immunize foxes against rabies. The oral-vaccine virus is administered to the foxes from chicken head baits and, so far, shows no signs of reversion to the virulent form. Immunization by this procedure may provide an alternative to controlling rabies by killing off foxes, a method that is currently used because the presence of the disease is dependent upon the density of the population: at densities of less than 0.3 per km², the disease disappears.

M. Kaplan, from the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, reported on the mechanisms of interspecies infections. Apparently, these kinds of infections happen only when specific mutations and recombinations occur in the virus which make it possible for them to multiply in a new species. In wild birds, influenza infections are common, but these infections are generally confined to the intestine and do not produce any symptoms. Therefore, this reservoir of virus particles, which tend to have high rates of recombination and mutation, constitutes a permanent threat to humans and other animals.

Botulism in waterfowl was discussed by C.R. Smith, of the Institute of Zoology at the Zoological Society of London. The mud from certain sites somehow works to inhibit the growth of the bacterium that causes botulism. More research into how this mechanism functions might make large-scale control of the disease possible.

Sir William M. Henderson detailed the evidence behind the assumed connection between tuberculosis in badgers and in cattle. To stop the transmission of

the organism between the two species, badgers have been gassed in the Southwest of England. Henderson concluded that there was no real alternative to this method of control, since it is not possible to separate the two species physically, or to provide them with adequate protection through vaccination.

Mobilization for Animal Rights

In Ocean City, MD, a conference on how to implement direct action on behalf of animals was held on October 10-12, 1981. The work of Alex Pacheco (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), who was responsible for alerting authorities about the atrocities to monkeys occurring at the Institute for Behavioral Research, was featured in a slide presentation.

Clive Hollands, head of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection, Judith Hampson of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, George Trapp, director of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, and Peter Hamilton of Lifeforce (Vancouver, B.C.) led workshops on the use of animals in research. Activist-oriented workshops included the issues of factory farming, vegetarianism, domestic animals/wildlife, humane education, publications/communications/media, and demonstrations and rallies.

Conference members voted to hold massive demonstrations at three key primate research centers across the country.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

American Society of Agricultural Engineers: 2nd International Livestock Environment Symposium, April 20-23, 1982, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Topics include Environmental Effects on Production, Environmental Effects on Health and Reproduction, Environmental Effects on Physiology, Environmental and System Design and Animal Comfort,

Genetic and Environmental Interactions, Animal Care, and Meeting Governmental Regulations in Animal Housing Systems. Contact Cathy Burg, Meetings Secretary, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, P.O. Box 410, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Federation of American Societies

for Experimental Biology: "Symposium on Pain Perception in Animals," April 21-22, 1982, New Orleans. This 1 ½-day meeting is being jointly sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Research, the American Physiology Society, and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The first day's sessions will concentrate on research findings concerning pain in animals, while the last half day will be devoted to the control and prevention of pain. More information is available from the Office of Scientific Meetings, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Humane Research Trust: The Role of Animals in Scientific Research and their Effectiveness as Substitute Models for Man, April 21-23, 1982, Manchester University, Manchester, U.K. Scheduled speakers: Dr. H. Muir, Prof. G. Marsden, Prof. M. Panigel, Mr. R.N. T.-W.-Fiennes, Air Commodore J. Malcolm, Mrs. R. Clayton, Dr. E. Carson, Prof. D. Davies, Prof. D. Parke, Prof. P. Turner, Dr. J. Fry, Dr. S. Vine, Prof. J. Bridges, Dr. T. Connors, Dr. J. Parry, Dr. M. Dawson. Registration fee is £50, including accommodation and meals. Contact the Conference Organizer, Humane Research Trust, Brook House, 24 Bramhall Lane South, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2DN, U.K.

Pet Food Manufacturers Association of Canada: 3rd Symposium on "Pets in Society," April 28-30, 1982, Toronto, Canada. The focus of this conference will be on the interaction between pets and the aged: medical aspects, personal aspects, practical examples, and community op-

tions. Contact Pets in Society, Congress Canada, Box 183, Station D, Toronto, Ontario, M6P 3J8, Canada.

Zoological Society of Philadelphia and the Institute for Cancer Research: Symposium on Animal Counterparts of Human Disease, With Particular Reference to Hepatitis B-like Viruses, May 16-20, 1982, Franklin Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Contact Theresa Mullarkey, Philadelphia Zoological Garden, 34th St. and Gerard Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Secretary General of the Council of Europe: 2nd European Conference on the Protection of Farm Animals, May 25-26, 1982, Strasbourg, France. The 2-day conference will cover the role of the Commission in the protection of animals, the work of the Council of Europe's Standing Committee on Farm Animal Protection, a long-range study of trends in animal husbandry, and transportation of animals, including discussions of logistics, economic factors, and physiological effects. Contact Philip Brown, Chairman of the Steering Group, The Manor House, The Causeway, Horsham, Sussex, RH12 1HG, U.K.

Veterinary Management Ideas: 2-day program on "Managing the Group Practice," June 12-13, Anaheim, CA, and June 18-19, Washington, DC. Contact Linda Ribordy, Veterinary Management Ideas, 4170 Gross Road, Suite 6, Capitola, CA 95010.

Canadian Federation of Biological Scientists and Canadian Council on Animal Care: Seminar on "The Use of Animals in Research and Teaching," June 16, 1982, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The topics covered will include an overview of legislation on animal care, the relative value of the pound as opposed to the purpose-bred animal, the effect of the quality of the experimental animal on research results, selection of the correct animal model, alternative methods, and the viewpoints of a lawyer and a concerned citizen on the use of animals in

research. Contact CFBS-CCAC Seminar Chairman, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science: 21st Annual Convention, June 21-24, 1982. Contact Dr. Ernest G. Olfert, Director, Animal Resources Center, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0W0, Canada.

American Veterinary Medical Association and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges: 8th "Symposium on Veterinary Medical Education," June 28-30, 1982, Knoxville, TN. The objective of this conference is to provide a forum for veterinary educators to develop an awareness of the need to teach value dimensions, bioethical considerations, and the tools for making moral judgments within the veterinary medical curricula. In considering these ideas, many kinds of human/animal relationships will be explored. Contact Charles F. Reed, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, P.O. Box 1071, Knoxville, TN 37901.

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association: Symposium on "The Use of Animals in Veterinary Medical Colleges in Canada," July 11, 1982. Topics covered will include a historic review, current events, animal rights and human morality, and animal welfare in veterinary education. Contact Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, 360 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1R 6J3.

International Council for Laboratory Animal Science: "The Contribution of Laboratory Animals to the Welfare of Man and Animals: Past, Present, and Future," July 31-August 5, 1982. Contact Mr. D. Joi, ICLAS/CALAS 1983, Box 286, 810 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1J8, Canada.

International Primatological Society: IXth Congress, August 8-13, 1982, Atlanta, GA. The annual meeting of the American Society of Primatologists will be held jointly with the Congress. Contact

Dr. Frederick A. King, Director, Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Shipping World & Shipbuilder and Aniservices International: "Anitrans '82," October 21-22, 1982, London. Various aspects of animal transport will be covered, including the extent of the trade, financial implications, international laws and regulations, transport of animals to and from the ship, experiences of an animal carrier, insurance, the World Wildlife Federation's point of view, the animals' welfare, case studies, ship design and operation, animal condition monitoring, and loading/unloading and port practice. Contact G.B. Taylor, 6 Rosedale Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln, U.K.

Australian Society for the Study of Animal Behavior and the Australian Academy of Sciences: 18th International Ethological Conference, August 29-September 6, 1983, Brisbane, Australia. Potential participants are being given early notification for this conference, since this is the first time an International Ethological Conference has been open to all behavioral scientists, and therefore no channels of communication have been established to reach all those who might be interested in attending. The content of the plenary sessions has not yet been determined, and the committee sponsoring the conference would welcome any suggestions on possible session topics. Plenary sessions will be strongly didactic, but will also provide a general overview of recent developments and highlight any problems or controversies. Contact Conference Secretary, Animal Behavior Unit, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Australia 4067.

Alternatives in Toxicology: An international meeting which will include extensive discussion of the above topic will be held at the Royal Society in London, November 1-3, 1982. It is suggested that those who are interested contact FRAME, 56 The Poultry, Bank Place, St. Peter's Gate, Nottingham, NG1 2J R.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCAW Sponsors Lab Animal Column

The magazine *Lab Animal* plans to begin a new column on noninvasive or less stressful animal research techniques. The columns will be sponsored by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare in Washington, DC. The types of techniques to be discussed can be new or old - examples include substitution of telemetry for chronic cannulation to measure certain internal states, or using training instead of chemical or chronic restraint to get blood samples from monkeys. Inquiries or papers should be sent to Dr. Richard Simmonds, Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, P.O. Box 3750, Washington, DC 20007.

SCAW also wishes to announce that the competition for its second journalism award is open, for articles on the humane treatment of animals used in scientific research or education. Both previously published articles and papers in preparation for publication will be considered. Deadline for receipt of applications is November 1, 1982. For more information, contact Marcia R. Feinleib, SCAW, Suite 221, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

Human Dimensions in Wildlife Study Group Launches Newsletter

Steven Kellert and a group of like-minded colleagues published the first issue of their *Human Dimensions Newsletter* in October 1981. Four issues will be published each year. Regular features will include brief original articles (the first issue reported on "The 1980 Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation"); a list of available working papers on the various factors and methods associated with long-term planning; a list of upcoming meetings; synopses of research in progress; and profiles of participants.

The expressed purpose of the publication is to provide a vehicle for sharing new knowledge and techniques related to

the cultural, social, and psychological aspects of wildlife management and forestry.

Four issues of the newsletter cost \$5.00. Checks made out to the Human Dimensions Study Group should be sent to: Tom Heberlein, Department of Rural Sociology, 240 Agriculture Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.

Veterinarians and Animal Rights

Dr. Neil Wolff, a veterinarian, has recently formed a new organization, the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights. During its first year, the Association will focus mainly on organizing, sharing ideas, and collecting and exchanging current-event items and educational materials. Issues that will receive special attention include hunting and trapping, factory farming, mutilation in companion animals, and racetrack malpractices. The Association will also try to place Animal Rights Information Centers within animal hospitals for dissemination of information on these kinds of issues to clients and the general public. For a packet of materials on the organization, contact: Neil Wolff, D.V.M., Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights, 69-40 229th Street, Bayside, NY 11364.

Proceedings of Livestock Conservation Institute Meeting Available

The *Proceedings* of the Annual Meeting of the LCI, held in St. Louis, MO in May 1981, have been published. LCI itself is a research and educational institution that is supported by national and State agricultural organizations, marketing and packing concerns, suppliers, shippers, and several humane groups.

In essence, the *Proceedings* consists of a series of reports by the LCI's several National Standing Committees, which keep track of recent developments in continuing problem areas such as abscess, brucellosis, chemicals/additives/residues, parasites, and pseudorabies. The reports, then, are basically review articles on recent research in a particular

area and an assessment of the efficacy of Government regulations established for control of the problem.

The meeting also included a panel discussion on animal welfare, which focused on the economics and ethics of factory farming. Denn·1s White of the American Humane Society (a member organization of LCI) stressed the inevitability of the trend toward intensive farming conditions, given limited acreage, increased consumer demand, and increasing costs. He asserted that animals nevertheless have basic rights, such as sufficient space to permit freedom of movement. However, he denounced the concept of animal rights as too extreme and therefore likely to result in a paralyzing polarization of opinion between producers and animal welfare organizations.

John Herrick of Iowa State University stressed the necessity of human stewardship and argued that human rather than animal welfare should be our main concern. In many countries, massive populations live in a state of chronic malnutrition, which represents a constant source of human suffering; therefore, he argued, we should concentrate on increasing production and place less emphasis on concern about the animals.

Michael Fox of The Humane Society of the U.S. noted his amazement that U.S. farmers were still defending the status quo, while their European counterparts were already engaged in considerable research to study, for example, the behavioral effects of the battery cage on poultry. While recognizing that the economics of agriculture have virtually compelled producers to introduce factory conditions, he asked whether the benefits gained from economies of scale justify the continued victimization of farmers and their livestock, given the fact that productivity under these conditions can sometimes be achieved only by practices (like debeaking) that violate animal welfare.

For more information about the *Proceedings*, write to: Livestock Conservation Institute, 239 Livestock Exchange Building, South St. Paul, MN 55075.

AVMA Committee on Animal Welfare Holds First Meeting

Set up in July of 1981 by the AVMA's Executive Board, the Committee on Animal Welfare held its initial organizational meeting on October 27-28, 1981. The group decided upon its work for the next 2 years:

- Review and cataloging of publications on animal rights, factory farming, and the use of live animals in research and drug testing
- Gathering of more background materials on the more than 30 issues identified in a special workshop
- Attendance at the national meetings of animal welfare groups
- Identification of new issues and drafting of position papers in specific areas where the AVMA may wish to become involved.

The Committee also formulated a series of statements for the Executive Board that summarize its basic point of view toward animal welfare issues. The full text of the statements is quoted here.

1. AVMA should maintain positive positions and attitudes in relation to issues, emphasizing the profession's many contributions to animal welfare.

2. AVMA should use scientific bases wherever available rather than philosophical positions in evaluating issues and developing AVMA positions.

3. AVMA recognizes the need for more research in some areas. The \$380,000 of USDA funding in 1981 for studies on food animal confinement and behavior issues is an example.

4. The Animal Welfare Committee will develop a proposed position paper on biomedical research issues at an early date due to the priority of imminent pending legislation.

5. AVMA should advocate adequate and timely veterinary care on behalf of the welfare of animals.

6. The Committee acknowledges and recommends the value and usefulness of the Council for Agricultural Science

and Technology Report #91 entitled "The Scientific Basis for Food Animal Welfare."

7. The Committee will review present AVMA positions and consider the development of others in opposition to cruelty and in favor of improved animal welfare.

8. The Committee will recommend that AVMA assume a leadership role in response to certain key issues of primary importance.

In a letter reported in February 1, 1982 edition of the AVMA *Journal*, C.D. Van Houweling of the National Pork Producers Council had urged that the pork industry be represented on the Animal Welfare Committee. While denying this specific request, the Board stated that the Committee will be encouraged to consult swine specialists, including NPPC members.

Draize Test Alternative

The American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research (AFAAR), together with several other animal welfare groups and individual supporters, has awarded a grant of \$176,000 to Dr. Joseph Leighton of the Medical College of Pennsylvania to research an alternative to the Draize test. Dr. Leighton will use the chick chorioallantoic membrane as his test system to assess irritant potential. The award covers a 3-year project. For further information, contact Dr. Ethel Thurston, AFAAR, 175 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Anitrans Consultants

Anitrans Consultants is a new commercial group, with headquarters in Britain, which is specializing in animal transport problems and services. One of the founders of Anitrans is veterinarian George Taylor who had a long association with the International Society for the Protection of Animals (now WSPA). For further information, contact George Taylor at 6 Rosedale Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JN, U.K.