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# REPORT TO HUMANITARIANS

Number 40 — June, 1977

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EDITORS:

Frederick L. Thomsen, Ph.D.  
Miss Emily F. Gleockler

*Humane Information Services*  
Incorporated

A NON-PROFIT NATIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY  
FOR THE PREVENTION OF ANIMAL SUFFERING

4495 Ninth Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Dues and Contributions Tax Deductible

The humane movement, which for decades has been notorious for creating much commotion but little accomplishment, outdid itself during the past year or two. Never before, to our knowledge, has so much money been acquired and spent to bemoan the relatively inconsequential and promote the trivial.

## BABY SEALS

To cite an example, we have been informed that one organization devoting substantially all of its efforts to publicizing and denouncing the baby seal kill on the ice flows off Canada has been raking in about a million dollars a year. There is little doubt that other societies combined have acquired from gullible humanitarians and spent at least an equal amount on this up-to-now mostly futile crusade against the killing of baby seals.

That is many times greater than the amount spent by these same societies on other humane problems of far greater importance, including the one discussed in this article.

The reason for this tremendous imbalance between expenditures and the amount of animal suffering involved is that animal lovers will respond generously with membership dues and contributions to an appeal based on the big eyes and clean white coat of a cute little baby seal, whereas they will contribute only pennies, comparatively speaking, to help save equally deserving but less photogenic animals from far more suffering.

Resent this statement if you will, but the baby seals are killed with comparatively little suffering. They are stunned with a blow on the head that renders them unconscious in most cases, even though a further blow may be necessary. This is the most humane way of killing the seals, much better than the way in which the "beaters," just a little older but without the eye appeal of the babies, are taken. Much is made, in the highly emotional descriptive literature, of the poor mother seal trying to defend her young and shedding tears of sorrow when she is unable to do so. Bunk! In most instances the mother seal is far away.

We are definitely opposed to killing baby seals, or any other kind of seals for that matter, especially since the uses made of their furs are among the most trivial found in connection with any form of animal exploitation. We have participated in the effort to put pressure on the Canadian government to reduce its quotas and improve conditions on the ice. We believe that the best solution, so far as the Canadian hunt is concerned, is to find some other livelihood for those who engage in the hunt. In the long run, this would cost less, and be more effective than other suggestions. Although the people of Canada in opinion polls have expressed themselves in favor of banning the seal hunt altogether, no Canadian government facing demands for separation from Quebec and political realities in the Maritime Provinces is likely to anger the fishermen who augment a very meager living with what they can get out of the seal "harvest."

We suspect that some of the organizations that have made their own "harvest" out of condemning the hunt may inwardly be not at all anxious to see it end. After all, why kill the goose that lays the golden eggs?

Any achievable solution will require realistic negotiation and planning, not strident demands which do not take into account the actual conditions encountered. Humane Information Services will continue its participation in these quiet but potentially more effective efforts.

If the foregoing brief synopsis of the baby seal situation seems biased and unin-

to contemplate the following excerpt from a letter we just received (after this article was written) from the Secretary of the Committee on Seals and Sealing, of Canada:

*"There is no doubt in my mind that certain groups have chosen to exploit seal hunting as a means of raising money. They have not helped seals in any way. In fact, they have seriously hindered the Hu-*

## The Humane Movement Should Be Ashamed

*mane Movement of Canada which has been successful in the past in persuading Government to accept the need for careful, even rigorous control of all aspects of seal hunting."*

No doubt the seal publicists will retort that they don't want "control," but complete abandonment of the seal hunt. That sounds good to some naive animal lovers, but fails to deal with realities. Even if Canada should act, much of the sealing is done by Norway, and other aspects of the seal hunt off Canada are worse than the taking of baby seals. When the needed facts are available, we will have a comprehensive article on this whole problem.

## HOT CAUSES

Much of what has been said about baby seals applies also to other "hot" causes which most of the national humane societies have been pushing so vigorously during the past few years. Taken all together, these popular animal causes involve a relatively few animals and do not hold a candle to other problems which receive only an occasional nod from the same societies that give so much attention to them.

One glaring example of man's bestial treatment of animals which so far has gone almost unnoticed by the humane societies in this country for which it might be expected to furnish ample grist for their publicity mills and fund-raising efforts is the dog hangings of Greenland (see separate article in this issue). But bad as this condition is, far greater numbers of dogs are killed with equal cruelty in the shelters and pounds--yes, even in some veterinarians' clinics--in this country.

## EUTHANASIA

One of the most important of the neglected national humane problems is euthanasia. Somewhere between 13 and 20 million dogs and cats, depending on whose estimate you accept, are destroyed in shelters and pounds each year. Our own estimate is 15 million.

This means that, on the average, every second of every working hour during every working day, two animals--dogs and cats--meet their doom in a shelter or pound somewhere in the United States. These animals are every bit as appealing and deserving as the baby seals, and outnumber the latter about a hundred to one. And they suffer much more in death than do the baby seals.

In some cases--perhaps a fifth of the total--the final moments for these 15 million dogs and cats are comparatively peaceful and painless. The remainder go through varying degrees of mental trauma and physical suffering which in some cases might be compared with Dante's *Inferno*.

## DANTE'S INFERNO

If this sounds to you like an over-emotional claim not based on facts, please consider the following examples.

In some cases the doomed animals are

having a connection to a hose from the exhaust pipe of a truck or automobile. The exhaust has a very high temperature, and the drum may get so hot it would burn a finger placed on the metal. The drum is filled with noxious fumes as well as the carbon monoxide which eventually kills the animal. Some humane society shelters are said to destroy some of the stray animals by piping the exhaust gas directly to airtight cages on the truck that makes the pickup. A mobile execution chamber! Very convenient--and inhumane. It has been many years since we read Dante's *Inferno*, but we do not recall that it sounded much worse than this.

## THE TOP-OPENING BOX

Now let's look in on another humane society shelter that also kills the unwanted animals with carbon monoxide. We have seen, with our own eyes, a large top-opening box in which the dead animals are left, one on top of the other in neat rows, like sardines stuffed in a can. The box may be emptied only once or twice weekly when it becomes full, at least during cold weather! Actually, such a CO box has its good points. This arrangement minimizes loss of the carbon monoxide gas between uses. The box already has some concentration of the gas in it when the animals are lowered through the top opening. If the gas is from an appropriate engine, cooled and filtered before introduction, the box is probably about as humane as many with more aesthetically acceptable disposition of the animals. In the instance in question, the gas was from a late-model automobile, which does not contain the proper concentration of carbon monoxide and takes longer for the animals to die. And the gas was not cooled or filtered. The president of the local society operating this shelter, who also happened to be a director of a large national humane society, said she considered this box to be humane, and undoubtedly it is more so than many others to be found in shelters and pounds.

## THE SPACE VEHICLE!

Let's move on now to another humane society shelter also using a carbon monoxide chamber. This is an imposing walk-in cabinet. We were told that the gas was filtered and cooled in a water tank through which it passed from an old automobile motor. Nevertheless, when the door to the chamber was opened, it belched blue and black fumes, and the attendants sprang back to get out of the way.

(See *ASHAMED*, page 2, column 1)

June, 1977

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## ASHAMED — FROM PAGE 1

We went over to the water tank and opened the bib at the bottom. What came out was something like molasses. Inquiry among the attendants elicited an estimate that the tank was emptied, and refilled with clean water, once every month or two!

Far from being grateful to us for discovering this defect in the operation of the box, the lady president appeared to be incensed, and to resent our suggestions for improving the operation.

## THE ELECTROCUTION DEVICE

On up the pike a good piece is a small public pound. It destroys the animals individually, by attaching a rusty metal clamp to the dog's lip, and another to his flank. The other end of this contraption is an ordinary electric connection which plugs into the electric current. Zzzzz... flop, kerplunk. The animal's body rises in the air and then crashes against the floor. But the current does not first pass through the animal's brain to provide immediate unconsciousness, which must take place for electrocution to be considered humane. Only the local dog warden knows how long this dastardly device has been in use at this "shelter." (Similar devices have been used for years in some processing plants to kill chinchillas, the cute little animals whose skins wind up on the back of my fair lady. But this is not so glamorous as the setting for the baby seal killing, so has received practically no attention except by a California society alerted by us.)

## THE MIRACLE DRUG

At another county shelter a "miracle drug," succinylcholine chloride, was used for "euthanasia" until recently. By this time our members should know that this drug, a synthetic curariform agent, provides probably the cruelest deaths to be found in shelters and pounds, or anywhere else, for that matter. All of the leading national humane societies finally seem to agree on this, after Humane Information Services has preached it for years, and now condemn the use of any curariform drug for so-called euthanasia.

Yet, succinylcholine chloride still is in widespread use in this country by veterinarians, shelters and pounds. One of the large veterinary supply companies sells it in quantities, and prints attractive literature extolling the merits of this drug for "euthanasia" and quoting vets in favor of it. When an officer and director of the National Association for

Humane Legislation (our sister society) had a euthanasia bill introduced in the Maine legislature, vets objected because it would, among other things, ban the use of succinylcholine chloride for killing animals.

If you should have to take your old or sick pet to a veterinarian to be put to sleep, insist on seeing what he uses for this purpose. It might very well be succinylcholine chloride, which is convenient, cheap, easy to obtain, does not require bothersome record keeping like the barbiturates, and causes paralysis, giving the totally false impression that the animal is going quietly to sleep without pain. This process is comparable in physiological effects to the hanging of dogs in Greenland, described in an accompanying article.

The particular pound referred to above is located in a county whose officials did not realize they were conducting an inhumane operation. When we sent them a strong letter and our *Report to Humanitarians Nos. 19 and 33*, giving the facts about succinylcholine chloride, they wrote saying that these articles were among the most comprehensive they had received, and that they had decided to stop using succinylcholine chloride. The local humane society worked with us to obtain this result.

## LET US KNOW

We wish that more of our members would write to us giving the methods used in their local shelters and pounds, in detail, also the full names and addresses of those in charge of the shelter, and, in the case of pounds, of the city or county commissioners.

That is the only way we can find out which ones of the thousands of shelters and pounds need our immediate attention (we do not have sufficient funds to send a field man to each shelter and pound to get this information, as we would like to do). We have repeatedly requested our readers to send us this information, and some have responded nobly, but from others—only silence. ~~Don't let this weigh on your conscience.~~ Act now!

## IOWA A BAD ONE?

Recently we heard from a member in Iowa who reported that the use of succinylcholine chloride and other inhumane methods of "euthanasia" is rampant in that State. Mrs. Edward F. Kopecky, of Cedar Rapids, we salute your dedication and drive! She intends to hold a symposium on euthanasia, for persons interested in shelters and pounds, sometime this fall, and we have furnished her with materials for this purpose.

## THE DECOMPRESSION CONTROVERSY

We have saved for our last horrible example the device used in many of the large-city and county shelters and pounds, and in some of the smaller ones. That is the "high altitude" or "rapid decompression" chamber.

This device has been the focus of most of the activity by individual humanitarians to ban inhumane methods of so-called euthanasia. But it is relatively humane compared with the ways in which dogs and cats are destroyed in many other shelters and pounds in this country.

Humane Information Services was the first (and so far the only) national society to publish a comprehensive, objective analysis of the decompression chamber. This appeared in two parts in our *Report to Humanitarians Nos. 20 and 21*, in June and September, 1972. This analysis was based on the findings of countless observations and research projects costing many millions of dollars and extending over a long period of years, reported in technical journals and books by the most eminent authorities.

Despite our repeated invitations to criticize our findings, not one person or organization has come forward with a refutation of a single sentence or paragraph in these reports. What we said in 1972 represented the weight of scientific evidence and opinion then, and still does in 1977. There is no other facet of euthanasia, or any other humane problem for that



Nobody can resist the appeal of the big eyes and white coat of a baby seal. (Photograph from *Animalia*, published by World Federation for the Protection of Animals.)

has been spent to find the truth, or about which we can speak with greater authority.

The demand for *Report Nos. 20 and 21* has been so great that despite a large over-printing we now are out of copies. A summary of these findings was given in *Report to Humanitarians No. 31* (March, 1975) and a follow-up in *Report No. 36* (June, 1976).

## NOT THE BENDS

Nearly everyone has heard about the very painful "bends" to which deep-sea divers and caisson workers are subject if they quickly reach normal atmospheric pressure after being subjected to greater than normal pressure. The bends are associated with the formation of nitrogen bubbles in the blood and other nitrogen-containing tissues of the body.

However, the bends have been found to occur after time intervals which indicate that in most or nearly all cases animals destroyed in the decompression chamber would have become unconscious before the bends would have time to set in. Because of differences in the reaction times of humans and animals, the variability within both species in time of onset of the bends and in the time required to reach unconsciousness from anoxia, as well as differences in rates of decompression arising from varying deficiencies of the equipment or its operation, nobody can be absolutely sure that unconsciousness from anoxia always occurs before the painful effects of the bends become operative.

For adult dogs, it is unlikely that any significant number suffer from the bends during decompression. But young animals, puppies and kittens resist anoxia. One investigator found that the respiratory center in the newborn animal continued to function 17 times as long as in the adult. This alone could account for the testimony of humanitarians who claim to have witnessed individual animals arising from a batch removed from the chamber after ten or 15 minutes at "high altitude."

Undoubtedly, in such cases, the surviving animals do experience pain, and perhaps even the extreme pain of the bends. Other painful effects of decompression, such as internal pressures experienced when gases cannot rapidly escape from body cavities, also would be intensified.

## YOUNG ANIMALS SUFFER

Young animals never should be destroyed in a decompression chamber. Yet, the latter comes equipped with an attached small cylinder which is decompressed right along with the big one used for adult animals, and apparently is intended for young animals as well as cats. In how many instances that you have observed have there been any other visible means of destroying these young animals, which almost surely will suffer pain when decompressed? Those

(See ASHAMED, page 4, column 1)

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# Sled Dogs in Greenland Hanged by the Neck

## And Otherwise Brutally Treated

Humanitarians will have to go a long way to find anything like the cruelty to which sled dogs in Greenland are subjected. (The nearest, probably, would be several thousand miles away in the United States, where many more thousands of dogs are killed annually in ways which have much the same effect as hanging--see article in this issue, "The Humane Movement Should Be Ashamed.")

As the reporter for England's *Sunday People* wrote, in the dramatic style common to these sensational tabloids:

*"The jaws are open in a hideous smile. But the eyes bulge with pain and terror..."*

*"Another old husky is being hanged by the neck until it is dead."*

*"It's only crime? It grew too old to work. And that's the way they end a dog's life in Greenland."*

*"It is horrific. It is cruel. For it can take more than five minutes for a dog to die at the end of the rope."*

*"I watched revolted as the creature fought for life, convulsing for five or six minutes before death...The dog clawed frantically with its forepaws in attempts to escape from the noose, jerking and rotating, its eyes bulging."*

*"Hanging is a commonplace thing in Greenland. That is the way they put their dogs to death."*

And the reason for this barbaric practice? *"They hang their dogs so that the fur will stand out during the death struggle--literally in hair-raising agony. The skins of dogs killed in this way, with long raised hairs, are warmer and thus more valuable than ones with flat hairs."*

But even this hanging until death does not satisfy those with a nice regard for the finer points of pelt improvement. Some are said to hang the dog until uncon-

scious, then lower him to the ground, wait until the animal regains consciousness, then hang him again. This may be repeated--three, four or even five times. Each hanging is believed to make the hairs stand out more, and in different directions.

But that is not all. Six-month-old puppies destined to become sled dogs are hanged until unconscious, after which their eyeteeth are knocked out with a hammer. This prevents the dogs from later injuring themselves in fighting, from biting their harnesses, and possibly from biting their handlers. Thus, hanging in effect is used as a convenient way of providing "anesthesia" for the tooth extractions!

During the summer months the mature dogs are tethered in the surrounding meadows with steel chains about four yards long. The dogs remain so chained until winter snows fall, being fed usually once a week with dried fish. They become so hungry that they may kill and eat people who are not careful in approaching them.

Some of the dogs get loose and roam the streets of nearby villages and towns. Police shoot them on sight, a relatively merciful end.

The Greenland sled dogs are used only for pulling, and are almost never kept as pets. To the Greenlander, the dogs are merely motor power, akin to a gasoline-driven snowmobile. The fact that they are cruel to the dogs never seems to enter their minds. They are utterly insensitive to dogs as living creatures.

The almost incomprehensible part of this situation is that Greenland is under the political jurisdiction of Denmark, one of the most advanced countries in the world from the standpoint of treatment of



(Photograph from *Sunday People*.)

animals. Why does not Denmark do something about it? First, the Greenland authorities deny that dog hangings and the other practices described by the *Sunday People* are more than isolated instances, despite an impressive array of evidence presented by the reporters. And, secondly, the Greenlanders are an independent, stalwart kind of people, and no doubt would not take kindly to being told by Denmark how to conduct their daily lives. Mass protests have occurred in Denmark by humane organizations there, and if anything can be done to halt the practices cited, Denmark is likely to do it.

Our main reason for running this article is not to promote action by American humanitarians, which probably would amount to little more than the usual form of boondoggling anyway. What we want to do is point out that the baby seal kill is only one of many instances in this broad world of animal abuse, and that we could spend all of our time as humanitarians running from one thing like this to another, merely because they represent conditions which are easily sensationalized. Meanwhile, far greater numbers of animals are abused in equally reprehensible ways, right here under our own noses in the United States, even in our own humane society shelters and publicly-operated pounds. The Greenlanders are not the only people who are "insensitive to dogs as living creatures."

(We are indebted to Mrs. Harry Hunt, president of the Society for Humane Legislation, Inc., Pewaukee, Wisconsin, for a copy of the article from the *Sunday People*. Lucille is one of our long-time members, and we admire the zeal with which she attacks all kinds of cruelty to animals.)

### RODEOS BANNED — FROM PAGE 5 —

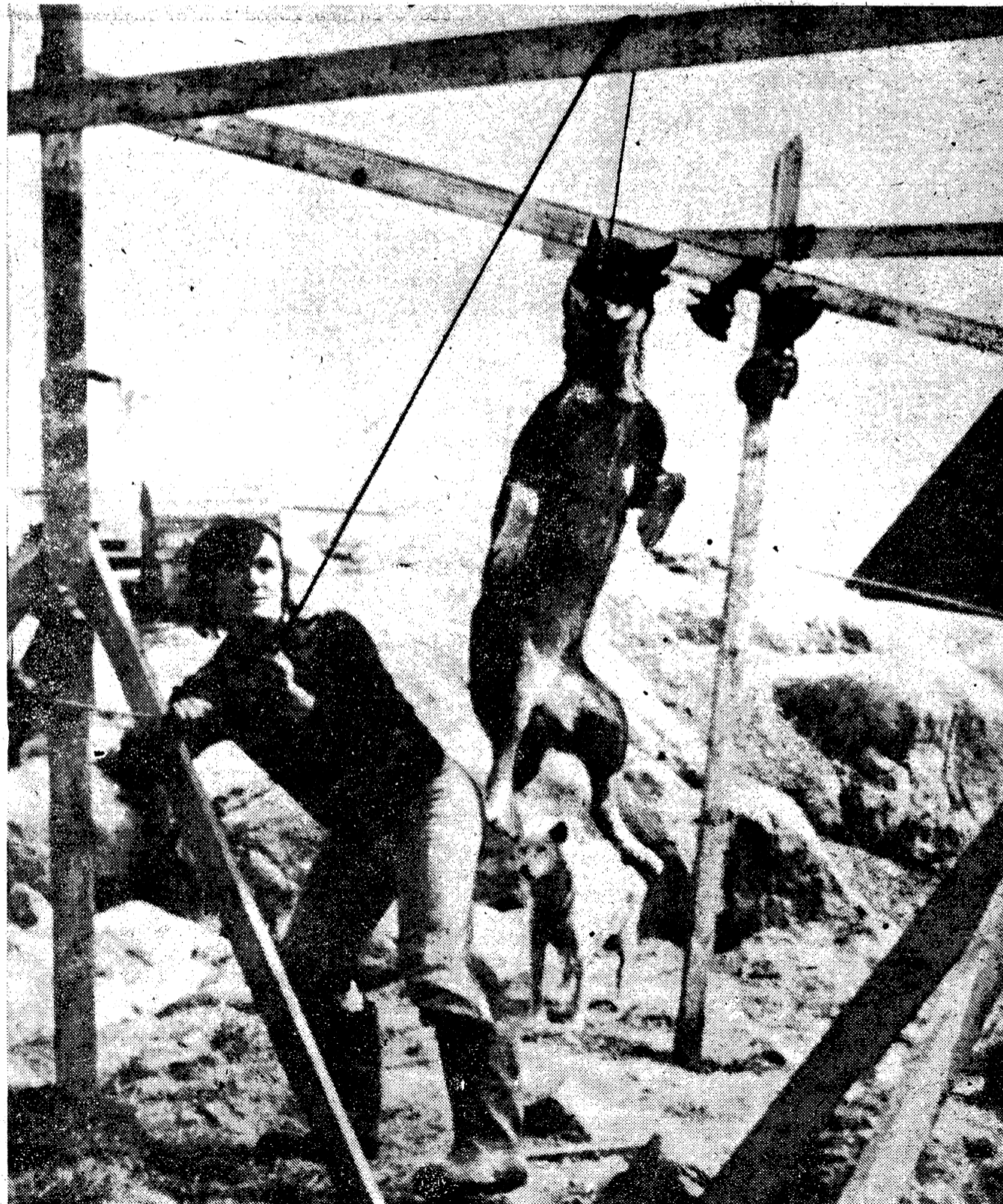
are naturally different from ours.

Perhaps we could use the same type of approach in combatting the opinions of veterinarians on many other subjects, such as euthanasia. The vet who defends the use of succinylcholine chloride as humane because it works so rapidly is no more capable of making such a decision than a layman who says it is inhumane because the pain, although for a short time, is intense. The difference in interpretation necessarily is subjective, once the physical effects of the drug are known. And one person's interpretation is just as good as another's.

The vet's authoritarian public image in such matters will lose much of its glamour if these points are forcefully called to the attention of others.

\* \* \*

As we go to press, an attempt is being made by rodeo backers to persuade Council to rescind its decision to ban rodeos in St. Petersburg. This effort is not expected to succeed. An agreement already had been made by the City for a rodeo next February, but the Council will try to ab-



## ASHAMED — FROM PAGE 2

who defend the decompression chamber should answer that question.

## ADULT DOGS AND CATS

For adult dogs and cats, decompression is inhumane for animals having obstructions in the passages which are supposed to vent the different body cavities when the ambient air pressure is reduced. An obstruction would prevent the escape of the gas confined in the cavity. As the pressure in the chamber is reduced (i.e., as the degree of vacuum is increased), the trapped gases in the cavities automatically attempt to equalize the pressure inside and outside by escaping. In doing so, painful pressures may be brought to bear on that part of the anatomical structure involved.

The board chairman of a national humane society has stated, in a letter written in October, 1976, that "The air is not sucked out of the lungs of animals" killed in the decompression chamber. He should have seen one of the TV and movie films in which the outer skin of a pressurized airplane cabin has been ruptured, resulting in a powerful suction taking with it any unattached objects. From this, some idea may be obtained of the powerful suction of air from the body organs of the animals being decompressed, and the resulting tremendous pressures exerted on these organs if the air passages are blocked. Really painful. But most of these passages normally are open, and pressures within and without the body are quickly equalized.

The most likely blockage of air passages in the animals' bodies is of the sinus openings and eustachian tubes. These are designed by nature to vent the cavities of the sinuses and inner ears. But if the animal's tubes are wholly or partially blocked as a result of mucous or catarrh, the air pressure in the cavity cannot be equalized with the decreasing pressure within the chamber, and the resulting tremendous pressure on the sinus cavities and the eardrums will produce intense pain.

About these facts there can be no rational argument. The only legitimate debatable question is with regard to the proportion of adult dogs and cats with blocked sinuses and eustachian tubes. Based on evidence contained in *Report to Humanitarians No. 31*, Humane Information Services contends that a substantial proportion of the cats and dogs brought in to shelters and pounds do have occluded eustachian tubes. And these animals do experience pain during decompression.

## DEFENDERS OF DECOMPRESSION

One of our more active members, Mrs. Fred B. Johnston, II, of Columbia, South Carolina, recently wrote to us about her campaign to prevent use of a new decompression chamber purchased by the County:

*"A Councilman asked if I had contacted local vets for their opinions on the subject and suggested that he would be willing to bring the matter up again before Council if I could get testimony from local, known vets, against the use of decompression and curariform drugs. I plan to start a survey next week, and can only hope the local vets are aware of the problems attendant to the decompression method and do not have as their only reference the 1972 AVMA report."*

We hope that Mrs. Johnston will succeed in this quest, but we are not too sanguine. By and large, the vets defend the decompression chamber, as indicated by the AVMA report, which was prepared by a committee which did no research and seemed unfamiliar with the array of scientific evidence available in our reports.

We have talked with veterinarians and others who defend the decompression chambers, and none has denied that at least some of the animals destroyed in shelters and pounds do have occlusions of the eustachian tubes. But one veterinarian employed by a large national society claimed this to be "only about one percent." To us, that is nonsense. If you don't agree with us, reread *Report No. 31*. But even one percent would amount to many thousands of animals during the course of a year

humane movement should be interested in finding and using only methods of "euthanasia" which are as painless as possible. We might expect some paid managers or employees of humane society shelters and public pounds to be more concerned with convenience, costs of operation and volume of business than with the humaneness of their operation. That is why so many of them fight against efforts to require sterilization of all animals adopted out of the shelters. They believe it would reduce their "volume of business." Likewise, they don't shy away from the possibility that "euthanasia" may be painful for a few seconds or minutes. "The animals have to die, anyway, so what difference can a few seconds make?" Well, it does make a big difference to Humane Information Services, and to most animal lovers who understand the problem. An animal can suffer a lot in only a few seconds, not to mention a few minutes.

And veterinarians, experience has taught us, frequently seem to be as hardened to suffering as the professional managers. They know who butters their bread, who stands behind them in opposition to low-cost spay clinics, who is against the "emotional little old ladies" whose ideas sometimes get in their hair. So they listen to the old-line shelter managers who resist conversion to a less inhumane method of euthanasia. We believe this is one reason for the 1972 AVMA committee report approving decompression, and indeed for the AVMA's action in appointing the committee in the first place. Humane Information Services had stirred up a lot of sentiment against decompression and other inhumane methods of euthanasia. What better defense than to persuade the AVMA to come out with an endorsement?

The vets learn little or nothing about euthanasia methods in vet school, and their professors seem to take lightly the possibilities of pain from any condition if it is of short duration. In his daily practice the vet deals constantly with pain, unavoidably creating much of it. He inevitably becomes hardened to pain. How can we expect him to become excited about the brief period of an animal's suffering in meeting its end? Of course, there are some admirable exceptions.

We at Humane Information Services think we really understand these conditions which make it possible for many respectable people engaged in animal businesses for remuneration to defend the decompression chamber. The latter is easy to use, and personnel involvement with death is the least possible. We can understand why they may think we who are concerned about the suffering of animals destroyed in the decompression chambers are either "animal nuts" who can't look at the thing rationally, or mountebanks trying to take advantage of emotional old ladies with money.

Regardless of the reasons, it is a fact that paid employees of the larger humane society shelters, and the staff of the American Humane Association (AHA), with which many of them are affiliated, as well as the large public pounds, aggressively defend the decompression chamber. Thus, we have the sorry spectacle of big humane society staff members appearing at legislative hearings and society board meetings giving testimony defending the decompression chamber, directly contradicting the testimony of other humanitarians and societies. Who is the legislative committee or society board of directors to believe?

If the defenders would respond directly to the specific points raised by those who wish to stop use of the chamber, debate the question in a rational manner, and look at all of the scientific evidence, there might be some chance of reaching common ground. At least, the humane movement would not be made to look like a conglomeration of squabbling, ignorant and over-emotional busybodies.

For, make no mistake, the defenders are just as emotional about it as the critics of the chamber whom they accuse of emotionalism. They are "defending their young," and in doing so will resort to all the tricks of the debater. They raise straw men and knock them down, even though no informed critic of the chambers has ev-

They cite only selected facts and scientific opinions which support their own position, never examining the evidence objectively. They claim that *"It is my understanding that no other (than the AHA) organization, whether national or local, has been willing to spend the time or money to study these four various methods of euthanasia to insure that they are humane"!!*

The major defenses they offer have little or nothing to do with the real questions involved. Yet, to the uninitiated, their arguments frequently sound plausible. We suspect that most of the efforts to ban the decompression chamber which have succeeded can attribute this success to political expediency rather than to convinced minds. The arguments of the defenders sound so "scientific." Those who have voted to ban the chamber probably were, in most cases, merely bowing to what they considered to be uninformed public opinion.

## "SAVE-A-LIFERS"

What we cannot understand is how and why so many members, directors and unpaid officers of humane societies, and the general animal-loving public, should seem to be so indifferent to the suffering by millions of dogs and cats during "euthanasia," but get so excited and contribute so much money to "save the baby seals," "save the wild burros," "save the wolves," "save the starlings," etc.

Undoubtedly this reflects mainly the "save-a-life" complex which motivates so many humanitarians. The baby seals, they hope, may be saved from death, but the baby kittens will be dead soon no matter what method of euthanasia is used.

This is of the same genre as such "save-a-life" phenomena as the kindhearted old lady who harbors 50 cats in her home under extremely unsanitary and inhumane conditions. So long as she doesn't have to destroy them, everything is fine. At various times in the past we have inveighed against these fanatical "save-a-lifers," who probably do more harm than good to animals.

But there are others, not dyed-in-the-wool "save-a-lifers," who still will get all excited about the baby seals but not about euthanasia methods. They are the kind of animal lovers who react rather than think. They see a newspaper ad showing a picture of a baby seal and urging the reader to send in a generous contribution "to save the baby seals." Or, they read an article in a paper or magazine, or see a picture on TV of Brigitte Bardot hugging a limpid-eyed baby seal. The emotional circumstances are just too much for this kind person, who fires off a check for \$25 to the rip-off artist who is out to take advantage of just such altruistic motives.

Now, if this same animal lover receives a *Report to Humanitarians* dealing with euthanasia, the subject depresses her. It is much more technical and hard to understand than just writing a letter to the Canadian ambassador urging him to have his government ban the killing of seals. And the *Report* urges her to find out what methods of euthanasia are used in the local shelter or pound. Ugh! The manager might not appreciate such an inquiry, and the more kindhearted people are, the less inclined they are to stand up in confrontation. So, she fires off a nice letter to Humane Information Services, enclosing a check for \$2, complimenting us on what we are doing for the animals, and suggesting that we also do something to save the baby seals!

Result? Several millions of dollars contributed "to save the baby seals" and a few other kinds of animals, but a comparatively negligible amount to reduce the pain and suffering of a hundred times more animals destroyed in the "euthanasia" chambers. We know.

Humane Information Services has done more than all other national societies combined to awaken the humane movement to the cruelties of "euthanasia," and to effect actual improvement in these conditions. We can prove it. And this is only one of many productive humane programs we are pushing. But we will take in less

# Rodeos Banned in St. Petersburg

## Some Lessons For Humanitarians

On May 19, 1977, the St. Petersburg (Florida) City Council banned rodeo from St. Petersburg. And thereby hangs a tale which should be of interest to every humanitarian who takes part in or financially supports efforts to obtain legislation or administrative action for animal welfare.

The City of St. Petersburg has an imposing auditorium, the Bayfront Center, which costs a great deal of money to maintain. The City also wants to provide tourists with entertainment. So, it contracted with a promoter to put on a rodeo each year, beginning in 1975. The two rodeos held thus far have netted the City about \$15,000, and the City Manager's office naturally has been extremely reluctant to forego this financial lollipop.

In 1975 the National Association for Humane Legislation (our sister society) with the aid of a few individual animal lovers, conducted a vigorous campaign to persuade City Council to change its mind and not sanction the rodeo. All avenues of publicity were used. The Rodeo Cowboys Association considered this to be a test case, and sent its highest official to lead the counteroffensive. A representative of the County veterinarians association and the veterinarian for the SPCA of St. Petersburg pronounced a benediction over the rodeo, which they called humane. The American Humane Association (AHA) supervises the rodeo. In the face of such opposition, even with the extensive coverage given by the press and TV, the opponents could not prevail. Council voted to continue the rodeo (for details, see *Report to Humanitarians No. 34*; December, 1975).

A few individual humanitarians opposed the rodeo again in 1976, but received little consideration by Council. As we had said in our *Report No. 34*, it appeared that it was a waste of time to try to get the rodeo banned, so long as veterinarians, the AHA, and the local SPCA seemed to support the enterprise. The SPCA sent a letter to Council after the fight was over, saying they did not support rodeo, but the damage had been done.

So, when some local humanitarians suggested that Humane Information Services lead another campaign against the rodeo in 1977, we decided that unless all the local humane organizations would join the fight, it would be a waste of our time and energies. The SPCA did not respond to overtures. So, we considered the matter dead.

But two persistent females refused to lie down and play dead. Joan Jenrich kept the issue alive by writing letters to the local papers and the Mayor. Greta Bunting kept badgering members of Council, and insisted that Dr. Thomsen ("Doc"), president of Humane Information Services, appear before Council one more time. Meanwhile, several women had been elected to Council, making the situation a little more hopeful. So Doc consented to do so.

The result is indicated in the portion shown on this page of a newspaper article which appeared after the Council session. We won!

Doc got all the credit on TV and in the press. No doubt if he had not appeared, the rodeo would still be with us. A catalyst was needed. But Doc doesn't kid himself. What really won the battle was the persistence of the two ladies, and the "nuisance value" of Greta Bunting in badgering Council members over the telephone. As one Councilman told a reporter friend of Doc's, "We had to get those people off our backs."

Although this little episode in the constant, and usually unsuccessful, fight against cruel entertainment is mainly a demonstration of the value of persistent, unrelenting effort, it also holds some other valuable lessons for humanitarians:

(1) *The usual approaches in such efforts, based on publicity, demonstrations, exaggerated claims and emotionally-charged speeches may not work as well as more businesslike methods.*

phlets on rodeo published by another humane society which are based on the findings of investigations of rodeos in a few Western states which are not at all typical of those held in other parts of the country. The Rodeo Cowboys Association had no difficulty in shooting down these pamphlets as inaccurate, and by doing so it impaired the credibility of all the other, legitimate criticisms of rodeo. Exaggerations and misstatements of fact hurt rather than help any cause. Humane literature which describes those we are trying to persuade as callous, cruel, etc., may please animal lovers and bring the society more members and contributions, but is not effective in promoting our cause with others. The fact is that most of the people concerned really do not think that rodeo is inhumane. We do not gain anything by calling them names.

This is illustrated by the great difference between the ordinary humane society rodeo literature and the brief talk made by Doc before City Council. This is worth careful reading by those who appear before legislative or administrative bodies, and is given below:

"The only real question before you: Is or is not the rodeo humane?"

"Some people say it is, some say it is not. I notice that those who defend the rodeo mostly seem to have or have had some financial or personal interest involved.

"So where can we turn for a strictly unbiased, objective opinion?"

"Webster's dictionary, of course. The dictionary says that 'inhumane' means 'not humane.' And it defines 'humane' as follows: 'Marked by compassion, sympathy or consideration for other human beings or animals.'

"Is the cowboy who violently twists the tails of small calves to make them enter the chute, and later to bolt from the chute, showing 'compassion, sympathy or consideration'? What would you say to somebody you caught violently twisting the tail of your dog?"

"And the rodeo promoter who puts a really mean, vicious horse, made that way by ill-treatment from humans, in a corral with other closely-packed horses, where it bites and kicks its pen mates, is he showing compassion, sympathy and consideration? Would you let someone put your horse in that corral?"

"Is the cowboy who pulls as tight as possible the flank strap which goes around the most sensitive part of the anatomy showing compassion? When I appeared before Council two years ago, I asked if any member of Council would permit me to pull his belt as tight as possible. None volunteered, not even Councilman McCormick, who said it did not hurt the animal.

"Is the cowboy who throws a rope around the neck of a little calf, upending the animal and crashing it to the ground, compassionate and considerate? Would you permit some would-be cowboy to treat your dog that way?"

"Is a city council which gives its stamp of approval to such acts compassionate, sympathetic and considerate?"

"No, it is inhumane! By dictionary definition. And it is so considered by thousands of the people of St. Petersburg. One former member of this Council who contemptuously made light of the suffering of animals in the rodeo now should know that. Animal lovers do not forget. They didn't forget him!"

"Now we have a new Council. By Webster's definition, the rodeo is not humane. But I firmly believe that the present Council is humane, and that you will

another rodeo to be held in Bayfront Center."

(2) *Another important lesson to be learned from this experience is how to deal with the opinions of veterinarians in such matters. Please understand, we are not down on vets, are not fighting them, as some of our members would like us to do. We disagree with them about spay and neuter clinics and a number of other subjects important to humanitarians. We find vets to be one of the most important roadblocks to improvement in euthanasia in*

St. Petersburg Independent Saturday, May 21, 1977

## He Won A Battle To Ban Rodeos

MARK ALBRIGHT  
Staff Writer

After three years of cajoling and arguing, Dr. Frederick Thomsen has finally persuaded the City Council to ban rodeos from the Bayfront Center.

"I think what made the difference this time," the articulate 78-year-old Thomsen mused after his victory Thursday, "was this year I pulled out Webster's definition of 'inhumane'. I have a feeling the council may not have known what inhumane meant before."

But some councilmen figured otherwise. It was when the council was told that the last two rodeos held at the Bayfront netted



Dr. Frederick Thomsen against rodeos.

shelters and pounds (for example, in Maine they have fought a good euthanasia bill partly because some of them wish to continue using and recommending the cruel drug succinylcholine chloride).

But vets are necessary for many aspects of humane work, and there is no point in getting completely at odds with them. Rodeo is one example.

Vets are accustomed to seeing livestock manhandled in production, transportation, marketing and slaughter. The animals are, in a sense, economic entities, the property of some human to do with as he wants. Unless the animal is really brutally treated, resulting in discernible physical injury, he sees nothing wrong in all this. What goes on in a rodeo is similar in many or most aspects to what goes on in the utilization of livestock for other purposes. To these vets, the test of whether or not the rodeo is humane is whether or not there is physical injury to the animal. No account is taken of the trauma suffered by the animal.

The difference between humanitarians and veterinarians with respect to the humaneness of rodeo is a matter of subjective judgment. Both see the same things happening to the animals. According to the veterinarians' definition of "inhumane," the rodeo is not such. The humanitarian simply has a different set of subjective standards, a different definition.

Because of the respected position of the veterinarian as a professional expert in regard to the physical effects on animals of different conditions, the veterinarians' opinions of the humaneness of rodeo are sought and accepted by promoters, public officials and others, although actually the vet is no better equipped to render such an opinion than is a concerned layman. They probably would agree on what happens to the animal; what they do not agree on is the significance of this in reference to the definition of humaneness.

That is why Doc turned to the dictionary for his definition. If there is anything more acceptable to the general public than the opinion of a doctor or veterinarian, it is the definition of a dictionary! And by the dictionary's definition of "inhumane," anyone must admit that this term applies to a rodeo.

So, Humane Information Services recommends resort to this approach, rather than the elusive search for some kindhearted veterinarians to give testimony offsetting that of the vets hired by the animal-using industries whose definitions of humaneness

## DOLPHIN-KILLING TUNA INDUSTRY AT IT AGAIN!

As we go to press it appears that a renewed effort by the tuna fishing industry to continue killing the dolphins may succeed.

The \$500-million, 140-vessel tuna fishing fleet, after being laid up in port for months protesting the government's restrictions on killing dolphins, suddenly put to sea, apparently after receiving assurances from Congressman John M. Murphy, of New York, that he had the votes to assure House approval by June 1 of his bill, hastily introduced, to liberalize the porpoise quota.

His way of fulfilling this pledge was to introduce H.R. 6970 and persuade the full committee of which he is chairman to "mark-up" the bill after only a few hours of consideration, and without opportunity for humane societies and other members of Congress to offer amendments. Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., of California, proposed five hastily-drafted amendments to the bill which would have greatly modified the adverse effects of the Murphy bill, but as this is written the whole matter is so confused that nobody seems to know the final language of the bill. The whole objective seems to be to rush through this legislation before the public, including humane societies, knows what is going on. Humanitarians have wondered why they never can seem to elicit comparable speed in consideration of humane legislation!

Senator Warren Magnuson, of Washington, has introduced another bill suggested by the Carter Administration, S. 1550, which contains provisions which are similar to those of the amendments proposed in the House by Congressman McCloskey.

The final result of all this should be known soon, too late for our sister society, the National Association for Humane Legislation, to get out a bulletin suggesting letters by its members.

As indicated in the lead article in this issue, Humane Information Services has not been enthusiastic about humane societies spending so much money and time in fighting to save the lives of comparatively small numbers of animals which have received so much publicity in recent years, while neglecting far more important sources of animal suffering right here in our own backyards. But we believe we have

made it plain in the past that this does not apply to the dolphins destroyed in tuna fishing.

Dolphins (porpoises) are very intelligent animals (see article, "Why People are Cruel to Animals," in *Report to Humanitarians* No. 32; June, 1975), with a highly-developed nervous system. If there are any animals that deserve our sympathy and

help, they are the dolphins. Aside from this, their destruction in tuna fishing is unnecessary, since the fishing boats could use small-mesh nets and other methods which would not injure the dolphins. Cost considerations should not enter into such a decision. What price cruelty? The almighty dollar nearly always seems to win out over humane considerations, in the operation of tuna boats as well as in the operation of pet animal shelters by humane societies.

## "GUARD DOGS" FOR INDIVIDUALS

The tremendous increase in home burglaries, rapes, vandalism and other crimes committed against persons while at home has caused many people to seek protection by keeping a dog on the premises.

A common term applied to such animals is "guard dog." This is a misnomer. To avoid confusion, this term should be applied only to dogs that have been carefully selected and professionally trained, and which are used by professionals who know how the dog should be handled and cared for.

Guard dogs are used by the police canine corps, by professionally-operated guard dog services which in effect "rent" the dogs to business establishments and other private clients, and by those individuals or companies operating estates or other establishments large enough to warrant having their own guard dog kennels.

Conditions under which these professional guard dogs are kept and used, with the exception of those owned by police, frequently are far from being humane. *Report to Humanitarians* will have an analysis of this problem in a future issue. This article is about dogs owned by ordinary householders living in private homes or apartments, primarily to provide protection against criminals.

The acquisition of a dog for this purpose frequently results in great disappointment, expense and other problems which were not anticipated when the householder made the decision. To avoid these unhappy results, some definite precautions must be taken.

First, the householder should investigate before acting, not afterwards. Many people make the decision to take on the responsibility of a "guard dog" on the spur of the moment, after reading about some householder being attacked or robbed, or when they are offered a dog or puppy by somebody in the neighborhood, or when they see a puppy in the pet shop window, or read a classified ad offering to sell or give away a dog. "Ideal for protecting you and your home against criminals," the pet shop salesman may say.

Second, the householder should understand in advance the responsibilities and expenses of dog ownership. Ownership of a dog is no longer a simple matter of "adopting" or buying the animal, providing a place for it to stay in the garage or some makeshift doghouse, and throwing the table scraps into a pan for the dog instead of into the garbage can.

Canned or dry dog food costs a lot of money over a year. And the accumulating costs of maintaining a dog mean that a respectable sum is soon invested in him.

In the old days, if the dog got sick and died, the owner might have shrugged his shoulders and taken in another. Now, if he wants to protect his investment, he takes him to the vet, for all kinds of things from rabies shots, to injections to

provide immunization against different diseases, to having the dog's teeth cleaned. Yes, even the dog must have his teeth cleaned and checked (at a cost of perhaps \$20 a year), or else he might soon have no fangs to sink into the flesh of a burglar!

And the dog can't just be let out at night to roam the neighborhood. That is against the law in most places. So he must be provided with a house in the yard, or be kept in the garage (if his owner is that hardhearted). If the garage is not heated, or if the doghouse does not give suitable protection against the weather, the dog's owner may find himself with not only a guilty conscience but also a visit from a humane officer following complaints from the neighbors.

If the dog is permitted to run loose in the daytime, he is not giving the protection his owner sought. The dog may be picked up as a stray (it costs perhaps \$10 to reclaim him). So, his owner chains him to the doghouse or keeps him confined to the toolshed (with cruel disregard about how the dog feels). But a burglar "casing" the place is not afraid of a dog on a short chain, or kept in the garage. He simply enters by a door or window on the other side of the house.

Sooner or later the owner will probably decide to fence in his yard completely, and let the dog loose in it. The first time the gate is opened, the dog bolts out and is lost to the dogcatcher or is finally found five blocks away wooing some female dog in heat.

If the animal really is a "guard dog," he intimidates legitimate visitors, makes the householder lug the garbage can to the curb, and isolates his owner's home from friends and neighbors. Sooner or later some child or adult is likely to get bitten. And do those lawyers charge for defending damage suits! And does it cost to have the dog impounded to see if rabies develops!

For those living in an apartment, the "guard dog" type can be an even bigger headache. One cannot rely on "paper training" for a big dog, or expect him to remain 24 hours a day in an apartment. So, the dog must be walked several times a day, unless his owner doesn't mind him suffering for hours from a full bladder! Walking a dog changes from a pleasure to a terrible grind after a very short time, if he is only a protection against criminals and not a source of companionship and love.

These are only a few of the things that must be entered on the debit side of the owner's ledger to balance the credit side representing some degree of personal protection against crime. Those who know about such things say the debits, both personal and financial, are likely to far exceed the credits. Better by far for the householder to put his hard-earned money

(See GUARD DOGS, page 8, column 1)

### OPPORTUNITIES IN HUMANE WORK

Want a job with a humane society located in Florida? If so, please send complete details: your full name and address, telephone number including area code, age, marital status, education, employment record, typing accuracy and speed, membership (if any) in humane societies, what humane work (if any) you have done, salary you expect, and what kind of a job you are most interested in. Write: Humane Information Services, Personnel, 4495 Ninth Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33713.

We are sorry, but because of the large amount of mail we receive it will be impossible to return any of these materials unless you enclose a sufficiently large, self-addressed, fully-stamped envelope. No information about the openings can be furnished except to those selected for further correspondence.

### ASHAMED — FROM PAGE 4 —

money from our members for these vital purposes over the period of a lifetime than just one of these "save-a-life" organizations does in a year!

Please do not get the idea from this article that we are just a jealous, backbiting group which has failed, and is taking this out on our competitors for the animal lovers' contributions. On the contrary: we have succeeded in our work far beyond our original expectations. We believe we are accomplishing as much or more to reduce animals suffering than any other national humane society. Our mailing list

humane movement, has reached nearly 19,000, and is constantly growing. We are expanding our staff, and expect to be doing even more in the future.

We raise these questions and expose these conditions not to point a finger at any other organization, but because we firmly believe that the only thing keeping the humane movement from far greater accomplishment is that the fine people who compose it tend to react rather than to become informed and think for themselves.

At least, fellow humanitarians, let's really get behind this campaign to make "euthanasia" what the term implies. Let's

love. Don't just feel sorry for them. Act! If we really wanted to, we could eliminate inhumane destruction of millions of dogs and cats. If we don't, and soon, the humane movement should be ashamed of itself. How can we continue to criticize the Canadian fishermen for killing baby seals if we do little or nothing to halt the cruel killing of far more animals in our own shelters and pounds?

In a future issue we will have as complete as possible a rundown on all of the methods of euthanasia which are possible alternatives to the bad kinds referred to in this article. Be sure to read it care-

# Humane Slaughter Bill Progressing

The "Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1977," otherwise known as the Brown bill, H.R. 1464, is expected to be considered at hearings of the House Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains sometime this summer. Chances of a favorable mark-up by the Subcommittee, and later by the full Committee, appear good. The Committees have been getting a good volume of mail in favor of the bill, although more is needed. Full details about how to write were given in *Report to Humanitarians* No. 39. Copies still are available from Humane Information Services.

A few other societies, including the Humane Society of the United States and the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, have given considerable attention to this bill, but much of the humane movement has ignored it, or given such brief mention as to do little or no good.

According to the office of Congressman George E. Brown, Jr., of California, the bill's sponsor, the two things that now seem to offer the greatest obstacles to final passage of the bill are:

(1) By the time the House (hopefully) acts on the bill, it might be too late for Senate action this year. The National Association for Humane Legislation (our sister society), as well as the office of Congressman Brown, has been seeking a Senate sponsor of a companion bill which could be at least considered by the Senate Agriculture Committee preceding passage by

the House, thus shortening the total time required.

The Senate sponsor should be someone who is a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, who is individually influential among his colleagues, who comes from a state which is important agriculturally, and who knows enough about the subject matter to become quickly informed and to effectively present the need for this legislation. New York, New Jersey, any mid-Western, Southwestern, Great Plains or Mountain state would be good for this purpose. Senator Hubert Humphrey would be a logical candidate for sponsor of the bill, but he already has such a full program and is so burdened by well-publicized health problems that it is doubtful he will accept this additional responsibility.

Dr. Frederick L. Thomsen, a registered lobbyist for the National Association for Humane Legislation, called at the offices of a number of Senators last winter, but found none who wished to sponsor the bill. They all felt they were too busy with their own pet legislative programs and other important proposed legislation such as appears in the daily news dispatches from Washington.

This is where our members may be able to help. If any received an especially favorable reply from a Senator meeting the above requirements, it is urgently requested that such letter, or a copy, be sent to the National Association for Hu-

mane Legislation, Inc., 675 Pinellas Point Drive South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33705. If you have not yet written to the two Senators from your state, now would be a most propitious time to do so.

(2) The only real opposition to the bill so far, other than plain inertia, has come from kosher packers who move indirectly through the Orthodox Jewish rabbis who are a part of the kosher trade in meat and other foods. This kind of opposition is hard to pin down. It usually consists of a word quietly dropped to the leaders of some Jewish organization, or to a Congressman from the same state. These, in turn, quietly let it be known to members of the Congressional committee.

Actually, any such opposition, if it exists, is based upon lack of understanding of the provisions of the bill as they would affect kosher slaughter. Ritual slaughter would not be affected in any way.

But some of the kosher slaughtering plants also do non-kosher slaughter. Would this require great changes in the slaughtering line, adding to costs or preventing these plants from engaging in non-kosher slaughter for the gentile trade? In response to a request received from the office of Congressman Brown, we have made an analysis of the problem.

If any of our members should run across objections to the bill based on a misunderstanding of these questions, we hope they will provide the answers given below.

## Answers to Questions About the Effects of the Brown Bill, H.R. 1464, on Kosher Slaughtering Plants

Question 1: *If a plant is engaged in both ritual and non-ritual slaughter, would it have to change its operations in any way, and, if so, what would be the effects on costs of operation?*

Some large packing plants, including one in Iowa, do a large amount of business in both kosher and non-kosher meats. They are under federal inspection, and also sell meat products to federal government agencies. The ritual and non-ritual slaughter is kept entirely separate, with the former unaffected by the federal humane slaughter act of 1958, which exempts all phases of ritual slaughter from the provisions of the act. The non-kosher slaughter at this plant, however, must conform to the act in exactly the same way and for exactly the same reasons as the operations of a similar plant that sells meat to the federal government but does no ritual slaughtering. The Brown bill, when passed, will not affect the operations of this plant, with respect to either ritual or non-ritual slaughter.

Question 2: *A smaller plant located in a Northeastern state also sells meat to both kosher and non-kosher trades, but not to any federal government agency, hence does not now come under the provisions of the 1958 federal act. It runs all of the animals slaughtered through the same slaughtering line, shackling and hoisting the conscious animals whether they be for ritual or non-ritual slaughter. The only difference is that when the animals for ritual slaughter reach the point where they are to be cut and bled out, the cut is made by the shochet, and the carcasses are processed in accordance with the kashrut ritual. For the non-kosher part of the slaughter there is substituted for the shochet a slaughterman with no religious qualifications, since the shochet can slaughter only animals to be treated as kosher. The remaining, expensive operations of the kashrut, involving several workers under the supervision of the "mashgihim," are dispensed with.*

When the Brown bill becomes law, the ritual slaughtering operations of this plant will not be affected in any way. The animals will continue to be shackled and hoisted while conscious. But for the non-kosher portion of the plant's slaughter the use of some approved device for rendering the animals unconscious before shackling and hoisting will be required.

This additional operation, it is believed, can be done without additional help, by the same worker who does the shackling. This might require the use of an inexpensive enclosure making it easy for the worker to use the captive bolt pistol or other stunning device. However, it must be kept in mind that the actual shackling of the animal will be made easier and less time consuming when the animal is unconscious. But even if an additional worker is required to do the stunning, this plant would be on an even competitive footing in its non-kosher sales with non-kosher plants, which also would be required to stun the animals before shackling and hoisting.

*through the ritual slaughter process, including the cut by the shochet and the ministrations of the kashrut, then later sell a few of the carcasses into the gentile trade, together with carcasses rejected for the kosher trade as "trafe" for various reasons such as prior injury to the animal, and with portions of the kosher carcasses consisting of those parts that are not deveined or otherwise processed through the full kashrut because of cost considerations. Ordinarily, the rear half of the kosher carcass goes into the gentile trade.*

What effect would the Brown bill have on such a plant? Presumably none so far as the carcasses, or portions of carcasses, of animals killed by the ritual cut but rejected for the kosher trade and which therefore cannot carry the kosher marking. These would continue to flow into the non-kosher trade as at present. The Brown bill is designed to extend coverage of the 1958 act to non-kosher slaughter in inspected (state as well as federal) plants which do not sell meat to the federal government, and to provide for much more effective and efficient enforcement. It also would cover imported meat, not now covered. Ritual slaughter is not affected. Since, at present, in plants which already come under the 1958 act, the "trafe" carcasses or portions of carcasses resulting from ritual slaughter are not condemned for human consumption, but pass into the gentile trade, there is nothing in the Brown bill which would change this.

However, any animals intended for the non-kosher trade, with the whole carcasses going into the gentile trade, would under the Brown bill have to be slaughtered under the requirements of the 1958 act. It would be profitable for the plant management to stun the animals before shackling and hoisting, use a non-shochet at a lower hourly wage to make the cut, and also avoid the other expenses of the kashrut which follow the cut. In fact, the cost advantages of using humane non-ritual methods for all slaughter not intended for the kosher trade are so great, and the religious restrictions prohibiting the shochet from slaughtering animals not intended for the kosher trade would be so strong, that we doubt the existence of any plant where ritually-slaughtered whole carcasses go into the non-kosher trade, unless it is an occasional animal.

To summarize: Passage of the Brown bill will not affect any meat packing plants with respect to ritual slaughtering methods, whether or not it be in conjunction with slaughter of additional animals for the non-kosher trade. It would require stunning of the animals intended for the gentile trade. This would add little if any additional cost to the operation, and probably would lower costs appreciably. There is ample evidence of this in the fact that many plants which do not sell meat products to federal government agencies already have adopted the appropriate stunning procedures for all non-kosher slaughter, even though not required to do so. This is because such procedures are not only humane, but also are more efficient, less costly, and more conducive of



# THE NEED FOR MORE COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE HUMANE MOVEMENT

One of the most common themes found in the many welcome letters we receive (and always read) is a hope for more unity in the humane movement, less infighting and backbiting, and more instances of working together to achieve a common goal. In fact, humanitarians and humane societies are notorious among other groups, such as legislators, for being "unable to agree on anything."

This severely limits the potential accomplishments of the humane movement.

For example, if we could all agree on what are the most humane and feasible methods of euthanasia for different types of shelters and pounds, and then set out together to effect a general shift to these methods, this disagreeable but highly important phase of humane work could be improved tremendously within a short time. But what is actually occurring? We find the representatives of one humane society arrayed against those of another, giving out public opinions and testimony before city councils, county commissions and state legislative committees that are directly conflicting, about things which should be a matter of scientific fact. How can the public, shelter boards of directors, government administrators and legislators be expected to choose among these conflicting statements? They do not know whom to believe. So, in all too many cases, they do nothing, or make wrong decisions.

The same can be said about the continued breeding of millions of surplus dogs and cats. This could be stopped in a few years if humane societies would get together, decide upon an effective pet animal control program, and then put on a unified campaign to get it adopted throughout the country. The elements of such a program are known to all. But the different societies actually go off in all directions, some pushing spay clinics as the sole solution, others claiming they are ineffective, with still more offering all kinds of objections to the combination of measures required to do the job. Meanwhile, the millions of puppies and kittens continue to be born each year, to become the raw materials of the grisly pet animal slaughterhouses operated by the very same humane societies which profess to want to

end the vicious circle.

And so it goes, down the long line of humane problems, the continuing sources of animal suffering. Little is accomplished in eliminating these sources, because humane societies will not work together to that end. Blame is put on the indifferent public and "venal legislators," when the real culprits are the humanitarians and humane societies who squabble among themselves and fight each other as enemies, each trying to hog the credit for any minor accomplishments that happen to arise out of this sea of cross-purposes.

We dealt with this problem of lack of unity in the humane movement in the lead article in *Report to Humanitarians No. 14* (December, 1970). What was said in that article, over six years ago, is just as true today as it was then. There has been little or no change in the situation, which will continue to exist as long as the individual humanitarians who are members of and contribute to the societies permit it to continue. The leaders of the organizations, defending and promoting their own societies as rivals and competitors of the others, only in rare instances will make a sincere effort to compromise their differences and agree on effective programs to deal with mutual problems.

There are a few exceptions. Humane Information Services and the Humane Society of the United States, despite differences of opinion regarding some major as well as minor problems and potential solutions, have been making a genuine effort to get together on as many issues as possible, to meet with each other frequently, and to work together in conducting campaigns for the elimination of animal suffering.

An example of this was a recent all-day conference, held in the offices of Humane Information Services, in St. Petersburg, of John A. Hoyt, president of the Humane Society of the United States, and Dr. Thomsen, president of Humane Information Services. The discussions covered a wide range of humane problems and alternative methods of dealing with them.

This was one of many such meetings that have been held in the offices of both societies. Usually we agree in principle on everything, and disagree only on priorities and how our resources can be most ef-

fectively used.

The important point is that our disagreements are not bitter, hostile or alienating. We part at the end of a day of vigorous discussion, even mutual criticism, as good friends as when we started.

That is not true of our attempted discussions with the heads of other national societies, and some local ones. We have called upon them with the hope of exchanging frank and constructive views about our mutual problems. We have invited them to participate in conferences to be mutually arranged. The atmosphere almost invariably is one of distrust, suspicion and reticence. They seem to think that we will try to take advantage of them in some way.

The most likely explanation is that Humane Information Services is viewed as a dangerous competitor for members and contributions, and they might give out some information which would be helpful to a competitor!

The founders of Humane Information Services have no personal axes to grind. We don't make--but actually lose--money by doing humane work. If at any time we were convinced that some other society was more capable--or even as capable--of doing the kind of national humane work that we believe in, we would propose a merger and devote our assets and abilities to the work of the merged society. We try hard not to view other societies as adversaries or competitors. We don't hesitate to criticize if that is required, but really try to make such criticism objective and constructive. No doubt we do not always succeed. Some mutual irritation is bound to arise. But we still stand by our original invitation to any other societies which share our desire for more communication and cooperation within the humane movement to meet them with open arms, minds and hearts.

This has worked very well as between the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Information Services, although far from perfectly, partly because staff members do not always reflect the good intentions and efforts of their presidents. We salute John as a scholar, a gentleman, and a good cooperator. May our communication and cooperation continue.

## PETS LEFT IN HOT CARS

After all of the publicity in recent years about not leaving pets in autos in warm weather, few pet owners have not heard of the danger. Yet they still do it. Why? Because they don't believe the warnings. The only way to reach these people is to let them know what others think of them. A brief typewritten note, or carbon copy, coming from an individual, may have much more influence than a printed leaflet. You may wish to type the message given below, making several carbons, and keep them on hand for when you see a car containing a pet which appears to be too warm. It would be good to sign the message, and give your phone number.

We would like to know your reaction to this new approach.

THE PET ANIMAL YOU LEFT IN YOUR CAR SEEMED TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE HEAT.

THOUSANDS OF PET ANIMALS ARE KILLED OR REQUIRE VETERINARY TREATMENT WHEN LEFT IN HOT CARS.

IF THE TEMPERATURE IN THE CAR WOULD FEEL ONLY WARM TO A PERSON, IT MAY BE UNBEARABLY HOT FOR AN ANIMAL.

MOST PEOPLE WHO SEE A PET ANIMAL IN A PARKED CAR WHICH IS HOT CONSIDER THE DRIVER TO BE EITHER IGNORANT OR CRUEL. DON'T GIVE OTHERS THE IMPRESSION YOU ARE EITHER. THANK YOU.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

Several items of considerable current interest to our readers came up at the last moment, necessitating omission of letters to the editor in this issue. We will hold them until next time. Actually, much of the content of articles appearing in *Report to Humanitarians* is based on information and opinions we receive from members. We wish we could print all of your letters. We've just grown too big for that. But please continue writing. Both Emily and Doc read every letter.

### MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

have been received from . . .

Frederick W. Carlsen, Maywood, New Jersey, "in memory of my dear wife, Marguerite."

Ms. Nancie L. Sailor, Mountain View, California, "in memory of my mother, Alberta Sailor, who dearly loved animals."

Mrs. Brewster Sewall, Kennebunk, Maine, "in memory of many loved pets that I have had in the past."

## GUARD DOGS—FROM PAGE 6

into plenty of burglary insurance, good locks, and burglar alarms.

Those who obtain dogs primarily to protect persons and property against criminals fail to take into account the feelings of the dog. So many so-called "guard dogs" are abused, undernourished and cruelly mistreated that many humane society shelters will not permit anyone to adopt a dog for this purpose. They would rather see the dog humanely destroyed than go into a "home" of that kind. They have seen too many instances of cruelty to animals kept as "guard dogs."

Does this mean that a householder must deny himself the protection afforded by having a dog on the premises? By no means. He must merely go about the whole thing in a different way.

First, he should learn about the joys of having a dog as a companion and not a

member of the family to love and be loved by. If he can't feel that way about a dog, he had better forget it. If protection is all, or the main thing, he expects to get out of the dog, it will cost him more than it is worth.

Second, the householder should give intelligent thought to selection of the dog. In order to afford protection, a dog does not have to be a behemoth which snarls at every stranger. A small dog that yaps is just as likely to scare the burglar away as one with a deep-voiced bark. The householder should select the kind of dog that appeals to him as a pet, not the kind he mistakenly thinks will scare a trespasser.

And he should follow the suggestions of experienced humane society people in acquiring a dog. The acquisition of a dog is akin, in many respects, to having an-

other child. It must be given study and thought.

And, finally, the householder should learn as much as he can about how to care for a dog, before he gets him. When he sees what is involved, he may change his mind. Better then than later, when he may be tempted to drop the dog in a park or in the country, where it will live miserably for a short time before being picked up as a stray, getting run over, or dying of starvation and disease.

Not too long ago, humane societies did everything they could to "adopt out" the unwanted animals they received. They were aided and abetted by the "save-a-lifers" who thought that any home was better than none. This policy has been rapidly changing as humanitarians have learned to take a broader view of the problem of surplus pets. Quality, not quantity, of homes for pets is what counts most.