
MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING REPORT

APA Symposium on Ethics

The American Psychological Association (APA) devoted one symposium to "Ethical Issues in Research with Animals" at its September 1980 annual meeting in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Evalyn F. Segal (San Diego State University) organized and chaired the meeting, in which four papers were presented.

Dr. Derek Blackman (University College, Cardiff, Wales) gave a review of the regulation of psychological experimentation in the U.K. He contended that the licensing procedure required by the British Cruelty to Animals Act is not so much a restriction of scientific freedom as a form of protection for scientists in that they cannot be privately prosecuted for animal cruelty if they are licensed. Blackman referred to the British Psychological Association's survey and review of concerns published in its 1979 *Bulletin* and noted that the society now has a Standing Advisory Committee which gives input to the Home Secretary.

Dr. Perrie Adams (University of Texas, Galveston) gave a paper entitled "The Scientist's Concern for Animal Welfare" in which he mentioned the new APA guidelines, which are similar to those of the Neuroscience Association (published in that organization's March 1980 newsletter). Adams stressed that abused animals will give worthless results and that pain, once it has been

deemed justified or unavoidable, should be minimized.

Dr. Michael W. Fox (Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, Washington, D.C.) discussed the credibility of many psychological experiments on animals and the attitudes and values in the field of experimental psychology that are now being questioned by philosophers, scientists and others.

Dr. Jeri Sechzer (Cornell University), in a paper entitled "Use of Animals for Experimentation in the U.S.," gave a brief overview of the history of animal protective legislation in the U.K. and its parallels in the U.S. She noted the work of the New York Academy of Sciences to establish ethical standards and humane guidelines.

A brief discussion followed the formal presentations. Dr. Blackman said that he was uneasy about the present situation in which experimental psychologists monitor themselves on ethics of animal use and asked for suggestions for a better method of control. Dr. Sechzer stated that "ninety-nine out of one hundred experiments may be invalid, but we can't tell."

This symposium could have been more valuable if these latter points had been explored together with discussions of what constitutes ethically unacceptable psychological research (such as studies of learned helplessness). Codes and guidelines for humane treatment and care of experimental animals are of doubtful value when there is no attempt to place critical limits on what can and cannot be done to animals in the course of experimentation. A symposium to discuss this central issue and the questions of scientific freedom and accountability is now needed.

The proceedings of the APA symposium will be published in the *Psychopharmacology Bulletin*. For more information, contact Dr. Allen Raskin, Editor, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20205.

M.W. Fox

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

American Association of Swine Practitioners: Annual Meeting, May 17-19, 1981, Kansas City, MO. Contact Dr. F.D. Wertman, AASP Executive Secretary, 5921 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321.

VII International Congress of the World Veterinary Poultry Association: July 1-3, 1981, Oslo, Norway. Contact the WVPA Organizing Committee, National Veterinary Institute, POB 8156 Dep, Oslo 1, Norway.

Action for Life: A National Planning Conference for Vegetarian and Animal Protection Activists, July 3-6, 1981, New York City area, exact location unconfirmed at press time. Contact Dr. Alex Hershaft, Vegetarian Information Service, Box 5888, Washington, DC 20014.

Hungarian Society of Agricultural Sciences: International Conference of Ethology, August 24-27, 1981, Agricultural University of Godollo, Godollo, Hungary. Topics include "The Role of Ethology in Large Scale Animal Breeding," and "Developing the Technical-Biological Unit of Industrial Animal Breeding with Help of Ethological Research." Contact Prof. Dr. J. Czako, Organizing Committee for Congress of Applied Animal Ethology, Agricultural University, Godollo, H2103, Hungary.

Wildlife Disease Association (Australasian Section): Fourth International Wildlife Diseases Conference, August 24-28, 1981, Sydney, Australia. Contact Dr. E.P. Finnie, Program Chairman, Toranga Park Zoo, Mosman, NSW 2088, Australia, or Dr. M.E. Fowler, Dept. of Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California at Davis, Davis, CA 95616, USA.

International Conference on the Human/Companion Animal Bond: October 5-7, 1981, Philadelphia, PA. Sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society and the Delta Group of the Latham

Foundation. Contact the Center (above), School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 3800 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Publications in the U.S.

The River Otter Fellowship, "an informal assemblage of individuals working together to educate the public in the otter's behalf" and to promote its preservation, has begun publishing a semi-annual newsletter, *The Brightwater Journal*. The newsletter contains articles designed to dispel destructive myths about the otter and to raise public consciousness of the many pressures that human encroachment and excessive fur trapping have created for the species. Written contributions are encouraged. Contact J. Scott Shannon, River Otter Fellowship, P.O. Box 2061, Irwindale, CA 91706.

The Latham Foundation, founded in 1918 "to promote respect for all life through education" has also launched a quarterly bulletin, *The Latham Letter*. The Foundation has a special interest in the human/companion animal bond, and it is hoped that the newsletter will attract professionals interested in this phenomenon. Annual subscription: \$3.00. Contact the Latham Foundation, Clement and Schiller Sts., Alameda, CA 94501.

New Publication in Australia

The four branches of the animal liberation movement in Australia (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Australian Capital Territory) have just started a quarterly newsletter, *Outcry*. The first issue (November 1980) contains

articles on an alternative to the battery cage, sheep mulesing (See *Int J Stud Anim Prob* 1(4):224-226, 1980.), the proposed lifting of the ban on importation of kangaroo products into the U.S. and a message from Peter Singer, the national patron of Animal Liberation in Australia. Yearly subscription: A\$5.00; contact *Outcry*, c/o Animal Liberation, P.O. Box 199, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146, Australia.

Animal Welfare Science Library

The Humane Society of the United States has established the Joyce Mertz Gilmore Library under the aegis of the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems. The collection currently contains approximately 1,500 volumes and 100 newsletters and periodicals. Emphasis is now being placed on acquiring material on the technical aspects of animal welfare and veterinary science as well as the philosophy of animal rights and animal welfare. A reprint file of relevant journal articles is being compiled and it is hoped that with sufficient grant support, the library will eventually house a specialist bibliographic data retrieval system.

Any qualified person wishing to use the library should first contact the Librarian, Ms. Ellen Arneson, at 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037, (202) 452-1100, to set up an appointment. The library will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday-Friday, subject to change.

Committee for Replacement Animal Models

The School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base in Texas has recently set up a Replacement Animal Model Committee. This committee will initially function as an information clearinghouse and will encourage research scientists to consider the feasibility of alternative techniques which reduce the numbers of laboratory animals used, or lessen distress and/or pain endured by the animals during experimentation. For more information contact Dr. David Eisenbrandt, Brooks Air Force Base School of Aerospace Medicine, San Antonio, TX 78235.

UFAW Symposium Proceedings

The proceedings of the September 1980 symposium on the *Ecology and Control of Feral Cats*, sponsored by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, are now available from the UFAW offices for £2.00. Send orders to: UFAW, 8, Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 3QD, UK.

New Federation of Animal Groups

On 17 July 1980, twenty-two animal welfare and animal liberation organizations formed the Australian Federation of Animal Societies. The Federation is launching two campaigns: one directed against the export of live animals for food, and one to persuade the Australian government to allow donations to animal welfare societies to be tax deductible. According to Christine Townsend, Secretary of the new group, "We believe that animal welfare is a moral issue, and should never become something that is used to cause divisiveness between parties. We would prefer to see all parties adopt animal welfare as an ethical, moral responsibility, keeping it high above point scoring and dirty words, and all working together to see man fulfill his duties and responsibilities towards the animals" (*Outcry*, November 1980, p. 6).

U.K. Animal Care Courses

The National Extension College is offering a two-year correspondence course "for people who look after animals in zoos, wildlife parks, wildlife collections, dolphinariums and aquaria." Open to anyone 16 or over, the course is the result of the deliberations of a committee which included representatives of the British Veterinary Association, the National Zoological Association, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. The study units cover all aspects of zoo management as well as an examination of why zoos exist and their relevance to

endangered species. Further information may be obtained from the National Extension College, 18 Brooklands Ave., Cambridge CB2 2HN, UK.

The North East College of Technology is organizing a six-week residential course from April 27 to June 5, 1981 for senior animal house staff who already manage, or hope to manage, laboratory animal facilities outside the United Kingdom. The course will offer instruction in the fields of laboratory animal science and technology, covering modern practice and developments in animal health, care, nutrition, breeding and experimental usage, together with aspects of management, staff training and similar topics. While the lectures will examine some of the most recent views and developments in the relevant areas of science and technology, a special attempt will be made to show the application of these to the conditions likely to be found in underdeveloped parts of the world. The course will comprise lectures, seminars, films and visits to some modern animal facilities. Number of enrollments is strictly limited, and the fees range from £1,100-1,300. For more details, contact Mr. A.A. Tuffery, Dept. of Biological Science, North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Rd., Ewell, Surrey, UK.

Award for Alternatives

The Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is donating an award to the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies for the best paper proposing or involving alternatives to the use of laboratory animals. The award consists of \$500 as well as reimbursement for the trip to the annual Federation meeting. Send abstracts of papers and cover letters to the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies, c/o Dr. G.R.F. Davis, Research Station, Research Branch Agriculture Canada, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X2, CANADA.