

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON USE AND CARE OF ANIMALS

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Several important developments affecting animal experimentation and laboratory animal care have occurred recently. The purpose of this report is to summarize these developments for the information of A. P. S. members.

Standards for Laboratory Animal Facilities and Care

The National Institutes of Health has contracted with the Animal Care Panel to draft and publish appropriate professional standards for laboratory animal facilities and care. The purpose of this project is to provide an authoritative reference to assist scientific institutions in providing the best possible care for laboratory animals. The standards will be based on scientific evidence insofar as possible, and on expert experience and opinion. They are being developed around the following principles:

1. The care and management of laboratory animals should be directed by professionally qualified persons.
2. Animal care personnel should be suitably qualified by training and experience in the care of laboratory animals.
3. Physical facilities and methods of care for animals should permit their maintenance in a state of well being and comfort.

An outline of the Standards, which is serving as the framework for the project, was published in the *Journal of Medical Education* 37: 124-129, 1962. The detailed standards should become available late in 1962.

The Animal Care Panel is planning to use these standards in organizing a voluntary accreditation program for animal facilities. The program will be somewhat similar to the hospital accreditation program of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. The Federation, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Heart Association, the Medical Research Association of California, and the New York State Society for Medical Research have issued grants to the Animal Care Panel for this program. Other groups are considering similar support. It is a highly constructive effort which should aid implementation of the Standards.

Legislation

H. R. 1937 (Representative Martha Griffiths, Michigan) and H. R. 3556 (Representative Morgan Moulder, Missouri) are pending in the House of Representatives. Both of these bills would have an adverse

effect on biological and medical research if adopted in their present forms. Copies of the bills are available from the National Society for Medical Research, 111 E. 4th St., Rochester, Minnesota. Proponents of the bills claim that Congressional hearings are imminent. However, as far as can be determined at this time, it is unlikely that hearings will be held during the present Congressional session. Nevertheless, these bills remain a serious threat to the scientific community. They are being advocated by well-organized, well-financed groups. All physiologists should continue to impress legislative people and the general public with the dangerous implications of these bills.

Organizations Supporting Restrictive Legislation

The Animal Welfare Institute (Christine Stevens, President, 22 E. 17th St., New York 3, New York) is the principal supporter of the Griffiths bill. The A.W.I. advocates a system of regulating animal experimentation essentially equivalent to that in England. There has been much discussion recently regarding the attitude of British scientists toward their regulatory system (The Cruelty to Animals Act of 1876). There seems to be little doubt that most research workers in England have learned to live comfortably with the law, and accept it. However, their support or lack of support of the law has no bearing on the suitability of a similar regulatory system for the more massive American research scene. In the judgment of most American scientists the licensing of research workers and institutions and the reporting system for experiments, as proposed in the Griffiths bill, is unnecessary, restrictive, and unwise. The scientific community already is taking definitive steps to assure the best possible care of experimental animals through the Standards program of the Animal Care Panel.

The Humane Society of the United States (1145 - 19th St., NW., Washington, D. C.) is the principal advocate of the Moulder bill. The provisions of this bill are more stringent and onerous than those of the Griffiths bill. The H. S. U. S. has been particularly obnoxious in its activities. It has employed, and is employing undercover agents to gather evidence of cruelty in research laboratories, in support of its campaign for H. R. 3556. Tulane University, Stanford University, Loma Linda University, and several other institutions already have been victimized. A striking example of these activities may be found in the book "Animals in a Research Laboratory," published by H. S. U. S. in 1961. Among other things this book contains the "reports" of Thomas Hammond, an H. S. U. S. "investigator" while he was employed as an assistant in the Cardiovascular Laboratory at the White Memorial Hospital (Loma Linda University) in Los Angeles. In view of these activities it would seem prudent for scientific institutions to screen applicants for employment in animal research facilities with great care.

Both the A. W. I. and the H. S. U. S. are conducting aggressive campaigns for public support of their pet bills. Favorable editorials have appeared in a number of local papers. Some branches of the General Federation of Women's Clubs are said to have issued resolutions in support of the bills. The scientific community is not doing enough to inform the public of the true situation. Grass roots activity is needed,

and physiologists should participate. The Committee regards it of particular importance to tell "the story behind the story" of the importance of proper animal care to the conduct of scientific research. Laboratory animal medicine has experienced rapid and dramatic growth as a professional field in recent years. The public should know more about this growth rather than the distorted picture of laboratory practices presented by the H. S. U. S. and A.W. I.

Refresher Course at Fall Meeting

A refresher course on selection, use, and handling of animals for physiological experiments, scheduled for the Fall meeting (1962), has been postponed. This action was taken to permit development of an endocrinology course. Apparently, this is one of the few years that the Laurentian Hormone Conference does not conflict with the Fall meeting; a large attendance by endocrinologists is anticipated. The refresher course in animal care will be rescheduled, probably in 1963.

Additional Legislation

On March 28, 1962, Senator Joseph Clark (Pa.) introduced S 3088. The bill is reported to be the same as the Griffiths bill, essentially identical to the Cooper bill (S 3570) of the last session of Congress. The bill has been sent to the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare (Senator Lester Hill, Chairman). As far as can be determined no hearings have yet been scheduled.



ANIMAL CARE PANEL MEETING

The Animal Care Panel will hold its annual meeting on October 2-5, 1962 at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago. Dr. William I. Gay of the National Institutes of Health is program chairman. He plans sessions on:

- Germ-free and specific pathogen free animals
- Training of laboratory animal caretakers
- Laboratory animal diseases
- Dog diseases and facilities
- Use of farm animals in laboratory work
- Laboratory animal facilities
- Primates