

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. Senator Neal in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Joe Neal, Chairman  
Senator Norman Glaser, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Wilbur Faiss  
Senator Lawrence Jacobsen  
Senator Floyd Lamb  
Senator Mike Sloan

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mr. Ira Kent, Rancher from Fallon  
Mr. Glen Griffith, Department of Fish and Game  
Mr. Lloyd Sorenson, Rancher from Elko  
Mr. Bob Kettle, Nevada Trappers Association  
Mr. Larry Smith, Nevada Trappers Association  
Mr. Bob McGinty, Trapper from Sparks  
Mr. Joe Miner, Predatory Animal and Rodent Control  
Committee  
Mr. Pete Borda, Rancher  
Mr. Joe Manus, Nevada Department of Energy  
Mr. Stuart White, Nevada Humane Society Auxiliary  
Mr. Tom Little, Nevada Humane Society  
Ms. Susan Bond, Clark County Humane Society  
Ms. Rochelle Sax, Clark County Humane Society  
Mr. Dart Anthony, Clark County Humane Society  
Mr. John Marquez, Animal Control Officer for the City  
of Reno  
Mr. Charles Zobel, City of Las Vegas  
Mr. Al Edmundson, Consumer Health Protection Services  
Mr. Eric Sakach, Humane Society of the United States  
Dr. John W. Oliver, Veterinarian, State of California  
Mr. John Tiernan, Monterey County SPCA  
Mr. Mike Fielding, Animal Control Officer, City of Las  
Vegas

Senator Neal announced that the meeting would convene for the purpose of taking final action on S.B. 119, hearing additional testimony on A.B. 15, and hearing testimony on S.B. 460 and S.B. 461.

S.B. 119 - Creates metric system advisory council.

The committee agreed to send S.B. 119 to the Finance Committee where they will examine the fiscal impact and place the council in the Department of Education.

Senator Lamb moved that S.B. 119 be passed out of committee with the recommendation: Do pass and re-refer to Finance Committee.

Seconded by Senator Jacobsen.

Motion carried.

A.B. 15 - Defines fur-bearing animals as the property of the owner of the trap in which they are caught.

Senator Neal announced that this bill was placed on the agenda for further testimony. But first he asked the committee to consider whether they wanted to vote for reconsideration. The bill will be on general file tomorrow with a 72-hour provision for checking traps. If the committee desires to change the bill any further, there should be a motion for reconsideration.

Senator Lamb moved to reconsider the previous action taken on A.B. 15.

Seconded by Senator Jacobsen.

Senator Sloan stated that his intention was to listen to the additional testimony first so that he would be in a better position to vote on whether or not the bill should be reconsidered. But, since the vote will be taken before the testimony is heard, he stated that he will vote in favor of reconsideration. Senator Lamb stated that if the committee does not vote for reconsideration, there is no reason to hear additional testimony.

Senator Glaser stated that since the committee changed the original thrust of the bill without both sides of the issue being afforded the opportunity to testify, he felt it appropriate that the committee reconsider the previous action taken.

Senator Jacobsen stated that for the benefit of the people in attendance at the meeting, the bill should be reconsidered so that the matter is open and the committee has not already cast judgement on the matter.

Senator Neal called for the previous question, the question being reconsideration of previous action taken on A.B. 15.

Motion carried.

Mr. Ira Kent, a rancher from Fallon who was representing himself, stated that he is interested in this bill for two reasons. First, he felt that by limiting the visitation of the traps to 72 hours, the state would lose half or more of the trappers. A lot of the trappers work at other jobs during the week and can only check their traps on their days off. The second reason is that the Finance Committee has cut \$300,000 out of the predatory animal control program. This will allow the coyotes to multiply like the wild mustangs have.

Mr. Kent asked the committee to consider the fact that the coyote furs have been bringing in high prices over the last couple of years, but if the price of their pelts drop as in previous years, there will be no incentive to trap, especially with the 72-hours visitation provision. He reminded the Humane Society members and the committee that predators inhumanely maul lambs and calves.

Senator Sloan told Mr. Kent that previous testimony has represented that most of the western states have provisions of 72 hours or less, yet somehow the trappers manage to continue to exist. He asked if there is a middle ground somewhere between 24 hours which the Humane Society supports and the one week presently in the statutes. Mr. Kent felt that road conditions in the back country of this state make the Nevada situation different from other states. With the price of gasoline rising, the trappers can not afford to make their runs every 72 hours.

Senator Sloan asked Mr. Kent if he agreed that a more frequent visitation schedule would mean less deaths of non-target animals such as golden eagles, as was testified in the meeting of April 9th. Mr. Kent replied that he did not agree. He felt that the law requiring spacers in traps was meant to eliminate the problem of the golden eagle getting caught in the trap. Senator Lamb interjected that since the last meeting on this bill, he had talked to several different trappers who stated that trappers don't use bait anymore. He maintains that once an eagle is caught, the damage is done.

Mr. Glen Griffith, Department of Fish and Game, stated that the Department supports the 72-hour amendment. In response to the question about the non-target animals and specifically golden eagles getting caught in the traps, Mr. Griffith stated that the trap spacer does allow raptors (hawks, owls and eagles) to be held. Their feet are so big that the traps catch them by the toes. The shorter visitation requirement, the more likely they will be released. The legal requirement that only non-sight bait can be used in traps has helped this situation, although there are still cases of bait being used illegally.

Senator Jacobsen asked Mr. Griffith how the Department would enforce this provision. Is there any way to determine how many days an animal has been in a trap? Mr. Griffith answered that it would be much easier to enforce the reduced visitation than the weekly visitation basis. The illegal traps have to be watched for as long as 8 or 9 days to determine whose trap it is. Under this provision, if the trapper is not back within the 3 days allowed, the Department can collect the trap.

Senator Jacobsen asked Mr. Griffith how long an eagle would survive in a trap. Mr. Griffith answered 2 or 3 days, depending on the weather conditions. Senator Jacobsen also mentioned that he doubted the validity of the pictures shown during the previous meeting showing a deer caught in a trap. He asked Mr. Griffith if a deer caught in a trap would disturb the area around it. Mr. Griffith replied that a deer would disturb the area around it.

Senator Sloan asked Mr. Griffith if the representation based on prior testimony is correct that most of the western states have 72 hours or less. Mr. Griffith stated that it is correct.

Mr. Lloyd Sorenson, from Elko, Nevada, is in the livestock business. He concurred in the testimony given by Mr. Kent. He stated that he has seen deer and antelope caught in traps and they tear up the ground around them.

Senator Jacobsen asked Mr. Sorenson how many sheep one coyote could destroy in one day. Mr. Sorenson answered that he has had as high as 30 killed in one night, and more grown sheep than that killed by a lion.

Senator Neal asked if the 72-hour provision would allow more coyotes to be killed just by virtue of the fact that the traps would be emptied sooner. Mr. Sorenson felt the trappers can not cover enough territory in 72 hours.

Senator Sloan remarked that it seems of some significance that every other state in the west has visitation requirements of less than 72 hours. He mentioned that Wyoming and Montana were not exactly industrial complexes and they can't have substantially better road conditions than Nevada does.

Mr. Bob Kettle, Board of Directors of the Nevada Trappers Association, spoke in favor of the 7-day visitation provisions. He stated that trappers in neighboring states can get on one road and be in prime hunting and trapping territory, but that is not true in Nevada. Also, the trappers have bowed down to a shorter check period because they felt it would eliminate some of the harassment they have taken for trapping. However, they are getting as much, if not more, pressure to eliminate trapping altogether. He guaranteed that if the provision were reduced to less than once a week, it would eliminate 75% of the trappers in Nevada. He stated that the majority of the trappers in Nevada trap to supplement their incomes.

Senator Sloan asked if checking the trap on a more frequent basis, twice a week, could reduce the number of traps needed to be set because a trapper could catch twice as many animals. Mr. Kettle answered that running a trap line twice a week would mean the trapper was making one full run for nothing. When one animal is pulled from a trap, there is not another one right behind him to step in the trap.

Mr. Larry Smith, Nevada Trappers Association, presented a brochure containing some pictures which take a different viewpoint. That brochure is attached as Exhibit A. The brochure pointed out that mother nature's way of controlling animal population by disease is inhumane. He felt that if the trap visitation is shortened, 75% of the trappers will be eliminated and the predatory animals, and especially coyotes, will be hard to control.

In regard to the shorter visitation times in other states, Mr. Smith stated that other states have more trappers than Nevada does. Senator Sloan stated that he could not understand how every other state has shorter visitation times and more trappers than Nevada, and yet if Nevada shortens the visitation time, it will end up with fewer trappers.

Mr. Smith demonstrated that a steel-jaw trap will not break any bones on a human.

Mr. Bob McGinty, a trapper from Sparks, testified against the 72-hour amendment. He stated that just because the trap is set, it does not mean that an animal will get caught in it. He informed the committee that it would take from 20 to 40 gallons of gas to run a 200-mile trap line. Running a trap line every 3 days would be wasting gas because the less frequently the trap is checked, the more animals will be caught. If an animal, and especially a coyote, detects human smell on or near the trap, they will not go near it. In 4 or 5 days, the smell would drift away.

Mr. Joe Miner, Program Administrator for the Predatory Animal and Rodent Control Committee, prepared a statement that A.B. 15 would have a substantial economic impact on state government. The State Predatory Animal and Rodent Control Committee employs 20 field men. As currently written, A.B. 15 would require double the number of employees required to maintain current effectiveness in stopping livestock depredations by coyotes. He estimated that the cost would be \$360,000 to cover the cost of the extra employees and mileage.

Senator Sloan questioned what the causal relationship would be between the trappers checking traps every 72 hours and the Predatory Animal and Rodent Control employees doubling their workload. Mr. Miner stated that currently his employees drive or ride considerable distances to set out 3 separate trap lines. This bill would essentially cut them down to one line because of the distances and time involved. This would double the vehicle mileage cost and fuel use.

Mr. Pete Borda, a local rancher, stated that the state's loss due to the predatory animals is around 10% on sheep. He also felt that if the law was amended to a 72-hour provision, it would double the expense and eliminate any control over the coyotes. He stated that as the percentage of losses goes up, the consumer has to pay more for meat.

Senator Jacobsen asked Mr. Borda how many sheep he has lost at one time. Mr. Borda replied that by coyotes, he has lost 16 at one time. He stated that there are only about 8,000 sheep left in Nevada now because of coyotes, whereas 30 years ago there were 2,000,000. Mr. Borda also agreed with Mr. McGinty's testimony regarding the scent that man leaves on traps being detected by the coyote.

Senator Neal closed the hearing on A.B. 15.

S.B. 458 - Provides for conservation of energy by limiting use of appliances with pilot lights.

Mr. Joe Manus, Nevada Department of Energy, spoke in favor of this bill representing Noel Clark. The Department asked for the bill, but the printed version is significantly different than the bill they had asked for. They would like an amendment to provide that only new appliances be covered, and that a date be set on when the existing stockpile of gas appliances on hand could be sold. Basically, this would mean any stock already in the state could be sold, but after a certain date only those appliances with the electronic device could be sold.

Senator Faiss asked Mr. Manus if any other states have a law such as this. Mr. Manus replied that 38 states are now under this type of situation. The device works just as effectively as what is presently used, but it saves the consumer 10% to 15% by getting rid of the pilot light. He stated that this would apply mostly to gas water heaters and gas ranges.

Senator Jacobsen questioned whether this should rightly be a function of the federal government, and asked how the state would police it. Mr. Manus replied that the federal government has asked different states who are part of the Energy Conservation Program to enact such laws. Some have enacted them, some have not, so several manufacturers are still building appliances without the device. When the manufacturers transport appliances, they dump them all in Nevada because they can not sell them in California, Arizona or New Mexico.

Senator Glaser asked how much this provision would add to the purchase price of the appliance. Mr. Manus answered probably no more than \$10.

Senator Neal asked Mr. Manus to draft an amendment based on the changes he recommended, and closed the hearing on S.B. 458.

A.B. 15 - Defines fur-bearing animals as the property of the owner of the trap in which they are caught.

Senator Jacobsen asked if the Chair was ready for a motion on A.B. 15. Senator Neal stated that he could take a motion, but that motion would only be to draft an amendment or pull the bill off the board and have it re-referred to the committee. He reminded the committee that the motion was made for reconsideration of the bill, but the bill was not in the possession of the committee, so it turned out to be for hearing of additional testimony as noted in the agenda. Since the bill is on the second reading file on the Senate floor, the motion would be a motion from the floor to re-refer the bill for possible amendment.

Senator Lamb moved that A.B. 15 be re-referred back to the committee for possible amendment.

Seconded by Senator Jacobsen.

Ayes - (4)  
Nays - Neal (1)  
Absent - Sloan (1)

Motion carried.

Senator Neal announced that the committee would take testimony on S.B. 460 and S.B. 461.

S.B. 460 - Provides for seizure, care and disposition of animals being cruelly treated and requires frequent visits to certain traps.

Mr. Stuart White, President of the Nevada Humane Society's Auxiliary, and Mr. Tom Little, Executive Director of the Nevada Humane Society, stated their support for this bill. Mr. White asked the committee to delete lines 17 - 28 on Page 2 and the reference to the visitation of traps every 36 hours. He had submitted a request for a bill concerning the 36-hour provision before A.B. 15 was introduced, but somehow the bill drafter put that totally unrelated subject into S.B. 460.

Mr. White stated that the basic thrust of S.B. 460 is to allow police officers, animal control officers or officers of the humane societies, after providing notice to the owners, to take an animal which is being abused into custody for its protection and care without fear of civil liabilities. As an example, he cited the situation of a dog locked in a car during the heat of the summer. The humane officer must call the police to observe while the car is opened to take the animal out.

Mr. White explained that the notice provision in Section 4 would provide that after two weeks if no one has claimed the animal, the animal control society could apply to a court of competent jurisdiction (justice of the peace) for permission to put the animal up for adoption or humanely destroy the animal. This would prevent a valuable animal from being adopted like a stray.

Senator Sloan questioned the provision in subsection 5 in Section 1, which would provide that an officer is not liable in any action arising out of a taking of an animal, since this same type of exemption can not be done for any other officer enforcing the law. The mere fact that the legislature states the officer is not liable does not exempt anyone from liability for a violation of civil rights, but would make the State of Nevada increasingly liable. Mr. White stated that the society, animal control officer or policeman, in response to a complaint, would determine if the animal were being abused and if they did take the animal, they would be able to prove they had probable cause. Senator Sloan felt there

may be a different way of accomplishing the intention of the bill, but the bill is ineffective as it is.

Mr. Tom Little wanted to clarify the issue that this bill does not deal with wildlife, unless it were a wild animal in captivity. That exemption is contained in NRS Chapter 574.200.

Ms. Susan Bond, President of the Clark County Humane Society, distributed pictures and a statement relative to a specific case of animal cruelty in Clark County. That statement is attached as Exhibit B. In that case, the judge used an abatement of nuisance charge to take possession of the animals cruelly treated. From the time the charges were filed on January 17th, the animals were kept in the same condition because there is no provision in the law that allows the animals to be removed to protective custody.

Senator Sloan remarked that one reason why the law requires the court to decide child abuse cases and many other areas is to be able to get an objective determination before a person exercises his independent perspective of what is fair and what is not.

Ms. Rochelle Sax, Vice-President of the Clark County Humane Society, stated that as a Nevada-chartered anti-cruelty organization, they are charged with the enforcement of anti-cruelty laws. It has been most difficult to implement the laws because of the lack of authority.

Senator Jacobsen asked who would pay the expense of the animals' care. Ms. Sax said that would depend on whether the judge sets a fine to reimburse the agency. If not, the humane society recognizes the cost as part of their responsibility in caring for abused animals.

Mr. Dart Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Clark County Humane Society, explained the trouble they had trying to get the animals in the case previously mentioned under their protection. He then distributed copies of resolutions passed by governmental entities showing their support for S.B. 460 and S.B. 461. They also received 31,472 signatures on a petition approving these bills.

Mr. Ira Kent, a rancher from Fallon who spoke previously, and several other ranchers and trappers, were worried that Page 2, lines 12 - 16, would affect them in their duties of branding cows, castrating sheep, and other ranch-related duties. Senator Neal pointed out that provisions Mr. Kent referred to is the present law and if they have not been charged with cruelty under it previously, this bill would not affect them now. Mr. Bob McGinty made a suggestion from the audience to add the word "domestic" before the word animal on line 5, Page 1. Mr. Tom Little objected to that because it would release the protection of all sorts of animals that are in the custody of man. He reminded the committee that his previous testimony pointed out the specific exclusion contained in Chapter 574 of NRS.



Mr. John Marquez, Supervisor of Animal Control for the City of Reno, and representing Washoe County and the City of Sparks, stated that ordinances in the Washoe County area set a procedure and allow the officers to take custody and remove the animal if it is being treated cruelly. Senator Jacobsen asked if the municipality is then responsible for the animal. Mr. Marquez answered that the owner is responsible to pay all fees.

Mr. Charles Zobel, City of Las Vegas, stated that there is an ordinance in Clark County which allows the metropolitan police department and the animal control officer to enter a vehicle to remove animals, but animals to be removed from someone's property would require a search and seizure order from the municipal court.

Mr. Zobel challenged the testimony Mr. Dart Anthony would be giving on S.B. 461, in which he will state that a letter from the Mayor of Las Vegas concerning an appropriation of revenue sharing funds is an endorsement of the city commission for S.B. 461, and it is not. He stated that the \$4,000 mentioned in the letter would in no way make the conversion from the decompression chamber to another method. He also questioned if the 31,000 signatures on the petitions Mr. Anthony submitted were all obtained within city limits.

Senator Neal closed the hearing on S.B. 460.

S.B. 461 - Regulates euthanasia of animals.

Mr. Al Edmundson, Bureau Chief of Consumer Health Protection Services, stated that they neither support nor object to this bill, except that in Section 7, line 37 on Page 2 where it allows for inspection of a facility euthanizing animals by an officer of the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources. He requested that the Health Division be deleted from that provision because it is actually outside their field and they have no veterinarians on staff. He suggested that it would be better placed with the Department of Agriculture, and mentioned that Dr. John O'Harra of Animal Disease Control would not have too much objection to handling that function.

Mr. Dart Anthony, Clark County Humane Society, introduced Mr. Eric Sakach from the Humane Society of the United States. Mr. Sakach read a statement concerning the policy of the Humane Society of the United States and their views in regard to methods of euthanizing animals in the most humane way possible. They do not recommend the high altitude decompression chamber. They feel that injection of sodium pentobarbital by trained personnel is the best and most humane method of animal euthanasia. Attached as Exhibits C and D are the statement by Mr. Sakach and a report entitled "Why The HSUS is Opposed to the Use of the High Altitude Decompression Chamber for Animal Euthanasia."

Mr. Sakach informed the committee of the many animal control agencies and humane societies which have been using injections of sodium pentobarbital for years. The cost of converting to this method would depend on many factors, but Mr. Sakach stated that it cost the Los Angeles Department of Animal Control \$17,000 to change over and they kill 68,000 animals per year in 6 different shelters. Also, because sodium pentobarbital is a Schedule II drug, security could be a question. The HSUS contacted those agencies in southern California who used this drug and they report no abuses.

Mr. Sakach stated that the HSUS recommends the use of carbon monoxide for those agencies and societies who are not able to obtain sodium pentobarbital or do not have staff veterinarians.

At the request of Senator Glaser, Mr. Sakach described how the high altitude chamber works and the other methods used in the less populated areas. Senator Glaser asked Mr. Sakach if he would be opposed to using the unwanted animals for experimental reasons. Mr. Sakach said he is opposed to pound seizure programs. He felt that since there is no veterinary school in Nevada at this time, there is no need to consider this concept in this bill.

Dr. John W. Oliver, Veterinarian and a Humane Officer from California, distributed copies of resumes from some leaders in bio-physics and physiology and their opinion of the cruelty of the high altitude decompression chamber. He prefaced his remarks with the assumption that the committee was already convinced that the high altitude decompression chamber is a cruel way of putting animals to sleep so his testimony would relate to conversion to the sodium pentobarbital method and the carbon monoxide method.

Dr. Oliver stated that not only from the humane aspect, but also from the economic aspect, the injection method would be recommended. He distributed figures that were actually costs in setting up programs in other communities and explained each cost. A copy of his cost breakdown is attached as Exhibit E. He noted that oftentimes the scrap metal and compressor required for the decompression method could be sold to help offset the cost for converting. Dr. Oliver had also gotten several different bids for sodium pentobarbital which indicated that it would cost about 5¢ per c.c.

Dr. Oliver testified that in regard to the training of the personnel and the effect of euthanizing upon them, he has trained the personnel in five shelters and in each case he used the same personnel employed at the time. After 12 hours of training, all employees and the directors have accepted and prefer the injection method because of the psychological and humane aspects.

Dr. Oliver stated that the injection method usually puts the animal right to sleep, but some animals go through an excitement phase. These animals can be given 3¢ worth of tranquilizer, and that will help to alleviate that problem.

Dr. Oliver also testified that there have been no enforcement problems even though pentobarbital is a Schedule II drug. He had contact the Department of Justice on the state and federal levels to prove that fact. In regard to safety to employees, one agency in California reported that their insurance premium went down because the number of injuries went down after converting to the injection method.

Mr. John Tiernan, Director of the Monterey County SPCA, stated that he assumed that the committee is not convinced that decompression is cruel, and will try to show that the injection method is more humane. Mr. Tiernan showed a slide presentation showing the process of euthanasia by injection and the attitude of employees and directors using the injection method.

Senator Neal asked what happens to the animals after they are euthanized. Mr. Dart Anthony answered that the animals are taken to the dump, but the Humane Society hope to be able to get a pet cemetery and crematorium soon.

Mr. John Marquez, Supervisor of Animal Control for the City of Reno, spoke in opposition to S.B. 461. He submitted a statement on this subject, attached as Exhibit F, and touched on a few points in his testimony. He stated that he agrees that one of the advantages of the injection method is that death comes rapidly, but did not agree that it was painless. He felt that the injection method would have disadvantages as far as safeguards to the animal and personnel. The carbon monoxide and dioxide methods could create problems since they are colorless, odorless gases. If the City of Reno would have to convert to a carbon monoxide gas method, it would have to purchase the machine at a cost of \$6,000. Changing to the injection method would cost Reno \$39,444.

Mr. Marquez read the second paragraph of Page 3 of the prepared statement relating to the number of animals who needed to be re-injected and the reaction of other animals to the injections. He also mentioned that he would prefer the impersonal aspect of the decompression chamber.

Mr. Marquez concluded his testimony by stating that each agency or society should have the authority to choose which method of euthanizing animals works best in their respective area.

Mr. Mike Fielding, Department of Animal Control in the City of Las Vegas, stated that they use the high altitude decompression chamber for euthanizing animals and it is a humane method for eliminating unwanted animals. He submitted statement which is attached as Exhibit G. He had heard no testimony which stated that the decompression chamber was inhumane. In his opinion, the reason why people object to the decompression chamber is because it is aesthetically unpleasing to the eye.

Mr. Fielding referred to an article in the American Veterinarian Journal and results of a space testing program which shows that decompression does not cause pain, induces an euphoric state, and does not cause stress in animals.

Mr. Fielding then discussed the cost involved. He stated that he had a copy of a memo sent to the Director of the Public Services in the City of Las Vegas comparing the costs between the city and Ventura County, California. That comparison showed that the average cost under the decompression method was \$1.10 per animal for Las Vegas and .88¢ for Ventura. By injection, the cost in Las Vegas would be \$3.50 per animal and \$3.05 in Ventura. He stated that the City of Las Vegas would have to hire additional personnel to convert to the injection method.

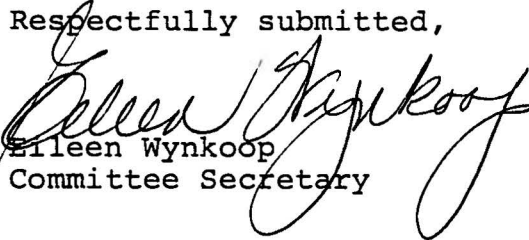
Senator Sloan asked Mr. Fielding if he believed that the carbon monoxide method is more humane than the other methods. Mr. Fielding answered that the carbon monoxide method deals with gas and could endanger the personnel. However, he has used the decompression chamber for 7 years and has never dealt with another method. He also reminded the committee to weigh the mandate of Proposition 6 to the approximatley \$60,000 per year additional expense to convert to the injection method.

Dr. Oliver responded to several comments made by the previous witness.

Senator Neal closed the hearing on S.B. 461.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Eileen Wynkoop  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED:

  
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Joe Neal, Chairman



**BROCHURE OF**

**FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



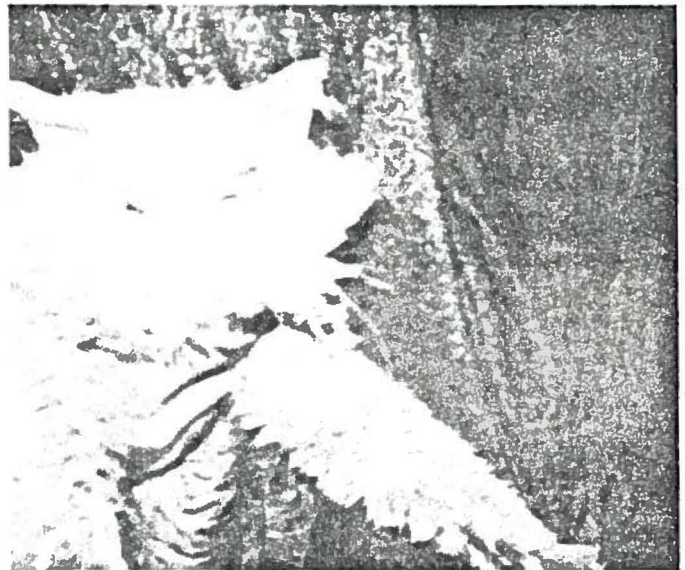
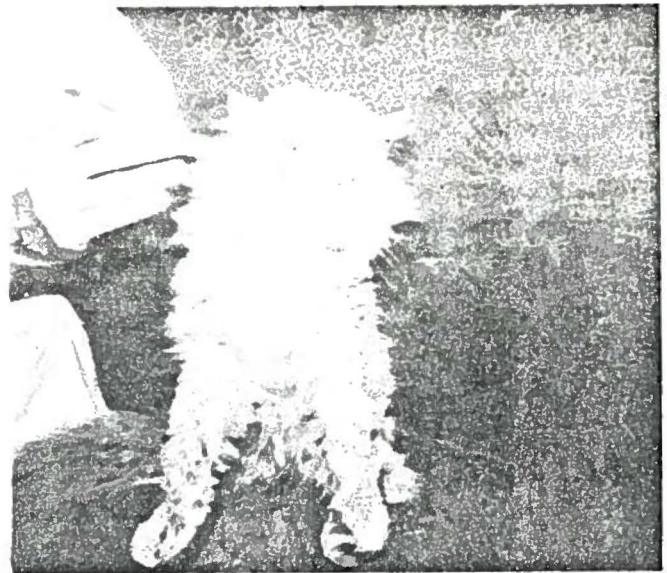
## DISTEMPER

This sickness causes the animal to become confused and helpless, snapping at foreign objects and froth at the mouth as if it had rabies. Trapping obviously would be a more humane control factor than distemper. If leg gripping traps become illegal, distemper is the only alternate natural control. What do you want of your wild life? They do have to be controlled or mother nature will do it. But as you see mother nature shows no mercy. The trapper holds the animal by a foot for a short period of time in contrast to mother nature's way of doing things. Do you want the trapper to control with a very minimum of pain, as many trappers have reported animals asleep in traps when checked after catching them. But mother nature and distemper lets the animal suffer for a high of three weeks and the animal slowly starves to death, racked with pain, scratching, itching, and frothing at the mouth. Feline and Canine distemper are non-related diseases in cats and dogs, however mink, opossum, raccoon, skunk carry both Canine and Feline distemper shile red, grey fox and and coyote carry Canine distemper only. So both your cat and dog can be infected by mauling an infected wild animal of the above if infected. These outbreaks can cause undescrible pain among wild life and also your very own pet cat or dog.



**This racoon is suffering from Canine distemper.**

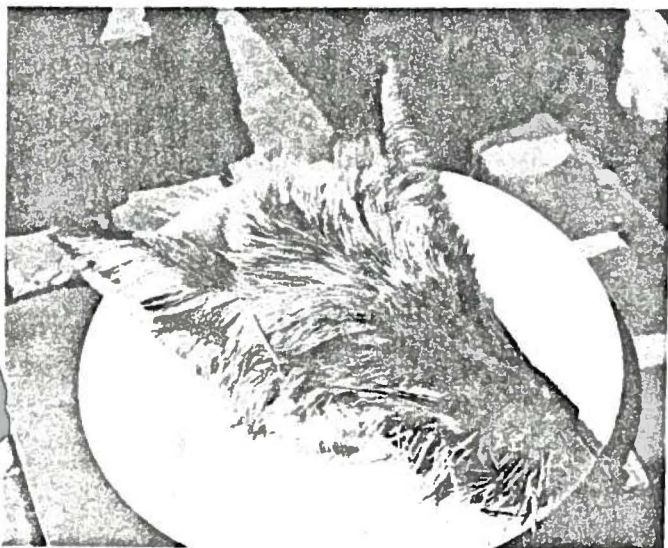
In the photos in the next column the cat is very anemic, dehydrated, has bloody diarrhea, infected eyes, mouth, nose, and whole upper respiratory involvement. Pus is running from both nostrils and eyes. Rectum caked with dried diarrhea and surrounding skin and tissues necrotic, rotten, stinking mess. The animal is no longer able to see or eat. The animal brought to Robert S. Wendt DVM; no choice but to eutbanize. How many pets have died a death like this from disease carried in wild animals. How many thousands of wild animals will die this painful type death if uncontrolled. This makes the trapper look like a godsend compared to mother nature's way of controlling.



### R A B I E S

Rabies is an infectious disease that de troys the nerve cells of part of the brain and causes death. Dogs and wild animals are the most common source of infection for human beings. Treatment for human beings is an injection of vaccine for 14 straight days. These shots are very painful. There is a record of only one person recovering from rabies. The Center for Disease Control says there has been an upsurge in reported cases among wild animals throughout the U.S. with a resulting increase risk of humans being exposed to this FATAL viral disease. Last year, for the first time since records were first kept, starting a quarter of a century ago, rabies was reported in every state except Hawaii. 1971 showed an increase of 34 percent increase over 1970 reported by the center.

The only practical way to do this is to allow a liberal fox trapping season and to encourage a heavy harvest of foxes. These same principles apply to other wild life. Sarcoptic mange are catching to both dogs and cats. Should your dog or cat come in contact with a mange wild animal you may be in for trouble with a sick pet that will require treatment. If not detected in time, it could cause a drawn out painful death. Have you ever had a case of poison ivy or poison oak. Then you can image what a mange infected animal feels as it slowly starves, itching, scratching, crying, and with no help dying a slow death.



This picture of the fox head is of a rabid animal in the furious stage that has attacked a porcupine, something only a mad fox would do.

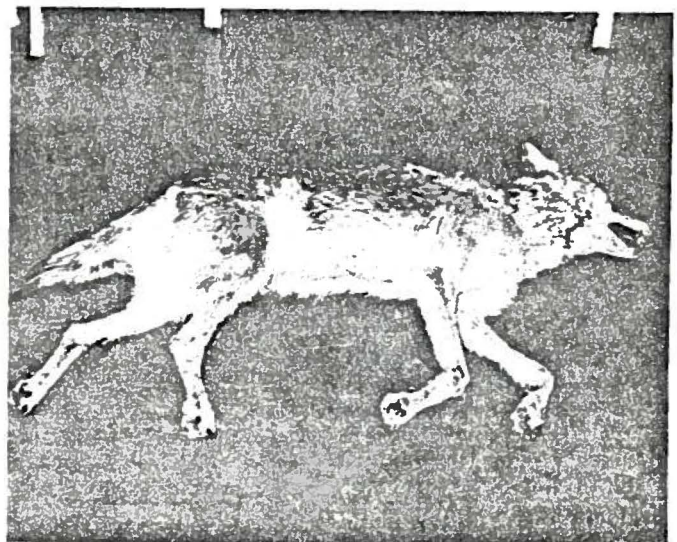


This photo shows a juvenile red fox with Sarcoptic Mange.

This shows what rage or fury a rabies infected dog or wild animal will attack. What chance do you or your children stand against an attack of this type? This can and does happen in your own backyard with an outbreak of rabies in your area.

### S A R C O P T I C M A N G E

Animals become covered with lesions, pustules, and scabs. Eyes become swollen shut and mouth so sore that the animal has trouble eating and will soon starve to death without treatment. What treatment is there for wild animals? It has become obvious that the Sarcoptic Mange mite is the most pathogenic estoparasite known to man. A mange infestation is invariably fatal to the host fox. Only the fact that the mange mite cannot live more than ten days in soil saves the red fox from certain extermination. Because mange is spread more readily when red fox populations are high, the only hope of containing this disease is to keep fox numbers low.



This coyote has also been the victim of Sarcoptic Mange.



In the photos above the dog with distemper appears dead, but is alive. He can no longer stand or eat. Eyes are infected, pneumonia, temperature of 106.5F, diarrhea, blood in urine, and intermintant convulsions. The animal eventually euthanized after two weeks of suffering. Robert S. Wendt D.V.M. is in picture. This is just another one of a thousand cases of people's beloved pets. These animals shown were at one time dear to someone's heart. Some child may have cried long into the night after their death. Death in animals should be sudden or peaceful but mother nature with her program of Rabies, Manges, and Distemper cut down the surplus when animal families become crowded. Her way is not merciful but full of pain, only the strong remain. Mother nature's way knows no boundries and will take your pet along with her wild life. The Trapper has been pointed out as cruel and terrible. The do gooders say he wants only an animals fur to pad his pocketbook. But how many do gooders have told or pointed

out these facts shown above? Have they told you the trapper knows his wild life and mother nature's ways? Have you been told the trapper is not only providing a service for you but he knows wild life has to be controlled to protect you and your property. His service over the years have kept the diseases of mother nature away from your door, pets, and children. He knows a well balanced, controlled wildlife population keeps the community in harmony. He is doing his past to keep a community in harmony. What are you doing? Do you take a look at a fake photo and listen to a group backed by manufacturers of Fake Furs and killer type traps? Do you listen to this anti-group who would do away with your pet cat or dog or endanger the health of your children and family for the sake of a dollar? Also when control of wildlife is stopped your tax will soon go up to pay for programs to control the wildlife. Please check with such states as Virginia and Tennessee to see what expenses were involved after controls of wildlife by trappers were stopped. To you anti-anti how do you propose to control our wildlife if the trapper is stopped? I have not as yet read of any plan to provide the fee services our trapper brethern are doing to control wildlife populations and keep mother nature at bay. Please don't take my word citizen, check these facts out with your D.V.M., rabias control, U.S. Health Dppt., U.S. Fish and Game Depts., State Wildlife Commissions. Get the facts first, then decide if you want have your state wildlife controlled by mother nature w. will use Rabies, Distemper, Manges and other animal sickness. Since she is no respecter of animals your pet cat or dog may also go and your family and children will be subject to the chance of being bitten by a rabies animal. This is a disease where only one known case in history has recovered after contacting this disease. Do you want the trappers way and the services he has been providing since Kit Carson, Daniel Boone, and other famous mountain men? We only ask that you check the facts and give the subject some long serious thinking. Don't let a picture make up your mind. We want to give credit to Robert Wendt D.V.M. and photographers of Conservation Education Division and the Pathology and Rabies Control Section of the Delmar Wildlife Laboratory for the photographs and Robert Wendt D.V.M., Benjamin E. Tullar Jr., and Wally W. Schmiegl (Editor) for facts, information, data and history of article.

**Brochure of Fur Takers of America International**  
**3057 Nettie Drive**  
**St. Louis, Mo. 63125**





West Coast Regional Office

# REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

WINTER/SPRING 1979

## CONVICTION WON IN NEVADA CRUELTY CASE



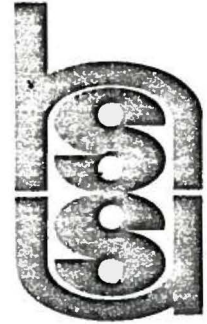
Honn's Animal Adoptions Ltd. Photo by Susan Bond, CCHS

"We were referred from the Clark County District Attorney's Office to the Henderson City Attorney's Office, back to the district attorney's office for a reevaluation of the case, and back to the city attorney's office again," said Eric Sakach, field investigator for the West Coast Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States. "Never before have I encountered such confusion over jurisdiction in trying to get cruelty charges filed."

This office received a complaint from the Animal Rescue Foundation in Las Vegas prompted by citizens' complaints of animals being housed in inhumane conditions at Honn's Animal Adoptions Ltd. center in Henderson, Nevada. Sakach made contact with the Clark County Humane Society in Las Vegas to find out if there had been other complaints and asked if they could do a preliminary investigation with the Animal Rescue Foundation to substantiate the complaints before a HSUS representative was sent to the area. Upon receipt of further information, Sakach flew to Las Vegas to assist the two local humane groups in the investigation. He made an undercover visit to the animal adoption center with the local investigators who were able to photograph conditions. The investigators found approximately 150 animals, including cats, dogs, raccoons, five African Lions, three monkeys, numerous birds, fowl, and barnyard animals. Many of the animals appeared to be ill, standing in inches of mud, urine and fecal matter without shelter from the elements and forced to drink water contaminated with their own excrement. Early the next morning representatives of the three groups arrived at the Clark County District Attorney's office prepared

to sign complaints against the owner of the adoption center for violations of Nevada's anti-cruelty statutes. The district attorney's office advised them that the charges would have to be filed in Henderson (located in Clark County) even though they were violations of state cruelty statutes. After the city attorney reviewed the case, he felt that the district attorney's office had joint jurisdiction in the matter and that it might be more to our advantage to have that office handle the complaint since he didn't believe the city would have authority to get an order to impound the animals. The complainants were requested to meet at the district attorney's office the next morning for a reevaluation of the case. During that meeting the confusion over jurisdiction became paramount and it was agreed by the investigators that the element of surprise had been lost in the case. Dart Anthony, Chairman of the Clark County Humane Society, called a press conference at the district attorney's office to explain the problems in trying to prosecute a criminal complaint. Apparently, pressure from the media resulted in the district attorney's office stating that they would take immediate action to prepare and implement a district court order to have the animals removed and placed in protective custody. After the complainants returned to Henderson to sign the complaint they met with District Court Judge Paul Goldman. He later signed a court order to have the animals placed in protective custody after three veterinarians concurred that the animals should be removed. Five days after Sakach had first arrived in Las Vegas, the animals were finally removed from the adoption center by animal control personnel.

Honn was tried on March 20, 1979 in Henderson Municipal Court and found guilty of animal neglect by Municipal Judge Jim Jensen after more than five hours of testimony by CCHS and HSUS witnesses and Dr. Joseph Leveque, who had examined some of the animals. According to the Las Vegas Sun Newspaper: Judge Jensen called Honn's shelter "an embarrassment" and criticized the city of Henderson for "negligently policing" the isolated Bermuda Road animal adoption center. According to the paper in his decision he said, "Considering she has been a resident of Henderson for a number of years, it is an embarrassment to me that people outside Henderson had to make the complaint about what has been going on for a long time."



April 16, 1979

Senator Joe Neal, Chairman  
 Natural Resources Committee  
 Legislative Building  
 Capitol Complex  
 Carson City, NV 89701

**The Humane Society  
 of the United States**

**West Coast  
 Regional Office  
 1713 J Street, Suite 4  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
 (916) 447-3295**

CHARLENE DRENNON  
 Director

ERIC SAKACH  
 Field Representative

Dear Senator Neal:

The Clark County Humane Society has requested that we write to you regarding SB 460 to ban the use of decompression chambers as a method of killing unwanted animals in shelters in Nevada.

The Humane Society of the United States is the largest national, nonprofit animal welfare organization in the United States. Our members include humanitarians of all ages and from all walks of life. It is the policy of The HSUS to pursue a vigorous program of investigation, study, and application of acceptable euthanasia methods and to recommend for use those methods that are as humane and free from fear and apprehension as the best available knowledge can show. In addition, this evaluation should take into account simplicity of operation, availability, cost factors, mechanical and maintenance problems, and aesthetic considerations for the people involved.

The HSUS does not recommend euthanasia with the high altitude decompression chamber. One of the most frequently heard complaints from citizens and personnel of animal regulatory agencies concerns the decompression chamber. As you may be aware, a number of states have already outlawed them including Maine, Massachusetts, Arizona, and California. Arkansas and Virginia have bills to outlaw it waiting for the governors' signatures and Idaho now has a bill pending. Enclosed is a detailed report, "Why The HSUS is Opposed to the Use of the High Altitude Decompression Chamber for Animal Euthanasia", which has some excellent background information.

The Humane Society of the United States recommends injection of sodium pentobarbital by a veterinarian or trained technician as the best and most humane method of animal euthanasia. The second choice would be carbon monoxide supplied from a cylinder of purified cool gas in a properly constructed cabinet. Additionally, The HSUS has information and instructional materials available to agencies concerning these methods. It should be remembered that no method is

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Senator Joe Neal  
April 16, 1979

is any better than the person who administers it, therefore, euthanasia should always be performed by the most qualified and concerned person on the staff.

The Humane Society of the United States supports SB 460 and thanks you for being concerned. No one likes the fact that unwanted pets have to be killed. The least we can do is provide for a quick, humane death.

Sincerely,

Charlene Drennon

Charlene Drennon  
Director, West  
Coast Region

CD:sm

Enclosures

cc: Senator Norman Glaser  
Senator Wilbur Faiss  
Senator Floyd R. Lamb  
Senator Mike Sloan  
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen

**Why The HSUS is  
Opposed to the  
Use of the  
High Altitude  
Decompression Chamber  
for Animal Euthanasia**



The Humane Society of the United States  
2100 L St. NW/Washington, DC 20037

September, 1978

Euthanasia means an easy death without apprehension, fear or stress. Humanitarians generally acknowledge the necessity of euthanizing unwanted animals.

In 1973, the CBS news program "60 Minutes" covered the topic of animal control and showed euthanasia by two methods -- high altitude decompression chamber and sodium pentobarbital injection. That broadcast brought national attention to the question of the humaneness of the decompression chamber for euthanasia, and fueled the debate on this topic among humane organizations.

HSUS has been asked by many local groups to testify for legislation to ban the chamber. As a result of our experience, we maintain that the decompression chamber is not a humane method of animal destruction.

The chamber generally used by animal shelters and municipal pounds is the "Euthanair", manufactured by a California company. The animals are loaded into the chamber, and the air in the chamber is withdrawn by a vacuum pump. The chamber simulates the low oxygen pressure of high altitudes, reducing the oxygen moving from the animal's lungs to its blood.

Proponents of the chamber, including the American Humane Association and some local animal shelters, liken this to experiments in simulated high altitude conducted by the military in connection with space exploration. However, the military equipment is considerably more sophisticated than that used in animal shelters, and is operated by scientists and technicians. Euthanair promotional literature describes its working mechanism simply as "motor and pump."

Also, the military test subjects are pilots who are in good physical condition and are examined and monitored by physicians.

The animals in the chamber experience hypoxia (symptoms of oxygen deficiency), unconsciousness and death. Theoretically, the animals become unconscious before any physiological damage occurs and therefore feel no pain.

The American Humane Association held an informal conference on euthanasia in May 1964, attended by AHA representatives, scientists and U.S. Air Force personnel. The report from that meeting includes statements by the participants that internal injuries -- middle ear hemorrhage, engorgement of organs with blood, lung damage, the "bends" -- do not occur during the decompression stage of the cycle, but they occur instead during recompression, after the animal has succumbed to unconsciousness and death.

The report does recommend that animals exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness and day-old animals should be examined by a veterinarian to determine the most suitable method of euthanasia, and that young, aged and sick animals be held at altitude for a longer period.

Two of the participants -- James E. Dunn, II, Captain, USAF, MC, and Richard Bancroft, Ph.D., of the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine -- conducted an experiment in which dogs were euthanized in an Air Force decompression chamber. One of their conclusions, included in an addendum to the conference report, was that: "It was demonstrated that middle ear hemorrhage was a result of recompression in the two animals examined rather than decompression."

The claim that animals become unconscious before the damaging effects of decompression-recompression take place is in question. Dr. George P. Biro, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology, University of Ottawa, studied the technical specifications and literature on the Euthanair, which state that decompression to an equivalent altitude of 55,000 ft. is achieved

in 45 to 60 seconds. Dr. Biro wrote,

"If one were to suddenly ascend to an altitude of 30,000 ft., consciousness would be lost in 60-80 seconds. Instantaneous ascent to higher altitudes would be followed by shorter periods before consciousness was lost (e.g., at 40,000 ft., 30 seconds, etc.). It is unlikely that consciousness due to hypoxia would be lost much sooner than about 20 seconds, even if instantaneous ascent to 50-60,000 ft. would be achieved. This period, before consciousness is lost, is accompanied by very marked hyperventilation, apprehension, etc....

"...I think that I cannot accept, without reservations, the claim that the Euthanair equipment permits a safe and absolutely humane answer to the problem of the disposal of unwanted animals. I think it is relatively easy to operate and allows relatively large 'turnover'; it does subject the animals to pain and suffering during the period prior to loss of consciousness."

The late Dr. F.L. Thomsen, who was president of Humane Information Services in St. Petersburg, Florida, wrote about decompression in the March 1975 issue of Report to Humanitarians after extensive research.

"The really undesirable effects of rapid decompression arise mainly as a result of the expansion of gas reservoirs contained within the body. As the ambient (outside) air pressure is rapidly reduced during decompression, the gases in these body cavities obey the laws of physics by attempting to expand, or to find an outlet so that the internal and external pressures can be equalized. If these gases can readily escape from the cavities or hollow organs in which they are contained, such as the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, and sinus and inner ear passages, there is little or no pain. If not, the pressure of the expanding gases will produce what in some cases may be severe pain...

"The attempt of gases in the sinus passages and middle ear to expand and escape, as the outside pressure drops, may result in painful pressures if catarrhal infection obstructs the air passages. If the opening from the inner ear to the nasopharynx (the eustachian tube) is blocked, the pressure built up in the inner ear may be especially painful."

Thomsen also quotes Professor Bryan H.C. Matthews, F.R.S., of the Physiological Laboratory, Cambridge University, England, from a statement from the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare:

"The change of pressure has to reach the middle ear, otherwise the eardrum is forced out and may produce severe pain. In man this equalization of pressure is effected by opening the eustachian tube at the back of the throat either by

voluntary effort (with practice) or unconsciously in swallowing, and during reduction in pressure this must be done many times to avoid pain developing. Laboratory animals do not seem to 'clear their ears' easily during reduction of pressure, and this seems to me to raise a major difficulty in applying this proposal (rapid decompression). Laboratory animals, even with very slow reduction of pressure, often show signs (scratching the ears, etc.) that they are distressed by this effect, and anaesthetized cats decompressed at rates tolerable to human beings suffer severe injury to the ears which might be expected to be painful; moreover any infective condition of nose and throat is often accompanied by blocking of the eustachian tube by mucus, etc., making decompression impossible without severe pain or injury to the eardrum. I would imagine many animals to be destroyed might be in such condition. This, I think, makes it most improbable that decompression could be successfully employed for painless animal destruction."

HSUS investigators have witnessed live animals coming out of the chambers after the cycle was completed. Young animals still adapted to the low-oxygen environment of the womb are especially susceptible, and few shelters take the time to give them special treatment. Adult animals who manage to find a pocket of oxygen in the chamber after decompression can emerge alive also.

The many animals who survive the cycle of decompression-recompression may suffer painful internal injuries as indicated above.

In the 1978 report from the American Veterinary Medical Association panel on euthanasia methods, euthanasia by decompression is described as "satisfactory...provided the equipment is properly constructed, correctly maintained, and proficiently operated. Because many difficulties have arisen in using decompression and because there is a general lack of understanding of how hypoxia affects animals, other methods of euthanasia are preferable."

In testimony at hearings on a bill to ban decompression euthanasia in South Carolina, representatives of the American Humane Association and the South Carolina Veterinarians Association qualified their support of Euthanair saying it must be properly maintained and used.

HSUS considers proper maintenance and proficiency of use a significant qualification. In 1974, 192 Euthanair machines were inspected by the State of



California, and 62% were found to be inoperable. The chamber is susceptible to breakdown and gauge malfunction; therefore, it may recompress in the middle of a cycle. It has been suggested that any agency using the chamber also purchase an altimeter to doublecheck the gauges.

The October 1964 conference of the American Humane Association Euthanasia Committee reported that Euthanair operators should follow a procedure with no less than 13 steps, many of them with more than one specific action, and with a set of color codes. The procedure includes sorting animals to avoid placing hostile animals together, and checking gauges through the cycle.

Such a lengthy complex procedure invites misinterpretation and misuse. A careless turn of a knob in the wrong direction could result in great suffering for the chamber occupants.

In addition, the machine is often overloaded in order to process more animals -- the overcrowding of animals and the placing of dogs and cats together in close quarters causes extreme tension for the animals. The American Humane Association has recommended that the chamber be operated by trained personnel and its use supervised by a veterinarian. However, it is unlikely that shelter employees trying to euthanize animals in a hurry will take the time to consult a veterinarian if there is a question about a particular animal.

In a 1977 letter prepared for the South Carolina hearings, T. I. Hughes of the Ontario Humane Society wrote,

"Decompression chambers which were used in Ontario were taken out of our shelters after very careful investigation by the 'Euthanasia Committee' which included veterinarians, lay workers, etc....It was the opinion of our Euthanasia Committee that short of the Committee supervising every operation of the unit, that in spite of all the regulations that could be posted in the room and all the training and all the guidance that could be given and all the supervision that could be given at long range, in spite of all these precautions it could not be reasonably guaranteed to produce humane death for the animals."

Indeed, the decompression chamber is virtually non-existent in Canada today.

More and more humanitarians are becoming concerned about the cruelties resulting from the use of the decompression chamber. Efforts to ban use of decompression for animal euthanasia have been successful in many locations, including the states of Maine, Massachusetts and Arizona, and the cities of Dallas, Texas; Berkeley, California; and Fort Wayne, Indiana; as well as Prince George's County, Maryland and Ventura County, California. Shelters in Los Angeles County and Santa Clara, California, have switched from decompression to injection, as have the Indianapolis Humane Society, the Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo, California, the Pomona Valley (Calif.) Humane Society, the ASPCA in New York City, the Boulder (Colorado) Humane Society and the Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago.

In late 1977, three California shelters -- the county animal shelter in Baldwin Park, and shelters run by the Pasadena Humane Society and the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society -- decided to stop using the chamber following local public protest and informal discussion among shelter managers at a convention of the American Humane Association, according to The Los Angeles Times. The Times quoted the executive director of the Pasadena group: "It was generally agreed that use of the high altitude chamber might not be so humane as we have been led to believe."

Phyllis Wright, HSUS Director of Animal Sheltering and Control, spoke on Euthanair operation before the Dallas City Council in March, 1975, as that body was deciding to ban decompression for euthanasia at the animal facility:

"I do object strenuously to the information that is given on the back page of the Euthanair brochure where it says a device that is 33 inches wide and 42 inches long can handle up to 50 animals an hour. It is totally impossible -- unless it is overcrowded. Now mathematics is not my greatest subject, but it is quite easy for me to figure out that with a chamber 33" by 42", one German shepherd would be comfortable. Four beagles

would be comfortable. Loading the machine takes at least two minutes. If it is run correctly, it is run for one and one-half minutes and held for ten minutes. If the machine has been unloaded and it is cleared of the vomit, and the urine, and the feces, obviously that is going to take you another five minutes. It is totally mathematically impossible to euthanize more than 16 animals per hour humanely in the Euthanair, and I would be happy for anyone to explain to me how it could be done with any more animals and be used humanely."

Walter E. Kilroy, then Director of Operations and now Vice President, Massachusetts SPCA, discussed the cost of decompression versus euthanasia by overdose of sodium pentobarbital before the City Council of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, May 1977:

"MSPCA shelters receive...60,000-85,000 stray and unwanted animals annually. Of this number, some 50,000-70,000 must be destroyed due to advanced age, poor health, undesirable temperament, or simply the lack of suitable homes.

"The method of animal euthanasia which we have used exclusively for more than 30 years is the injection of sodium pentobarbital or its derivatives. There is absolutely no question in our mind that it is the most humane method available today. Additionally, it is an efficient, practical and inexpensive method -- applicable to either small or large numbers of animals, be they stray, unwanted or a combination of both.

"It has been suggested by some, however, that it is impractical in terms of cost and humane application to strays in particular.

"I would like to respond to both of these assertions.

"First, cost--During 1974, we destroyed 52,000 stray and unwanted animals, using 98 gallons of sodium pentobarbital in the process. The cost of the material was \$5,426.00. Hence, 10.4¢ was spent on material for each animal euthanized.

"Staff time required for each animal euthanized is as follows: On the average two qualified persons (one to restrain a dog and close the vein and the other to administer the intravenous injection) euthanize a dog in less than two minutes.

"With respect to cats, one qualified person can simultaneously accomplish both restraint of the animal and the abdominal injection of the material. Generally, much less time is required for the euthanasia procedure involving cats." (Cost figures from the MSPCA for 1976 show that the average cost per animal euthanized for equipment and material was 6¢.)

"I realize that proponents of the Rapid Decompression Method often suggest that sodium pentobarbital often cannot be humanely administered to strays. The rationale for their position is that strays are not pets and, therefore, do not tolerate the kind of physical handling and restraint required in the euthanasia administration of an injectable barbiturate.

"MSPCA's thirty plus years of experience in handling strays and using injection euthanasia does not support this contention. To be sure, a small percentage of animals, be they owned or strays, will resist handling but the percentage is indeed small...

"Rapid decompression, we feel is an impersonal method of euthanasia which can foster operator insensitivity to the potential detriment of the animals destroyed by it.

"Also, there are still not only unanswered questions as to its humaneness, but more important, it is a method more predisposed to misuse (from overcrowding, etc.) and/or equipment malfunction, either one of which can render it extremely inhumane."

Joyce A. Tischler of the Association for Responsible Animal Guardianship made the following comments in her report on euthanasia methods for the Animal Control Unit of the Oakland, California, Police Department, represented in April 1978:

"In the course of our research, we contacted doctors at Castle Air Force Base (which has an experimental decompression chamber), and Travis Air Force Base. The following points were brought out regarding decompression performed by the Air Force on human subjects:

"1. The Air Force decompression chambers are not designed for euthanasia, but rather for training Air Force personnel.

"2. Personnel must be in good to excellent physical condition before being allowed into the chamber. The reason for this is that persons with colds or other respiratory difficulties cannot handle pressure equalizations, and there have been cases where trainees experienced great pain, and some, permanent damage. Therefore, trainees must undergo a sinus check prior to undergoing decompression, and they will not be allowed in if unable to ventilate their middle ear...

"3. On the first day of decompression training, trainees are taken up to 35,000 feet in fifteen minutes. This is not comparable to the use of chambers in pounds, which state law requires must reach 53-55,000 feet within one minute.

"4. Air Force doctors expressed concern over expansion of internal gases in animals being brought to 55,000 feet in one minute. Human subjects who are unable to pass gas freely have found it extremely uncomfortable.

"5. It was suggested that animals may suffer emotional distress from such unfamiliar surroundings and from the sound made when the air is being evacuated.

"6. The Air Force has never endorsed the decompression chamber, nor any other specific machine or method for small animal euthanasia."

Philip L. Anthony, supervisor, first district, Orange County, California, researched thoroughly the issue of decompression versus sodium pentobarbital injection for animal euthanasia. His report of May 9, 1978 to the county board of supervisors includes the following:

"My staff and I have actually witnessed both methods in practice, and reviewed a considerable body of information on this subject. I have observed first hand the routine decompression chamber process and a demonstration of an injection process at our Animal Shelter. I also visited a Los Angeles County Animal Shelter where an injection method is now used regularly and observed their operations first hand.

"My personal conclusions are: 1) that the decompression method, even when perfectly executed, does cause significant stress and suffering to the animals, 2) that the injection method causes essentially no stress or suffering and is the most humane method of animal euthanasia currently available, and 3) that when carried out by licensed Animal Health Technicians or properly trained kennel attendants, as is done in Los Angeles County, the injection method costs about the same or even less than the decompression method...

"From my own observations through the viewing port in the decompression chambers at our Orange County Animal Shelter, I can tell you that the animals (dogs in the cases I witnessed) become obviously agitated and distressed within a few seconds after the vacuum pump is turned on. They all gasped noticeably, and most yelped and circled frantically. Within a minute or two, or three they gradually collapsed to the floor of the chamber with tossing about of their heads and forequarters. In their final conscious seconds there was more gasping and then final twitching and minor convulsions. After two or three minutes, say up to 200 seconds of obvious distress, the animals were collapsed on the floor of the chamber apparently unconscious.

"To put this kind of experience in perspective, the decompression chamber process is equivalent to you or I being removed from essentially sea level here in Orange County to twice the altitude of Mount Everest in less than a minute!...

"Shortly after its development for animal euthanasia by a staff member of the American Humane Association, the decompression chamber was commercialized, most especially by the Euthanair Company. This private company has manufactured and actively promoted and marketed animal decompression chambers since the 1950's...

"Regardless of the implied allegations that personal relationships or advertising revenues may have influenced the American Humane Association's endorsement which no doubt helped gain the acceptance of the decompression chamber method, I am most concerned that for years this method had been 'sold' as a product in the form of mechanical equipment. The equipment was apparently sold as humane enough and as more cost effective than previous methods. To me it is very unfortunate that commercial marketing techniques have apparently played a role in the promotion of a method for such a sensitive and unfortunate task as the destruction of animals in question...

"...I must now add my impressions of the attitudes of the personnel at our Animal Shelter involved with the decompression chamber method versus those at the Los Angeles County Shelter involved with their injection method. The staff members at our shelter were at best protective of their decompression method. And, it showed as they carted the animals up, loaded them in the chamber, threw the switch, then hauled the animals out and cleaned up the mess afterwards. It was like they knew what was happening, but could keep it at an impersonal distance by virtue of the mechanical operation of the chamber. They did not have to look into the chamber -- and apparently they never did, even though some authorities say they should...

"In contrast, the injection method team was very close to each animal as it quietly and cleanly expired. But, they appeared calmly confident in what they were doing, and openly stated they believed their work to be the best way to carry out an unavoidable task. I went away from the two experiences firmly convinced that the injection team felt much better about the correctness and the humane value of their work than did the decompression chamber operators...

"Both the public and the humane organizations have stressed to me that public cooperation with our Animal Shelter could be greatly improved if the decompression chamber were not in use. Not only would more homeless and unwanted animals be brought to our shelter, but significantly more volunteer help would become available in all areas...

"I have tried to explain the several reasons why decompression, both theoretically and in practice, is an inhumane method by which to destroy unwanted animals. If you agree with my conclusions, then cost advantages, whether real or not, should no longer be a factor in our decision. For the most basic ethical reasons, if we are intentionally to destroy animals at all it must be done humanely."

Dr. John W. Oliver, DVM, of Saratoga, California, prepared a position paper on "The High-Altitude Decompression Chamber vs. Sodium Pentobarbital Injection," and included the following comments:

"To develop some comparative figures, we ran a number of timed studies at the Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley. We used the machine according to state law, and used the lay help that had normally operated the machine. For the accepted load of 10 cats, our times ranged from 35 to 40 minutes. This involved loading the cats from their cages into the portable euthanasia cages, loading the chamber, running it for the time prescribed by Section 597W, unloading and cleaning as required by 597W. This gave us a labor cost of 31.6 cents per cat, very close to the 30 cent figure offered in support of the chamber by the City of Los Angeles.

"We then tabulated our expense for labor and drugs for several hundred cats euthanized by injection. Our labor cost for one man, injecting one cat per minute by the intraperitoneal route, was 8.3 cents per cat. The cost of the drug, when purchased at \$4.90 per 100 cc was 9.8 cents per cat for a total of 18.1 cents, a saving of 13.5 cents per cat.

"We then did a study on several hundred dogs. All of these dogs were given intravenous injections by a team of two men trained by myself. They averaged 25 dogs per hour. The labor costs were 40 cents per dog and the cost of drugs averaged 12.2 cents per dog (average 25 pound dog requires 2.5 cc) for a total of 52.2 cents.

"Certainly the average of 18.1 cents for cats and 52.2 for dogs (average all animals: 35.15 cents) compares favorably with the 30 to 45 cents figure offered in support of the chamber...

"I have trained numerous people (for sodium pentobarbital injection). The people I trained were not specially hired to participate in the program, but were the regular kennel people on the premises. The program was very simple, requiring approximately 4 hours of work with each person. They quickly learned how to inject a vein on the larger animals and how to introduce the material intraperitoneally on the smaller ones. They are all doing a beautiful job and in most cases have as a result of doing so many, become more adept than their teacher...

"We know that lay people can handle the job -- that the expense and expertise of a veterinarian are totally uncalled for. These lay people are euthanizing thousands of dogs in facilities as large as any in California. We have statements -- not from little old ladies or even well-intentioned but frequently ill-advised veterinarians, but rather from professors and research people actually in the area of Aerospace and Biophysics who make only too graphic the agonizing deaths the animals suffer in the decompression chamber...

"I will be happy to provide any additional information or assistance to groups willing to abolish the decompression chamber and change over to euthanasia by injection, and can be reached at the Saratoga Pet Clinic, 12250 S. Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd., Saratoga, California 95070."

John T. Kalberer, Jr., Ph.D., who has a research background with the National Institute of Health, National Cancer Institute and National Advisory Cancer Council, included the following comments in a letter prepared for hearings to ban the decompression chamber in Dallas, Texas:

"I quote from a reasearch paper of mine which appeared in the journal Aerospace Medicine, Vol. 40, pg. 1071, 1969. Shortly after decompression, animals exhibit difficulty in breathing ("chokes"), begin scratching, show little motor activity, and, in most instances, die within minutes (up to 15 minutes). For a few seconds preceding death, the animals jump about erratically, have severe respiratory distress with hiccough-like spells, twitch, fall on their backs, gasp several times, and expire. In some instances you can even get enlarged abdomens due to gaseous distension of the gastrointestinal tract. These facts are the result of well controlled research experiments which had to be carried out so that this Nation could safely land men on the moon. This work was done also in an effort to make undersea exploits safer. It is evident that these animals are subjected to a painful and grotesque last few seconds of life where in some instances the process can last several minutes."

Linda Johnston is a concerned South Carolinian who spent nearly a year researching the decompression question. She testified at the hearings on the bill to ban decompression for euthanasia in the state:

"As regards the comparison of experiments conducted by the armed forces in sophisticated high altitude simulators to what occurs in the comparatively crude apparatus being used in animal shelters today, there is no comparison. The Euthanair, if you will, is an oversized garbage can with a vacuum pump attached to it, and the difference certainly does not end there. The information I have indicates that military simulators ascend at a rate of 1,000 feet per minute. The Euthanair ascends at a rate of 1,000 feet per second, or 60 times faster!



"The Euthanair simulates an altitude of 55,000 feet, or what would amount to ten miles straight up within 45-60 seconds. There is no time for the euphoria Commander Passaglia (Commander Martin Passaglia, physiologist, testified against the bill as a representative of the American Humane Association) would have us believe occurs at this staggering rate of speed. It would take a military simulator almost an hour to reach a 55,000 foot altitude at the rate of 1,000 feet per minute, and at that rate of ascent, the gradual deprivation of oxygen would probably bring about this euphoric state, but not at 1,000 feet per second!

"Bear in mind, also, that military simulators stop well below the 55,000 foot level because the human subject would obviously die if he were taken to that altitude. So you see, you cannot compare these two devices either on a level of mechanical excellence or performance because there just is no comparison.

"And now the question of pain. There is a great deal of disagreement among doctors, veterinarians and other authorities in the United States on this question, but Canadian and British authorities have not included decompression as a humane method of euthanasia in those countries. The reason is that no one has ever been able to prove that an animal, especially an animal with upper respiratory disease which would cause blockage of the inner ears or eustachian tubes, does not experience excruciating pain when the gases trapped in his inner ear expand six times in volume during the decompression process.

"AHA tries to allay our fears by citing experiments using electroencephalograms to measure pain. But a highly-respected and prominent Canadian authority, Dr. H. C. Roswell, Executive Director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care, a veterinarian, and professor of the Department of Pathology of the University of Ottawa advises on this subject:

It is fraudulent to interpret that the EEG can define what the animal is experiencing. One simply does not know if the brain activity 'is' the experience, causes the experience, or is caused by the experience; or is caused by some other factor which, in turn, causes the experience.

"So, as nice as it would be to rationalize that an electrical device can reassure us an animal is not experiencing pain, Dr. Roswell has removed, with this one statement, any

security blanket of mechanical rationalization.

"One of the most serious and well-documented criticisms of this method is that many, many times young animals simply do not die after having been run through one cycle, and then are recompressed only to revive and have to be run through twice and sometimes three times. The AHA has admitted openly that severe inner ear damage does occur on recompression and that there is also hemorrhaging of the small blood vessels of the lungs. I have reports of young animals reviving from many sources, not to mention the ones that have occurred here in the Columbia area.

"One shelter employee has said that he leaves the young animals in the machine for up to an hour to insure they are dead, but in spite of this the driver of the truck which takes the animals' bodies out to the city dump remarked once that almost every day "something" follows him back from the pit to the truck. It is very difficult for me to believe these stories are not true when they come from so many different sources and different cities....

"The final point I will bring up today is the predisposition of the Euthanair to human misuse through overcrowding, the mixing of dogs and cats, and the shortening of the holding period in the interest of saving time. We have documentation that it is not uncommon for employees to stuff the machine so full of animals that they are like sardines in a can, even though the AHA suggests two dogs the size of a German Shepherd are quite an adequate load. The largest unit made by Euthanair is a cylinder 36" wide by 42" long, and they say in their advertisement that it will handle up to 60 animals per hour.

"By humane standards one could destroy no more than 16 cocker or beagle sized dogs in an hour, and yet shelters, believing the advertisement, buy the machine only to discover later that it is not capable of handling nearly as many animals in as short a length of time as was claimed. Employees then turn to overcrowding and cutting the holding period to save time. The Euthanair Company also does not bother to mention that their machine is not suitable for young animals or sick animals even though AHA themselves recommend in at least two publications that alternative methods be used for young animals and animals with upper respiratory disease.

"I have spent the better part of a year intensely researching this question, and I have a large file of documentation proving the points I have made here today. Nobody who has read all the facts available could ever conclude that this is a humane method for destroying animals as it is being used in many shelters today."

It is testimony such as that above combined with the experiences of HSUS staff members that led HSUS to adopt the position that euthanasia by decompression is unacceptable.

We advocate sodium pentobarbital injection as the most humane method of euthanasia, with carbon monoxide as a second choice for shelters that are unable to use sodium pentobarbital.

We believe that where responsible homes for animals cannot be found, the role of the humanitarian is to provide the most humane death possible for those animals. Decompression is clearly not a humane death.

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES STATEMENT OF POLICY ON EUTHANASIA:

Because the enormous overpopulation of dogs and cats results in the impoundment and destruction of the majority of these animals, and because methods of destruction used are often inadequate, inhumane and ineffective, it is the policy of The Humane Society of the United States to pursue a vigorous program of investigation, study, and application of acceptable euthanasia methods and to recommend for use those methods that are as humane and free from fear and apprehension as the best available knowledge can show and that this evaluation should take into account simplicity of operation, availability, cost factors, mechanical and maintenance problems, and aesthetic considerations to the people involved.

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A study of euthanasia methods generally used today is available from The Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, a Division of The Humane Society of the United States. The study is "Euthanasia of Dogs and Cats: An Analysis of Experience and Current Knowledge With Recommendations for Research," and the price is \$3 (\$2.50 per copy if 10 or more copies are ordered). Order from HSUS, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

## Sources:

Euthanair Company promotional mailing, May, 1978.

Corrected Copy Report, Informal Conference, High Altitude (Low Pressure) Animal Euthanasia, Thursday, May 21, 1964, Brooks Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Letter from Dr. George P. Biro, Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, The Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa to Dr. H.C. Rowsell, Professor, Department of Pathology, University of Ottawa, July 5, 1973.

Report to Humanitarians, quarterly publication of Humane Information Services, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida, Number 31, March, 1975.

Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia, American Veterinary Medical Association, 1978.

Report, Second Conference, High Altitude (Low Pressure) Animal Euthanasia, Monday, October 24, 1964, Los Angeles, California.

Letter from T.I. Hughes, Executive Vice President, Ontario Humane Society to Linda Johnston of Columbia, South Carolina, June 3, 1977.

The Los Angeles Times, Sunday, October 30, 1977.

Testimony by Phyllis Wright, Director of Animal Sheltering and Control, The Humane Society of the United States, before the Dallas (Texas) City Council, March 24, 1975.

Testimony by Walter E. Kilroy, Vice President, Massachusetts SPCA, before the City Council of Fort Wayne, Indiana, May 12, 1977.

"Study of Euthanasia Methods for Urban Animal Control Programs - Attachment to Interim Report and Recommendations Concerning the Animal Control Unit of the Oakland Police Department," prepared by Joyce A. Tischler, Association for Responsible Animal Guardianship, Oakland, California, April, 1978.

Report by Supervisor Philip L. Anthony to Board of Supervisors of Orange County, California, on eliminating euthanasia by decompression and changing to sodium pentobarbital injection, May 2, 1978.

Veterinary Position Paper: "The High-Altitude Decompression Chamber vs. Sodium Pentobarbital Injection," John W. Oliver, DVM, Saratoga, California.

Letter from John T. Kalberer, Jr., Ph.D., to Mrs. Virginia Prejean of Committee for Decent Death, Dallas, Texas, February 11, 1976.

Testimony, written and oral (transcribed), given at public hearings on a bill to ban decompression for euthanasia before a subcommittee of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee, House of Representatives, State of South Carolina, December 6-7, 1977.

**\*\* ORGANIZATIONS THAT NO LONGER USE THE  
HIGH ALTITUDE DECOMPRESSION FOR ANIMAL EUTHANASIA:**

The American Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
441 E. 92nd Street  
New York, New York 10028

The Humane Society of Pomona Valley  
500 Humane Way  
Pomona, California 91766

Indianapolis Humane Society  
7929 N. Michigan Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

Prince George's County Animal Shelter  
8311 D'Arcy Road  
Forestville, Maryland 20028

Washington Animal Rescue League  
71 Oglethorpe Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20001

The Anti-Cruelty Society  
Animal Care Shelter  
157 West Grand Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Peninsula Humane Society  
12 Airport Boulevard  
San Mateo, California 94401

Ft. Wayne Humane Shelter  
2225 Dwenger Avenue  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46803

Baltimore City Animal Shelter  
222 N. Calverton Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21223

Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley  
2530 Lafayette Street  
Santa Clara, California 95050

Los Angeles County Department  
of Animal Control  
11258 S. Garfield Avenue  
Downey, California 90242

Environmental Health and Conservation  
Department  
City of Dallas  
1500 W. Mockingbird Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75235

**\*\* NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LIST**

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**Contacts for Further Information:**

Dr. John W. Oliver, DVM  
Saratoga Pet Clinic  
12250 S. Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road  
Saratoga, California 95070

Ms. Dorothy Frary  
Concerned Citizens  
534 Dayton Avenue  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46807

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**States Having Outlawed the  
Decompression Chamber:**

Arizona  
Maine  
Massachusetts

SPACE REQUIRED: AREA FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY CHAMBER

EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT:	STAINLESS STEEL TABLE	\$183.00
	OSTER ANIMAL CLIPPERS	\$ 61.00
	THREE EXTRA BLADES	\$ 18.00
	MULTIPLE DOSE SYRINGE	\$ 37.00

TOTAL \$299.00

EXPENDABLES:	NEEDLES	\$6.10 PER 100	CAN BE USED REPEATEDLY
	SYRINGES	6 TO 9 CENTS EACH	CAN BE USED REPEATEDLY
	TRANQUILIZER	\$6.59 PER 50cc	SELDOM USED
	PENTOBARBITAL SOLUTION	\$10.00 PER 250cc *	
	DOSE PER AVE. (25 LB) DOG	2.5cc	10 CENTS
	OVERDOSE ON LARGEST CAT	2cc	8 CENTS

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL: EIGHT TO TEN HOURS FOR A TEAM OF TWO.

RELATIVE LABOR COSTS IN TERMS OF MAN HOURS TO EUTHANIZE ANIMALS AT SANTA CLARA SHELTER HAVING LOAD OF 48 TO 50,000 PER YEAR.

CATS: ONE EMPLOYEE LOADING, UNLOADING AND CLEANING CHAMBER AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW, TWO LOADS PER HOUR, TEN CATS PER LOAD:

20 CATS PER MAN HOUR

ONE EMPLOYEE GIVING INJECTIONS INTRAPERITONEALLY:

60 CATS PER MAN HOUR

DOGS: ONE EMPLOYEE LOADING CHAMBER WITH ONE TO FOUR DOGS.. TWO LOADS PER HOUR.

2 TO 8 DOGS PER MAN HOUR

TWO MAN TEAM EUTHANIZING 30 DOGS PER HOUR I.V.

15 DOGS PER MAN HOUR.

LABOR SAVING ADVANTAGE OF INJECTABLE METHOD OVER CHAMBER:

CATS: THREE TO ONE

DOGS: BETWEEN TWO AND SEVEN TO ONE.

\* "FATAL" AMERICAN PHARMICAL DEARBORN, MICH.

## CITY OF RENO

Inter-Office Memo

April 19, 1979

To: Henry Etchemendy, City Manager

From: John R. Marquez, Supervisor, Reno Animal Control

Subject: Euthanising of unwanted animals

The Reno Animal Control Center is presently using a euthanasia chamber to destroy unwanted animals. The euthanasia chamber was installed and put to use on July 5, 1972, the beginning date of Reno Animal Control.

The chamber is operated by mechanically pumping out the atmosphere (oxygen and nitrogen) and creating a simulated altitude of 55,000 feet. The animals lose consciousness and die of hypoxia (lack of oxygen). If the elimination of the high-altitude decompression chamber is necessary, there are at least three approved methods for destroying unwanted animals. These three methods are Nitrogen Gas (n2) Carbon Monoxide Gas (co) and injection of a chemical compound.

Of the three methods of euthanasia, one method, Nitrogen Gas (n2) is not being considered because of operational and design problems involving the cabinet used for the disposal of the animals. There is also a delivery delay of at least 6 months. I have inquired throughout California to see if I could locate a Center that uses Nitrogen Gas, but I did not find one to use as an example.

The two remaining methods of euthanasia are so different that I had to research each for its advantages and disadvantages.

#### Carbon Monoxide Gas (co)

Carbon Monoxide gas is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas. In the July 1, 1978 report of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel on Euthanasia, they state, under the advantages of using carbon monoxide:

"Advantages - 1) Carbon monoxide fumes produce rapid and painless death;  
2) Hypoxemia produced by co is insidious so that the animal is completely unaware of it;  
3) Unconsciousness occurs without pain or appreciable discomfort."

It should be stated that the only type of carbon monoxide euthanasia to be considered is the type using bottled carbon monoxide gas. In this highly concentrated form, carbon monoxide gas is very effective.

#### "Disadvantages of Carbon Monoxide Gas -

- 1) Safeguards must be observed to prevent discomfort to animals and hazard to personnel;
- 2) During chemical generation through the use of sodium formate and sulfuric acid, irritating vapors of sulfuric acid must be filtered out by passing the generated co through a solution of 10% sodium hydroxide;
- 3) Exhaust gas must be filtered and cooled."

## Euthanising of unwanted animals (con't)

By using a lighted cabinet with adequate view parts, installing an alarm system and by immediately producing a 5 to 6% concentration of carbon monoxide gas, the identified disadvantages are eliminated.

## Injection:

There are many injectable agents available today. The various methods of injecting are, intravenous, intracardial, intraperitoneal, intrathoracic, intramuscular, intrathoracic, subcutaneous, oral and rectal. The AVMA Panel on Euthanasia July, 1978, recommended that intravenous (IV) injection was the preferred method. The other methods of injecting could produce pain, discomfort, struggling, tissue irritation, gasping, whining, muscle spasms and anxiety prior to death. Most agencies that destroy animals by injection use sodium pentobarbital, recommended dosage 1cc 6 grains per 10 lbs. body weight. Sodium pentobarbital is a "controlled substance" (class 11 drug) and therefore must be kept in a secure cabinet, quantity accounted for and administered pursuant to Federal, State and Local laws and regulations. Most euthanising agents are either controlled or can only be purchased by a Veterinarian and must be placed within a secure area and accounted for whenever it is used.

As stated in the July 1, 1978 AVMA report, the advantages and disadvantages to injecting barbituates are:

"Advantages - 1) A primary advantage of barbituates is speed of action. This effect is dependent not only on the dose, but also on concentration and rate of injection; and  
2) the barbituates give smooth induction of euthanasia, minimal discomfort to the animal during injection, and a favorable impression on the observer because the animal dies quietly."

"Disadvantages - 1) Intravenous injection is necessary for best results, necessitating trained personnel;  
2) each animal must be individually restrained; and  
3) current federal drug regulations require strict accounting for the barbituates and, by necessity, these must be used under the supervision of personnel registered with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Agency."

I have inquired with Animal Control agencies throughout California and I have discussed various methods of euthanasia. The injection method of euthanasia seems to have two areas of concern that many agencies feel are extremely important.

It is the opinion of those agencies that use injection that the injection method is not as painless as some people would like you to believe. Those agencies that have employees that assist in administering injections say it is especially difficult to find a suitable vein in puppies and some small dogs or older dogs, resulting in re-injecting the animal which causes additional distress, panic and pain. Injecting cats intravenously (IV) is



## Euthanising of unwanted animals (con't)

extremely difficult and many times injecting IP (intraperitoneal, stomach cavity) is necessary. This method of injection is not only distressing to the animal but also to the employees and is not "advisable or recommended" by the AVMA panel in their report.

One organization during January 1, 1979 through January 23, 1979 destroyed 1,044 animals by injection. Of these animals, 552 (53%) were injected IP (intraperitoneal, stomach cavity). It was necessary to re-inject 63 (6%) of the animals because the dose was not fatal. Of the 1,044 animals, 169 (16%) vocalized, fought or convulsed either during or after being injected.

It is also the opinion of those agencies that use the injection method that personnel would be subjected to a greater risk of being injured. The injection method requires close handling and restraining of each individual animals to be destroyed. The animal must be physically restrained throughout the entire process and until it loses consciousness. It takes as many as three attendants to restrain a large unruly or vicious dog. The frequency of accidents and the exposure to a possible serious bite increases tremendously. Each animal must be weighed to administer dosage and the possibility of back problems among employees is very possible. In fact, some organizations that do use injections are having problems with employees acquiring back problems because large cumbersome dogs have to be lifted onto a scale or a euthanising table.

There is no method of euthanasia that will satisfy all of the individuals, groups or organizations that are involved in animal care, animal control, and humane work. Every organization has its own method of deciding which type of euthanasia it would prefer or feels is appropriate to destroy unwanted animals. No matter what method is used, there should be three major areas of concern when an organization chooses a method of euthanasia. These three areas of concern are euthanasia of the animal, effect on personnel performing the procedure and cost of the procedure.

The City of Reno Animal Control Center presently uses the Euthanaire Chamber to destroy unwanted pets. In the seven years of use, the center has put to sleep 80,000 animals and has not had any problems with the use of the Euthanaire Chamber. I have observed many methods of euthanasia and I find the Euthanaire Chamber to be as humane as most methods used by Animal Control Centers and Humane Societies throughout the country. I have read reports that deal with the subject of using a Euthanaire Chamber and I find that any detrimental faults found with this method of euthanising can also be said of most other methods.

I find that with the Euthanaire Chamber the initial cost is the only cost incurred. General maintenance is minimal and the operation of the machine is very simple. I also find that employees approve of the Euthanaire Chamber because it aids in removing the personal feeling that is obvious when an animal is put to sleep by another method such as administering a drug agent.

An organization such as the City of Reno Animal Control Center averages approximately 1050 animals put to sleep every month. This is approximately 35 animals put to sleep daily. This figure will vary according to volume and the season of the year.

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## Euthanising of unwanted animals (con't)

If the City of Reno were to use the injection method of euthanasia, the cost incurred would be the following:

Minimum of two animal control caretakers to handle animals and prep them for euthanasia.

Two animal control caretakers at \$4.74 per hour	
Minimum number of animals put to sleep per day, 35	
Time to be used for euthanasia , 2 hours per day	
2 ACC @ 4.74 per hour	94.80 per week @ 5 days per week
	410.80 per month
	4,929.60 per year

This is calculated for five days a week only although the Reno Animal Control Center is a seven day a week operation. Five days a week is used because a Veterinarian's services can only be gotten Monday through Friday for euthanising purposes.

The minimum cost for Veterinarian services are \$60.00 per hour.

Veterinarian services for two hours	\$120.00 per day
5 days per week	600.00
	2,600.00 per month
	31,200.00 per year

If the city were to permanently use the injection method of euthanasia, a new classification of Animal Control Health Technician would be needed to administer the injection. This position would eventually eliminate the use of a Veterinarian. The center would also need to hire additional personnel because of time lost euthanising animals.

The drug agent used would incur the following costs:

100 cc bottle @ \$8.50 per bottle (local Veterinarian estimated cost)	
Approximately one and one half bottles per day based on 35 animals PTS	
7 1/2 bottles per week	\$ 63.75
32 bottles per month	\$ 272.00
390 bottles per year	3,315.00

The total cost for the use of a drug agent are as follows

Animal Control Caretakers	4,929.60
Veterinarian Services	31,200.00
Drug Agent	<u>3,315.00</u>
Grand Total	\$39,444.60

This grand total is the minimal cost to the City of Reno. It does not take into consideration additional equipment needed to weigh animals, syringes and medical paraphernalia needed to subdue and prepare animals for euthanasia. It does not include a suitable area for the drug agent, which is a controlled substance.

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## Euthanising unwanted animals (con't)

If the City of Reno were to use a carbon monoxide (co) chamber to euthanise unwanted pets the cost of this method of euthanising are as follows:

Initial cost of carbon monoxide (co) chamber would be approximately \$6,000.00.

The cost for safety devices and alarms necessary to maintain employee safety is approximately \$1,100.00.

The use of bottled carbon monoxide (co) would be approximately \$58.13 per cylinder. There would be approximately four cylinders used a month, based on a 35 animals put to sleep a day minimum.

The monthly cylinder cost is \$232.52

The yearly cost is \$2,790.24

The total cost for the use of a carbon monoxide chamber is as follows:

Initial chamber cost	\$6,000.00
Alarm System devices	1,100.00
Gas cylinder yearly use	<u>2,790.00</u>
	\$9,890.00


After the initial installation of the carbon monoxide chamber, the maintenance is minimal and the only yearly costs incurred for the year is the cost of the gas cylinders. The minimum life span of the chamber is 10 years.

When the carbon monoxide chamber is installed, present personnel will be properly trained in the use of the machine. There may be no need to hire additional personnel to operate the machine. Present personnel should be sufficient.

The carbon monoxide chamber used by the Reno Animal Control Center will meet all requirements stated in Senate Bill Number 461.

It would be my recommendation to continue to use the present Euthanaire Chamber to destroy unwanted pets. I find no need to explain the reasons why this method of euthanasia is either good or bad. Most organizations are aware of the operation of the Euthanaire Chamber and there are good arguments for and against it.

Were Senate Bill Number 461 to pass and the new method of euthanasia was necessary, I would recommend to the City of Reno to use the carbon monoxide chamber (co) to destroy unwanted animals for the reasons previously stated.

  
John R. Marquez, Supervisor, Reno Animal Control

JRM/jMc

## TESTIMONY ON SB 461 •

Mr. Chairman and committee members, my name is Mike Fielding from the City of Las Vegas Animal Control Division. I am pleased to be able to appear before you today to speak on a matter which is, while admittedly controversial, one on which I would like to share with you my \_\_\_\_\_ years of experience in the field.

At issue before this committee today is the question of whether the use of the decompression chambers should be outlawed in the State of Nevada. A review of studies and reports from scientists, doctors and humane society groups on the subject of euthanasia leads to only one definite conclusion: there are two distinct and very different schools of thought on the subject. On the one hand, the Humane Society of the United States has actively campaigned against decompression chambers as being an inhumane method of animal destruction. On the other hand, the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia has concluded that "when properly used, decompression euthanasia is efficient and humane". Further, in a conversation last week with a spokesman for the American Humane Association, the spokesman told me the reason for that Association's support of decompression was "simply because it is humane."

But I am not sure that this type of testimony will be of much help to you in making a decision on this bill. I am aware, as I'm sure the opponents of decompression are, that it is futile to try to "prove" the humaneness of various methods of euthanasia because for every "expert" the opponents parade before you, I would be able to produce an equal number of equally expert witnesses to proclaim the opposite side of the coin. Suffice it to say that, as professional animal control officers with a particular fondness for animals, we at the City animal shelter are convinced that decompression is a humane method of euthanasia, so I'd like to concentrate the remainder of my testimony on three points which I believe are also important.

First, there are disadvantages to every method of euthanasia. With the decompression process we recognize that potential problems include the possibility of improper operation, maintenance and functioning of equipment which can result in several esthetically unpleasant reactions in unconscious animals and the possibility of overcrowding the chamber. All conscientious animal control workers strive to eliminate the possibility of these occurrences, and in the City of Las Vegas our use of the chambers exceeds the American Humane Association's standards, our equipment is maintained in good operation on a continuous basis and is checked daily to reduce potential errors during its operation. The two methods of euthanasia recommended in SB 461 are not immune to their own special disadvantages. Carbon monoxide, without proper safeguards, can cause discomfort to animals and hazards to personnel. It must be carefully filtered and cooled, and personnel must be thoroughly instructed in its use and understand its hazards and limitations. The process of injecting sodium pentobarbital is subject to two major disadvantages. Many animals, not unlike many people, dislike needles. There is, therefore, a possibility of missing the vein in a struggling animal, in which the drug can be painfully injected into the animal, or in some cases, injected into the arm of one of the workers holding the animal. Sodium pentobarbital is extremely lethal and will kill a human in a matter of seconds. Additionally, the Humane Society of the United States, a strong proponent of this method, advises that "a great deal of expertise is needed in using this method and is not recommended for the average person" This method is clearly not practical for many vicious or rabid animals.

My second reason for opposing this bill is the cost involved. I believe we all recognize that the main concern here is the element of humanity, and if it were necessary to expend additional funds to guarantee a greater degree of humanity, no one here could oppose that expense. But in this age of government spending caps and Question 6, to expend large sums of money for a purpose we believe is already being met is fiscally irresponsible. We estimate that the current

city operation, counting labor, equipment and electricity runs 88¢/animal.

The cost of the injection method is estimated anywhere between ~~\$2.00~~ \$3.05/ <sup>\$</sup> 3. animal, depending upon the degree of technical experience of the person

administering the shot. As I mentioned earlier, most experts advise that shots be injected by either a trained animal health technician or a veterinarian,

raising labor costs, but even using the low figure of ~~\$2.00~~ <sup>\$ 3.05</sup> /animal, for the CONSERVATIVE

~~15,000~~ <sup>FIGURE OF 17,000</sup> animals we must euthanize annually, the injection method would cost a minimum of ~~\$24,000~~ <sup>\$ 53,000 To \$60,000</sup>.

As a much slower and more labor intensive method of euthanasia, the injection process would leave no time for staff to perform other necessary animal control functions, necessitating hiring additional staff.

Furthermore, city staff question the fiscal note which indicates the bill

would have no impact on our industrial insurance. The injection method requires employees to hold and restrain animals during the injection, and the chances of an accident occurring do exist.

Finally, the job of putting unwanted animals to sleep is bad enough as it is. We get attached to the animals at our shelter, and the job of locating animals and moving them to the chamber is not easy. But at least the chamber is a relatively impersonal method of disposing of animals. In their instructions on how to inject an animal, the Humane Society of the United States advises workers who are holding the animal to "gently talk to the animal" and, to insure lack of anxiety in the animal, to pat and stroke it. The animal then dies in the arms of the attendants. I don't know about you, but I'm not willing to watch ~~36~~ <sup>A CONSERVATIVE FIGURE OF 65</sup> animals die in my arms every day. There is obviously a serious question which must be addressed as to the mental stability of a person who experiences prolonged exposure to such a situation.

In conclusion, there is no truly humane way to kill. It is our belief, backed by 15 years of experience, that the use of decompression is one acceptable means of accomplishing an unpleasant task with as little suffering to the animal as possible.

The other methods discussed have validity also but are not without their own individual disadvantages. I would urge this committee to continue the current practice of leaving to localities the right to determine the most desirable method -- both for the animals and for the employees involved -- of euthanasia.

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SENATE BILL NO. 119—COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE  
AND LABOR

JANUARY 25, 1979

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Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Creates metric system advisory council. (BDR 51-342)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Yes.



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EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to weights and measures; creating the metric system advisory council; providing for its organization, powers and duties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

*The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 581 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of this act.  
3 SEC. 2. *“Council” means the metric system advisory council.*  
4 SEC. 3. 1. *The metric system advisory council, consisting of 12*  
5 *members appointed by the governor, is hereby created within the state*  
6 *department of agriculture.*  
7 2. *The governor shall appoint:*  
8 (a) *One member from the office of the governor.*  
9 (b) *One member from the state department of education.*  
10 (c) *One member from state agencies in the executive department*  
11 *of state government other than the state department of education.*  
12 (d) *One member from the University of Nevada.*  
13 (e) *One member from a trade or labor organization.*  
14 (f) *One member from businesses and industries which employ fewer*  
15 *than 100 persons and have less than \$1 million annual gross sales.*  
16 (g) *One member from businesses and industries other than those*  
17 *described in paragraph (f).*  
18 (h) *One member from an organization representative of the interests*  
19 *of consumers.*  
20 (i) *Four members who are representatives of the general public.*  
21 3. *The governor shall designate one of the appointed members of*  
22 *the council to serve as its chairman.*  
23 SEC. 4. *The executive director of the state department of agriculture*

Original bill is 3 pages long.  
Contact the Research Library for  
a copy of the complete bill.