

Legislation & Regulation

The Law in Sweden

On 14 December 1978, the new Swedish Animal Protection Act came into being to protect domestic and other animals kept in captivity. The general provisions include broad requirements for adequate housing and nutrition, good working and transport conditions, and proper slaughter practices. Docking of ears and tails is either totally prohibited, as in the case of ear-docking in dogs, or permitted under special circumstances only, e.g., to cure disease. Permission to use animals in biomedical research must be obtained from the Board of Agriculture.

On 17 May 1979, the Swedish government issued a decree regarding the establishment of the Central Experimental Animal Committee which set forth the following goals:

- 1) Promotion of cooperation among animal breeders, researchers, animal care staff, animal protection groups and the authorities;

- 2) planning the future direction of laboratory animal use as well as alternatives and complementary methods;

- 3) following the judgment of the ethical boards (see below) on the use of laboratory animals;

- 4) support for the development of alternatives and disbursement of the funds placed at the Committee's disposal for this purpose.

The decree established ethical review committees in the six regions of the country containing universities. Each committee is to be composed of laypersons, including animal welfare representatives, scientists and animal care personnel. In addition, most of the common laboratory animals, including primates, but excluding chickens, must be purpose-bred, i.e., no wild or random-source animals are permitted.

The government also distributed guidelines to the ethical committees which include five categories of experimentation: (1) Methods involving little or no pain (injections, blood tests, intubation, simple feeding studies, behavioral studies without major intervention); (2) methods involving anesthesia where the animal does not recover, or euthanasia to obtain tissue samples (removal of organs for histological or other study); (3) methods involving anesthesia where the animals are allowed to recover and where post-operative pain or suffering is likely (biopsies, insertion of catheters, experimental surgery, burns); (4) methods involving conscious animals where the suffering or pain could be considerable (certain toxicity tests, radiation studies, tumor transplants, all stress tests, and behavioral studies using major intervention); (5) methods involving conscious, curarized animals (certain physiological and pharmacological studies).

Experiments that fall into categories 3, 4, and 5 must be submitted for review to the ethical committees. Experiments conducted for educational purposes, as opposed to research, must be reviewed regardless of category.

The Law in India

In 1890, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was passed in India, and Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals opened in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. Twenty-five years passed before Delhi followed suit, but several smaller towns had already founded animal welfare leagues. The organizations functioned mainly to implement the provisions of the anticruelty legislation through inspectors, to whom the state governments delegated the requisite po-

lice powers. Most of the SPCAs and other animal welfare organizations suffered from a critical lack of funds.

In 1960, a new Act superseded the earlier legislation, and under its provisions, the Animal Welfare Board was established. The Board, consisting of 25 members, receives a grant from the Indian government which enables it to provide limited financial assistance to selected organizations and to issue information to the public. It also publishes a quarterly journal, *Animal Citizen*, which provides news of Indian and world-wide events affecting animal welfare.

Bills and Resolutions Before the 97th U.S. Congress

HR556 (Roe)—Mandates the establishment of a National Center for Alternatives Research and a reallocation of 30-50% of animal research funds to alternatives.

HR220 (Ferraro) and HR2110 (Donnelly)—Both authorize the expenditure of \$12 million in federal funds for alternatives research.

HR930 (Weiss)—Mandates the establishment of a "humane commission" to study the alternatives question.

HR1002 (Anderson)—Regulation of trapping of mammals and birds. Would discourage waste of wildlife species and unnecessary mutilation and pain caused by inefficient and indiscriminate trapping and capture devices.

HR1950 (de la Garza)—Animal damage control. Would permit, *inter alia*, the use of the poison Compound 1080 for predator control, which constitutes a reversal of former Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus' predator control policy.

HR2331 (Vento)—Corrupt Horse Racing Practices Act. Would control drug abuse in racehorses. Intended to provide a national framework for state drug control, testing procedures, and enforcement. Allows an exemption for all states that enact comparable programs.

Senate Resolution 65 (Durenberger) and House Concurrent resolution 27 (Jacobs)—Urge federal agencies to support research into an alternative to the Draize test.

House Concurrent Resolution 38 (Whitehurst)—Urges promotion of alternative methods to laboratory animal research.

House Joint Resolution 131 (Whitten)—Would declare the first week of May each year "Be Kind to Animals Week."