THE CASE AGAINST
RANDOM SOURCE
DOG AND CAT DEALERS

SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK,
DAIRY AND POULTRY AS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
THE PET SAFETY AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1996
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STATEMENTS FROM SCIENTISTS
July 26, 1996

Congressman Steve Gunderson, Chair
House Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry
1336 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gunderson:

I am writing to ask your support for the Canady-Brown bill, H.R. 3398, which would prohibit Class B dealers and unlicensed individuals from selling cats and dogs to research laboratories:

This would be a major stimulus to the purpose bred cat and dog industry which also provides animals for research laboratories. Purpose bred animals have proven to be better animals for experimentation than the stray animals that often have undetected disease, are undernourished and frequently die during the course of an experiment. For all these reasons fewer purpose bred animals than stray animals are needed in an experiment to prove a point. The excellent research laboratories in Sweden and England use only purpose bred animals in their experiments.

The bill, H.R. 3398, would also stop the stealing of pet animals to be sold to laboratories.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Rackow, M.D.
Professor Emeritus
College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University
29 July 1996

TO: Subcommittee for Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry
    House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Robert A. Whitney, DVM,
    Former Deputy Surgeon General
    U.S. Public Health Service

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of H.R. 3398

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for proposed legislation H.R. 3398, prohibiting “Class B Dealers” from selling dogs and cats for use in research - and explain my reasons for doing so.

I have an extensive background in this and other issues of public concern about the procurement and use of animals for biomedical research. Before becoming Deputy Surgeon General in 1992, I served as Director, National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In my 22 years at NIH I was responsible for production, procurement, and care of animals used in NIH intramural research. I also served as chairperson of the NIH Animal Care and Use Committee, Chairman of the U.S. Government Interagency Research Animal Committee (IRAC), and Director, NIH Office of Animal Care and Use. At NIH, the use of dogs from Class B Dealers, otherwise known as random source dogs, ceased many years ago.

Over the past 25 years I have been involved in the development and update of most of the federal policies and regulations governing appropriate care, use, and welfare of animals used in biomedical research. This experience has led me and many of my colleagues to believe that our inability to guarantee the quality of procurement and care of animals from Class B dealers creates many problems in public perception for the biomedical research community, and potentially in the research itself. Despite the small number of animals obtained from these sources, their use portends many more problems than the benefits which might be derived.

The continued existence of these virtually unregulatable Class B dealers erodes the public confidence in our commitment to appropriate procurement, care, and use of animals in the important research to better the health of both humans and animals.

This bill, H.R. 3398, is a moderate, sensible approach which will continue to provide access to dogs and cats for research, while helping to allay our public benefactors’ concerns about research animal procurement and care.

[Signature]
Robert A. Whitney, DVM
RADM (retired)
USPHS
July 26, 1996

Congressman Steve Gunderson, Chair
House Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry
1336 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gunderson:

I am writing to urge your support for the Canady-Brown bill, H.R. 3398, which would prohibit Class B dealers from selling dogs and cats to laboratories. Class B dealers are notorious for theft of pet dogs and cats, and for keeping these animals under dreadful conditions until they are sold to laboratories, or at auction. USDA must spend time and effort on inspection of premises of Class B dealers, and repeatedly reports violations of the Animal Welfare Act by these dealers.

Ideally, only dogs and cats specifically bred for the purpose should be used in research. But until this can be accomplished, the least we can do is to assure humane treatment of animals supplied to laboratories, and to prevent theft and abuse of family pets – a practice causing suffering not only to the animal but to the human owner.

Passage of the Canady-Brown bill would be a good step not only toward radically reducing theft of family pets, but toward a more scientifically sound as well as a more humane use of animals in research.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Marjorie Anchel, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, Emeritus
The N.Y. Botanical Garden
July 17, 1996

Chairman Steve Gunderson
The House Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry
The Congress of the United States
Washington DC

Dear Chairman Gunderson,

I am writing this in support of H.R. 3398 to amend the Animal Welfare Act so as to improve the quality of research using non-human animals and to mitigate some abuses related to acquisition and distribution of random-source dogs and cats.

I am a graduate veterinarian, licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture. For the past 30 years, I have worked in research using non-human animals in the military, industrial and academic settings. My current position is University Veterinarian and Clinical Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Science at Drexel University in Philadelphia PA.

During my rather long career giving care to laboratory animals, I have been privileged to witness several trends and developments which have improved the quality and reliability of research; while, at the same time, reducing the number of animals needed for a particular research goal and mitigating the distress or suffering imposed upon these animals.

In particular I am proud that I have observed and participated in the development of a much more controlled and orderly way of doing medical research. The areas of control have been several-fold.

We have learned to exercise genetic control in order that the various members of a sample of animals undergoing research might be more comparable to each other; and so that smaller numbers of animals be needed to achieve statistically valid conclusions. We have learned to control disease and injury so that our research results are not obfuscated by gross or subclinical illness. We have learned to exercise environmental control so that vagaries of weather, sanitation or environmental stress are not confounding variables.
These controls are widely practiced in the production and use of purpose-bred laboratory animals. Indeed, they are practiced throughout the agricultural livestock industry as well. I believe that this is not done out of consideration for the animals, but because it is much more efficient and economical.

There is one glaring and egregious exception to the application of careful control in the procurement of non-human animals for research purposes. That is the collection and distribution of "random source" dogs and cats. These animals are genetically heterogeneous, frequently diseased and very often subject to behavior problems which render their scientific value minimal at best. The use of such animals as research subjects has a great potential to contaminate and confuse research that may otherwise sound and worthwhile. My grandmother, of blessed memory, used to say, "If you add one tablespoonful of wine to a barrel of sewage, the result is a barrel of sewage. If you add one tablespoonful of sewage to a barrel of wine, the result is a barrel of sewage."

I have heard arguments to the point that the use of purpose-bred dogs and cats would increase the economic cost of research in a burdensome way. This has not been my experience at all. The cost of procuring the animal subjects is a very small part of the whole cost of doing research. I recall the first major project in which I participated as a very young captain in the US Army Veterinary Corps in 1968. Our task was to evaluate a heart-lung machine which had been proposed to become the standard Army machine. This decision involved several millions of dollars and potential for either huge benefit or terrible danger to human life. When I requested use of purpose bred hounds, I was, at first, told that the cost - some $200.00 per dog - was unthinkable compared to the $10.00 we had been paying for comparable sized dogs from the Stockton pound. I pointed out that many of the pound source dogs were sheep killers and that they had at least five known types of parasites, two of which were communicable to humans. I also pointed out that the research team included, inter alia, three hospital department heads (two colonels and a brigadier general), and the typical experiment extended well beyond the usual working day. I prepared a spreadsheet to demonstrate that the cost of a healthy and uniform research dog was far less than the cost of blood collection bags, not to mention the sutures, drugs and other supplies we were to use. My commander backed me up in my view. The project was successful in demonstrating the danger of the particular machine. I received the Army Commendation Medal and my commander received the Legion of Merit.

Another very important improvement in the research use of non-human animals has been a more careful and enlightened choice of species for a particular research purpose. Swine have been widely recognized as superior to dogs for many dermatologic, cardiovascular and metabolic studies because of closer resemblance to humans in those regards. Various ruminants have proven preferable for many perinatal and heart replacement studies. Smaller equids are much more similar to humans in their respiratory anatomy and physiology than dogs or even non-human primates. If species were chosen for scientific reasons such as similarity of the particular body system to humans, very few dogs or cats indeed would be needed in research.
I believe that the scientific and economic considerations alone are quite sufficient to impel the removal of random-bred dogs and cats from use in research. However, my position as a veterinarian - a trustee on behalf of my subjects/patients - requires me to remark briefly on the matter of distress and suffering. Although I am sure that many earnest animal rights advocates would disagree, the research community uses a utilitarian calculus in which the pain, distress, suffering and death which a non-human animal may suffer must be justified by the good obtained; primarily for humans, by the research use of that animal. By comparison with purpose bred animals, including dogs and cats; the random source dog or cat has often been abused, abandoned, transported roughly, housed in crowded and unsanitary circumstances; and generally subjected to miseries far beyond what other laboratory animals must endure.

I recognize that our science has not yet progressed to the point where all of our important scientific goals might be achieved without animal suffering, but I am certain that the misery imposed on random source dogs and cats in research is neither scientifically necessary nor ethically acceptable.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dubin VMD, PhD
Statement in Support of H.R. 3398
before the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry
of the House Agriculture Committee
August 1, 1996
by Nicholas Gimbel, MD
1109 E. Capitol St., Washington, DC

Thirty years ago I testified at Senate hearings that led to the enactment of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act. The bill passed both Houses of Congress in 1966 and was signed into law by President Johnson in August of that year. I urged the Senate Committee to designate the US Department of Agriculture to implement the legislation for humane treatment of experimental animals. At that time I was Associate Professor of Surgery at Wayne State University School of Medicine and Surgeon in Chief at Metropolitan Hospital.

My position in support of the pending bill was not shared by organized scientific societies whose representatives testified against it, but the Senate passed it by a vote of 85-0. This law, together with the broadening and strengthening amendments adopted by later Congresses, has reduced the suffering of experimental animals, but on the premises of Random Source Class B dealers, who supply dogs and cats to laboratories, the law has been an unqualified failure.

It must be changed. The USDA inspectors are constantly faced with totally inadequate and often falsified records of where the dogs and cats came from. Lack of veterinary care, filthy quarters, and failure to provide the animals' most basic needs for food, water and protection from the elements prescribed by the minimum standards of the law constantly recur at the next inspection. Government funds are being wasted on such things as repeated trips to inspect a dealer's premises who is absent whenever the inspector comes.

Inspectors have thousands of sites they must visit at research facilities, exhibitors and common carriers yet the Class B dealers who sell dogs and cats to laboratories take up a wholly unjustifiable amount of their time even though there are only 50 of them.

H.R. 3398 is urgently needed. I hope you will report it out of Committee so that it can be passed and signed into law.
July 28, 1995

Christine Stevens,
President,
Animal Welfare Institute,
P.O. Box 3650
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Christine,

I enclose, as promised, a reprint of some work we did in Cambridge, UK, concerning the housing requirements of dogs in laboratories and animal shelters.

Regarding the subject of Class B dealers, I would be pleased if the law could be changed to prevent them operating at all. Failing this, I believe that, regardless of the additional cost, serious research and teaching institutions in this country should not use animals derived from these dealers. I have several reasons for holding this opinion. I have had the opportunity to discuss the subject with several USDA inspectors, all of whom have made it clear that they simply do not have the manpower or resources to police the activities of Class B dealers adequately. As a consequence, some dealers are breaking the law, receiving stolen (or fraudulently obtained) pets, reselling them for research or teaching purposes, and getting away with it. Since there is no prospect, particularly in the present economic climate, of the USDA's budget being increased, it makes more sense to eliminate the problem at source by putting Class B dealers out of business. Finally, I strongly believe that by continuing to use animals obtained from Class B dealers, universities and other research and teaching institutions are helping to perpetuate the widespread public fear that there is in fact a substantial illegal trade in stolen family pets. Whether or not this fear is wholly justified, the use of Class B dealers gives research a bad name.

Yours sincerely,

James Serpell
STOLEN
AND
FRAUDULENTLY
OBTAINED
PETS
HOW PETS ARE ACQUIRED BY RANDOM SOURCE DEALERS

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations permit Class B or random source dealers to obtain dogs and cats only from 1) other dealers licensed by USDA, 2) municipal or contract pounds, and 3) individuals who have bred and raised the animals themselves. In actuality, random source dealers frequently acquire animals illegally from unlicensed individuals known as “bunchers.” These bunchers collect dogs and cats from various sources and are oftentimes involved in fraudulent activities, even theft. Some obtain animals by responding to newspaper advertisements offering animals “Free To A Good Home.” Others steal dogs and cats from their owners’ backyards. Bunchers deliver animals directly to the dealers’ facilities, arrange clandestine drop-offs, or sell them to dealers at dog auctions, otherwise known as “trade days.”

Dealers routinely sell animals to other dealers, and some dogs and cats are transferred from dealer to dealer, often moving across state lines several times. This makes it virtually impossible for pet owners to track down their missing pets and seriously impedes USDA’s ability to trace the sources of animals to ensure they are legitimate.

Class B dealers are required to record the name, address, vehicle license number and driver’s license number of the person from whom each and every animal is acquired. USDA audits of random source dealers’ records have revealed serious and widespread disregard of this simple requirement. USDA has uncovered numerous instances of dealers falsifying the identities of their suppliers in an effort to conceal the purchase of animals from illegal sources. One buncher, who regularly sold animals to several licensed dealers, admitted selling animals he had not bred and raised to a dealer, providing the dealer with false names (including those of family members) to be recorded on the dealer’s acquisition sheet.
Wiggles and Bear, acquired through deceit by a man responding to a "free to good home" advertisement. The dogs were sold to a Class B dealer. Bear died in a California laboratory. Wiggles (shown below) was rescued from the dealer one day prior to his shipment to a research facility.
A cocker spaniel, Demetria, was stolen from her home in Oregon and sold by teenagers to a Class B dealer who killed her because she was too small to sell to a laboratory. (ABC 20/20)
Above, Bogie is being returned to her owners by a Mississippi dealer. Below, Bogie back in the custody of her owners. (CBS Eye to Eye with Connie Chung)
Buffy was stolen, but her owner found her as she was being delivered to an Arkansas Class B dealer. Buffy's owner had to pay the dealer $15.00 to get her dog back. (KARK-TV, Little Rock, AR)
Sheba was taken from inside a barn on her family's farm in Minnesota and sold to a Class B dealer and then to a laboratory. One of the lucky ones, Sheba, was rescued prior to her use in an experiment.
Goldie was stolen from her Iowa home. She was rescued from a laboratory after a technician discovered her tattoo. (KSDK-TV, St. Louis, MO)
AFFIDAVIT

Before me, Marshall H. Smith, an employee of the United States Department of Agriculture designated by the Secretary of Agriculture under authority of section 1 of the Act of Congress approved January 31, 1923 (43 Stat. 803; 7 U.S.C. 2217), personally appeared

Mark A. Yandle

who deposes and says:

Mark A. Yandle, make the following voluntary statement to Marshall H. Smith who had identified himself as an investigator for the USDA.

This statement pertains to dogs that I sold to Mr. C.W. Baird during this year (1991) using family members names. I've used the following names: Lindy Wright (sister in law), Ray Yandle (cousin), Don Whitmore (step son), Maggie Whitmore - wife, (Linda Whitmore - mother-in-law), Delbert - Lewis Finzell - Linda's brother, and Rusty Beall - brother-in-law. I sold these names since I'd already sold 25 during my business year. Most of these dogs cats were random sources but I did trust some. I believe that all of my customers listed above knew that I was going to use their names for their sales to Mr. Baird. Mr. Baird usually comes somewhere halfway to pick up dogs. I am an independent supplier and have met Mr. Baird employees or agents on many occasions. I have sold dogs cats to Mr. Waterman and maybe one dog to Kenny P. at Saibley, MO. I have been in this business about 10 years. I am in the process of getting my U.S.D.A. license. My application was filed for a pre-licensure inspection on September 24, 1991. It left U.S.D.A. about so that I could record my purchases from random sources. I haven't kept records for my pet sales.

I have read this statement and I affirm that it is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and ability. This is given freely without promise or reward.

__________________________
Mark A. Yandle

Subscribed and sworn to before me at 449 SE 804th Ln, Lamar, MO 64759
on this 4th day of November 1991

__________________________
Marshall H. Smith

Principal Deputy Asst., USDA

DATE: 12/04/91

US FORM 3-59G
(MAY 77) Previous editions obsolete.
Smokey was stolen from his Minnesota home, sold by a buncher to a Class B dealer for $12.00, and then sold to a laboratory. He was rescued before being used in an experiment, but he was extremely ill, and his recovery took many weeks.
Class B dealers obtained Sosha by deception and fraud, posing as providers of a good home. One week later, they sold her to a laboratory where she was killed in a lung injury experiment.
This letter is a rebuttal to the retraction Ms. Beed of Mayo Clinic wished you to print in your newsletter. My dog Isaac was stolen from me and recovered, through sheer dumb luck, at Mayo clinic’s research facility in Rochester, MN. The local sheriff in our area, Sheriff Goodnature, never suggested that we look at Mayo Clinic for our dog. The local area pounds suggested that that was possible but improbable, it being 40 miles away.

When the dog did not turn up however we called Mayo Clinic and the M of MN research facility both of which said they had no dogs but would take a description. We then called a second time and were told by Mayo that they had no dogs but even if they did they never checked any of the dogs for matching descriptions of any kind. A friend then called a third time and was told there might be dogs so we went to look. At no time did Mayo Clinic invite us to visit or give us any information which could have lead to my dog’s recovery.

When I arrived at Mayo Clinic I found no one willing to talk with me (too busy), but I was allowed to look through the holding cages of the dogs they had there, and of which they seemed to have well over 100 dogs. My dog was in the very first row of cages, dripping wet from being hosed down, in a cage too small for him to stand up in. Because he was raised as a single puppy litter his normal lean weight was easily 130 lbs and his head came up to my waist. He had lost 44 pounds according to my vet.

The technicians at Mayo clearly said they would buy any dog that came in, and it is my further understanding that even after Mayo had said it would no longer buy dogs off of the street it was cited for doing just that. Also there was no investigation under way about stolen dogs because mine was the first one found not the third. Also, to my knowledge the USDA was never notified of this theft, nor did I know enough to contact them nor did they ever contact me. I did notify Sheriff Goodnature’s office in Austin, as well as a group of other people who were also looking for their dogs. The technicians’ immediate reaction to my finding my dog was to call (warn) the dealer that sent them the dog as well as to convince me not to call anyone else except Sheriff Goodnature. I took my dog and went home.

The bottom line on this is very simple. Mayo clinic wants to do research on dogs that are worth a thousand dollars or more a piece but are only willing to pay 100 dollars apiece for them. If I collect ten dogs a day I will make over 300,000.00 dollars a year. If Mayo clinic uses 5,000 dogs a year for research it has fenced five million dollars worth of dogs for only half a million dollars. Clearly it is in every research facilities best interest to be stupid about where those dogs come from. Further, if things have changed at Mayo, and I hope they have, then let Mayo clinic be one of the first to call for outlawing the use of any nonfarm commonly domesticated pets as research material. Until then I will call for it, as well as be willing to sign an affidavit or testify in court that this is what happened to me and my dog.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dave Grignon
303 Del Rio Dr
Chanhassen, MN 55317
612-937-9065.
Stolen from his kennel and sold to a random source dealer, Isaac lost 44 pounds before he was recovered at a Minnesota laboratory. A statement from Isaac's owner is on the facing page.
Roxie was purchased for $10.00 by a Washington State Class B dealer who said he would provide a good home for her. He later sold Roxie to a university laboratory for $200 where she was used in an experiment and killed.

(KING-TV, Seattle, WA)
Following a tip by police, Joe Fick rescued his stolen dog, Max, from a Class B dealer's compound. (ABC 20/20)
Rex was taken off his chain. Fresh tire tracks in the snow were the only clues left by his abductor who sold him to a Class B dealer, and then the dealer sold him to a laboratory.
STOLEN AND FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED PETS

- A Class B dealer in California obtained cats and dogs through "Free To Good Home" ads and sold them to laboratories. In one case, the dealer even accepted a $35 placement fee to find a good home for a dog she subsequently sold to a laboratory. She and her business partners were charged with 73 counts of misdemeanor theft and conspiracy to obtain property under false pretenses. While out on bail, she set up a similar operation in another town, using an assumed name and another individual's Class B license. She was found guilty on theft and conspiracy charges and was sentenced to jail time.

- Another Class B dealer in California purchased dogs from four individuals who obtained cats and dogs through "Free To Good Home" ads. The individuals were eventually arrested and charged with misdemeanor theft. All four pleaded guilty to the charges and were sentenced to jail time.

- A Class B dealer in Oregon purchased cats and dogs from a woman who acquired animals through "Free To Good Home" ads. The woman answered Kimberly Williams' ad for her dogs Tramper and Frederica even though the ad specifically stated, "Not to be used for research." The woman promised to give the dogs a good home, but instead sold them to the dealer, who sold them to a laboratory in Nevada where they were killed in an experiment.

- Another Class B dealer in Oregon purchased stolen dogs from at least three separate individuals, all of whom admitted stealing the dogs from their owners' yards. Jo Lynn Smith's dog Kena was stolen and sold to the dealer for $25. The dealer pleaded guilty to second-degree theft and was fined $200. Both Raymond Michaelis's dog Bell and Linda Griffith's dog Fritz were stolen and sold to the same dealer. This dealer also purchased animals from individuals who obtained cats and dogs through "Free To Good Home" ads. One of these individuals answered Linda Satra's ad for her dog Lucky and later sold the dog to the dealer.

- A Class B dealer in Minnesota purchased thirteen stolen dogs from a buncher and sold them to a laboratory in New York. The buncher was arrested and pleaded guilty to charges of theft.

- Another Class B dealer in Minnesota purchased 20 dogs at a dog auction from a man who signed an affidavit stating that he acquired the dogs he sold to the dealer "from ads in local papers on free to good home." He stated others "were dogs that were just dropped off at my farm."

- Another Class B dealer in Minnesota placed ads for dogs and cats in local
newspapers, offering to find new homes for them.

- A Class B dealer in Missouri acquired cats and dogs through “Free To Good Home” ads in newspapers and sold them to other Class B dealers. The Missouri State Attorney General reported that 11 people made complaints about this dealer “adopting” their animals and then selling them for experimentation. One of the pet owners was Robin Kramer, whose dog Merlin died in an experiment before she could reclaim him.

- A Class B dealer in Mississippi purchased two dogs at a dog auction from a man who had adopted the dogs through a “Free To Good Home” ad.

- Another Class B dealer in Arkansas purchased dogs from a deputy sheriff who “adopted” animals through giveaway ads, promising the owners he would find good homes for their animals.

- A Class B dealer in Washington “adopted” Rick and Claudia Milbradt’s six-month old Labrador/Rottweiler mix, Roxie. He told them he wanted to train Roxie as a hunting dog. He said that if that didn’t work out, he would keep her as a pet for his children. Instead, he sold her to a university laboratory for $200 where she was killed following an experiment.

- Another Class B dealer in Washington acquired Don Johnson’s puppy, Sosha, under false pretenses and sold her to a laboratory where she was killed during a lung experiment.

- A Class B dealer in Pennsylvania was found guilty of receiving stolen property—a dog he had purchased from a buncher.

- Over a five-year period, a Class B dealer in Arizona obtained a total of 144 Greyhounds under false pretenses and sold them to laboratories.

- A Michigan Class B dealer purchased two fraudulently obtained dogs from an animal control officer. The animal control officer forged the dogs’ disposition papers and told the owner of the dogs that they had been shot dead after chasing livestock. The original document, showing the transfer of the two dogs to the Class B dealer, was later found in the garbage.

- A Class B dealer in Indiana purchased Karyl Parks’ Norwegian Elkhound, Danny, from a buncher who stole the dog from Parks’ truck. Park recovered Danny from the laboratory the dealer sold him to.
July 23, 1996 - PAGE 1

Honorable Steve Gunderson

In regards to H.R. 3398 scheduled for a hearing for August 1, we would sincerely appreciate you taking time to read our concerns on why this very important legislation should go into effect. Please support H.R. 3398.

When my husband was serving as Mayor I became personally involved with pet theft by black-market dealers selling pets to research facilities. These pets were proven stolen. I helped in the recovery of 16 stolen pets from Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota.

This is not an issue of using animals in research as I am a survivor of lymphoma cancer and my husband has had quadruple bypass surgery and lung removal of his lips. We have lost 2 daughters both at 36 years of age and also one 3 year old granddaughter so we very much understand rare cases, but most of all we respect all life maybe more than some people who feel material things are as important.

This is an issue of what we call legalized pet theft, because it cannot be properly controlled by our government and it must be eliminated.

While I was helping my friends look for their children
pet dog that was stolen, I discovered several people in our county and other counties were missing their stolen pets from kennels, off chains, out of home, etc.

Upon recovery of a stolen pet from kennel from Mayo Clinic's research facility, I started calling other stolen pet owners to meet at Mayo Clinic the next day to look for their pets. We recovered 4 stolen dogs immediately and I immediately called our sheriff and then I called the news media to alert missing pet owners to come to Mayo to look for their pets before they were used for research and also the University of Minnesota were some of the stolen dogs also went to.

I was contacted by the USDA and we worked together gathering evidence of many violations of the Animal Welfare Act by (B) dealers, pet store masters, research facilities. All had violations. I also went to Iowa on an underground cat at an auction where I saw many Minnesota breeders, dealers, and was met there by USDA, Richard Gunderson and Dr. Olson. After, I called USDA to report the dog auction.

I cannot give up trying to change the laws to protect our family pets. I have testified before Minnesota Senate and House hearings to help change housing & dealers and have been successful. I continue to pray for changes in the federal laws, to keep our pets safe. I have tried to work with Dr. Folker.
at West Clinic and met with board members. Dr. Galloway gave me some good ideas for law changes. I also have stayed in touch with Dr. Maury Weisek and Dr. Cynthia Gillespie with animal research at the University of Minnesota after recovery of stolen pets and even more so now as they are taking dogs and cats from the pandemic and many dogs & cats have collars and flea collars and some they are using now draggin crates when found. Because of so many pandemic and the limited hours open many people cannot get there after work. many pets are going to reappear without the consent of their owners these are not stolen. I have had dog owners called. Gillespie with problems trying to find their pets and I have also found many violations at the pound.

I have filed a letter of intent to file charges with the Attorney General's office because of the many violations of the animal welfare act.

I thank you sincerely for helping me. I have a lot of information but I cannot possibly get it all in this letter. Since the pit theft I have spent many hours trying to help lost & stolen pet owners reunite with their pets & family members to many. Again thank you.

Sincerely,

Herme Mayor-Knight, Carol Kough
2931 Arbor St.
Roseville, MN.
(612)-637-8268
Home Phone

55113
HUMANE SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.S. 3398
"PET SAFETY & PROTECTION ACT"

Presented to:
Sub-Committee on Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry

Prepared by:
Curtis Ransom
Chief Investigator
Statewide Division
Humane Society of Missouri

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this very important legislation you are considering today. I apologize for not being able to attend the hearing.

I have been involved in animal welfare for 22 years and observed many animal dealers and their facilities. I have taken videotape and photographs. By far, the most troublesome animal conditions, neglect, abuse, and violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act are perpetrated by Class B dealers. I have witnessed dead, injured, emaciated, lethargic, flea-infested, mange-ridden, hair-matted, parasitic, hairless, and healthy animals at their facilities. Some of these types of facilities were licensed by the federal government.

I submitted a videotape taken by a local St. Louis TV station of a Class B dealer buying dogs at a flea market. This dealer has had hundreds of Animal Welfare Act violations and is still licensed. He buys dogs from almost anyone who will give him a name and town. I have witnessed another Class B dealer buy animals without asking any questions of the seller. Both of these dealers (yes, I know their names and location) bought dogs for no more than $30.00. There was no health check on any of the animals. I have overheard dealers talk of selling random source dogs as purpose-bred dogs to research, meaning there are more random source dogs in the system than documented.

Pets are stolen every day. How many is not as important as eliminating the major market. Bunchers (those that gather dogs for dealers) get their "product" for free and can sell them to dealers or the dealers can steal animals themselves and sell them as purpose-bred research animals for hundreds of dollars. Not a bad profit margin.

I question the validity of research done on animals from these totally unknown sources (names and towns can be falsified; there is no follow up). At least animals raised and sold by a known background have similar health and genetic backgrounds.

I strongly urge you to help taxpayers "get what they pay for" in quality research and animal care and sanitation in the facilities that provide research "tools". I believe you will do the right thing.
Class B dealer Barbara Ruggiero, Rick Spero and Ralf Jacobsen fraudulently obtained pet cats and dogs and sold them to laboratories. They were found guilty of theft and conspiracy to obtain property under false pretenses.
RECORDKEEPING AND ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS
FRAUDULENT AND INACCURATE RECORDKEEPING BY RANDOM SOURCE DEALERS

• Two Class B dealers in Iowa falsified their acquisition records, claiming to have acquired dogs from pounds in Missouri and from various individuals, when in fact they did not. In addition, the dealers sold 44 random source dogs accompanied by forged documents purporting to be certifications from a municipal pound. They also failed to record the address, driver’s license number and vehicle tag number of the persons from whom they acquired at least 1,600 dogs and cats.

• In January 1996, USDA charged an Indiana Class B dealer with falsely claiming to have acquired a total of 357 dogs on 45 separate occasions from a pound that USDA investigators concluded was nonexistent. USDA also alleged that on at least six occasions the dealer claimed to have acquired more dogs from a pound than were actually acquired. USDA inspectors have repeatedly documented incomplete and inaccurate records at this dealer’s facility:
  - “Inspector spent 7 hours cross-referencing ... disposition sheets with computer print-out of acquisition and completed only approximately 25% of the records. In at least nine instances of those records inspected, there is record of disposition but no record of acquisition.”
  - “On the following animals there was no record of disposition available: [12 tag numbers listed]; On the following animals there was no record of acquisition: [7 tag numbers listed].”

• At another Class B dealer’s facility in Indiana, USDA inspectors reported:
  - “There is no information on acquisition for [12] animals. There is no information on the disposition of [5] animals. [Seven] animals were listed as ‘Lost Tag’ in the records, and there is no record of acquisition.”
  - “In the case of [12] dogs and cats the same tag number was used to identify two animals ... [15] dogs and cats were listed on the records as ‘Lost’ or ‘Lost Tags’ but were actually sold or offered for sale. Therefore, there is no record of acquisition.”
  - “Of the approximately 1490 dogs and cats listed in the records as having been obtained since 5-8-93, approximately 1162 have both an incomplete address and no driver’s license/vehicle tag number on the individual from whom these dogs/cats were acquired .... For the following tag numbers there is no record of disposition: #7637-7662, #7625-7627, #7596-7608, #7579-7594 and #7202, for a total; of 59 animals.”
  - “There are no pound certificates available on the 89 pound derived dogs acquired since last inspection. (Note: [dealer] has acquired blank pound certificates).”

• A Class B dealer in Mississippi falsely claimed to have sold approximately 80 dogs to a university laboratory when in fact he had not. A university employee signed an affidavit stating that the dealer had asked him to “help him out with a problem he
had” regarding 80 dogs his records indicated he had purchased. The dealer said he had no record of what happened to the dogs. The employee agreed to change the university’s records to indicate it had purchased the dogs from the dealer. USDA also charged the dealer with making false entries as to the identities of individuals from whom he obtained dogs and with failing to maintain complete and accurate records of acquisition and disposition of at least 442 dogs.

• In 1995, USDA charged a Class B dealer in Pennsylvania with making false entries as to the sources of 35 dogs.

• A USDA inspector found the records maintained by a Class B dealer in Ohio “grossly inadequate and far below minimum standards set by the law. Well over 75% of the names and addresses for sources of dogs and cats were incomplete, lacking a street address, a town, a zip code, and many even lacking a state .... It was also impossible to correlate number of dogs and cats on hand at present with number of animals at the facility on any given day on their record system.”

During a routine inspection of the dealer’s facility, another USDA inspector reported, “[T]wo collars with brass nameplates were observed on two cages. Cage #42 had a male Walker hound #17617. Another cage had the collar on top (dog #17601). Both collars were inscribed “name deleted by USDA” with his phone number. Records show dogs #17617 and #17601 as being acquired from someone other than [name deleted by USDA].” The inspector noted that the man later reclaimed the two dogs. He told the inspector he had given the dogs to a man who said he wanted them for hunting.

• USDA inspectors repeatedly documented incomplete records at a Class B dealer’s facility in Washington:
  – “Vehicle and driver’s license numbers and state of issue not recorded for all incoming dogs from non-USDA licensed or registered sources -- i.e. 18 dogs and two unidentified puppies received as strays last night.”
  – “Complete records not provided for 29 suppliers who have supplied dogs to licensee since last inspection.”
  – “Complete records not readily available for review for 18 suppliers.”
  – “Complete records not available for review for 24 suppliers of dogs since last inspection.”

• An inspection of records maintained by a Class B dealer in North Carolina revealed: “None of the approximately 340 individuals listed (supplying over 1200 cats total) have a vehicle license number or a driver’s license number included on the facility’s records. Approximately 90% of the individuals do not have a complete address listed on the facility’s records.” A traceback of the dealer’s listed suppliers revealed that he had falsified the identities of people from whom he acquired cats.
• During an inspection of a Class B dealer's facility in Missouri, inspectors reported: "On two dogs examined, the accompanying records did not record significant distinctive markings. Dog #431AH/12193 had a tattoo ('HOBAB') in right ear that was not recorded by dealer. Dog #4C280 had the tattoo 'HOBAB' in right ear; this tattoo was not recorded in the dealer records."

• USDA's 1990 Stolen Dog Task Force audit revealed that another Class B dealer in Missouri was listing fictitious names on his acquisition forms.

• The 1990 audit also revealed that of the 35 individuals an Arkansas Class B dealer listed as having sold him dogs, 14 could not be located, 7 denied selling any dogs to the dealer and one had been dead for four years.

• A USDA inspector who examined the records of a Class B dealer in Alabama reported: "Acquisition records checked today for dogs acquired after 8-16-93 revealed four sources and 27 dogs with incomplete information."

• USDA's 1993 Random Source Traceback project revealed that of 29 suppliers listed on an Indiana Class B dealer's records, 17 could not be located, and 7 who were located stated they hadn't sold any animals to the dealer.
Administrative Actions Against Dealers Take Years, Leaving Dealers Free to Continue Flouting the Law

USDA's process of documenting a case of violations of the Animal Welfare Act, determining if the violations warrants action, and pursuing an administrative action against the random source dealer to its conclusion, takes years. During the entire length of the process, the dealers are able to continue making money buying and selling dogs and cats. Note that though fines may be assessed, many fines, particularly steep ones, are never paid. Examples are provided below.

A Washington State random source dealer, licensed since 1989, was cited by USDA for serious violations of the Animal Welfare Act that same year. A complaint against the dealer was not filed until 1995—more than 5 years later. It took another year before USDA reached a consent decision with the dealer, suspending his license for two years. The dealer made a lot of money in the seven years he was in business, and after a two year-hiatus, he can return to it—for perhaps another seven profitable years.

Beginning in 1991 USDA inspectors had extreme difficulties gaining access to an Indiana dealer's premises to conduct compliance inspections. USDA has been refused entry to the facility more than 25 times. A complaint against the random source dealer was filed in 1994, but the hearing was not held until May, 1996, almost two years later, and a decision is not expected until this fall. While waiting for a decision from the Administrative Law Judge, he is still in business. Most of his animals are sold to other Class B dealers.

USDA found more than 1,600 violations of recordkeeping requirements were made by an Iowa dealer in 1990 and 1991. In September, 1992 a complaint was filed by USDA, and a hearing was finally held in June, 1994. The judge's decision was not announced until almost a year later, and since the dealer is appealing the case, he is still in business.

In response to significant violations of the Animal Welfare Act cited by USDA, an Oregon dealer had his license suspended for 21 days in 1988. A complaint against the dealer was filed that same year. A hearing was held almost a year later, with a decision from the judge calling for a 1 year license suspension and a $10,000 fine in January 1990. The dealer appealed the decision and kept trading in animals. USDA continued documenting violations of the Animal Welfare Act at his premises. USDA filed another complaint in 1994. The dealer did not respond to the complaint so the judge issued a default judgement later that year, suspending the dealer's license for 10 years and assessing him a $10,000 penalty. This dealer maintained his business, with only a minor interruption, for more than five years.
A Class B dealer who was accused of mistreating animals attempts to run down an ABC-TV reporter who requested an interview. Below, the dealer rams an ABC-TV van with his bulldozer.
ANIMAL CARE VIOLATIONS
One of 29 dogs confiscated from an Indiana dealer's facility. Below, a diseased cat sold by a Class B dealer.
SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING ANIMAL CARE
BY CLASS B DEALERS

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE:

• At a Class B dealer’s premises in Arkansas, inspectors reported: “Dog #914 appears extremely sick with a discharge from both eyes and the nose …. A dog was chained inside a dirt isolation area in unsanitary conditions. This dog ... Has a large swelling along both sides of the ventral neck .... Dog number 840 was noted in a dirt isolation pen that had rusted metal cages within it and unsealed wood. The owner said the dog was sick and was to be euthanised that day. On close examination it was determined that the dog was actually dead .... The veterinary program for this facility shall be reevaluated because there are significant health problems that are not being adequately addressed.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Ohio, inspectors repeatedly documented seriously inadequate veterinary care:
  - “There were two dogs with projectile vomiting and one dog which was very depressed and had diarrhea. They were at this time receiving no treatment.”
  - “A greyhound was very thin and had very liquid diarrhea .... #5014 is shaking head and on visual inspection appears to have ear mites .... Dog #4675 has rectal prolapse and is thin and coughing .... #4841 was thin, dehydrated and had nasal discharge.”
  - “In the fenced lot, the following dogs were in need of veterinary care: Cage 86 - Walker hound; nasal discharge, heavy cough .... Cage 64 - red-tick cross hound; ocular nasal discharge, very thin, respiratory difficulty .... Cage 22 - Walker hound; extremely dehydrated; heavy ocular nasal discharge, emaciated .... #7633 - Walker hound; injured, abscessed foot, ocular discharge .... All above dogs were seriously ill and no record of treatment was available. There has been a continuing problem at this facility with lack of observation and prompt treatment or euthanasia of sick animals .... This remains a repeated deficiency.”
  - “Dog #6542 ... was emaciated, depressed ... dog was dehydrated, no fluids given .... Cat #01913 was moribund; had to have worker pick up cat to ascertain if it was even alive - no record of any treatment .... No veterinary treatments were given on 8/2, despite sick animals being present.”
  - A USDA inspector signed an affidavit stating: “There was a gross lack of proper veterinary care. We observed many sick dogs, dead and dying puppies, and moribund animals ... It was clear that employees did not keep accurate records or notes of sick animals for the attending veterinarian to examine, and that the veterinarian did not systematically and thoroughly inspect the entire facility for dogs and cats needing immediate veterinary care.” Another inspector signed an affidavit stating: “Lack of veterinary care has been a chronic problem at this facility. As a result of this neglect, animals are suffering and dying needlessly. This neglect of animals must not be allowed to continue.”
An emaciated victim of the random source dealer trade.
• At another Ohio Class B dealer’s facility, inspectors reported: “Dog #22009 is weak, very thin and has gaunt look and unstable gait from weakness. This dog has mucous in eyes ... Received no treatment prior to 5-5-95 .... There is no reporting system in place for sick animals .... There are no veterinary medical records kept for sick or ill animals.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Michigan, inspectors repeatedly reported inadequate veterinary care:
  –“...Dog #22478 was emaciated, dehydrated, depressed, was weak and no treatment was given ...
  [D]og #22612 had heavy nasal discharge and no treatment was given .... Pen #2 kitten was noted to be moribund .... [D]og #22925 was noted to have nasal discharge and to be thin, hacking and depressed, and in Pen #18 nine out of twelve dogs had nasal discharge.”
  –“Many sick animals were not reported or being treated .... Cat #424551 - both eyes stuck shut with copious ocular discharge. Cat was to be euthanised last Thursday but still living and not responding to treatment.”
  –“...Many, many dogs were noted to be unresponsive and shaking with cold. These dogs need to be supported with additional heat and isolation from healthy dogs.”
  –Dog #45150 was shaking, labored breathing and coughing .... Dog # 45197 was emaciated and very depressed .... #41939 and #41956 had bloody diarrhea which was not detected or treated .... Cat #12171 had ear mites, greatly enlarged lymph nodes and was non-weightbearing on right front foot; Cat #35851 was depressed, emaciated, dehydrated and severely ataxic.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Pennsylvania, inspectors reported: “[C]at 102783 and cat 127077 were dead in their cages. Bodies were stiff at 11:10 a.m. Cat 127660 was emaciated, dehydrated with nasal exude. Cat 127072 was emaciated, dehydrated with severe crusty nasal exude .... Dog 129682, husky, was emaciated, depressed, weak with severe nasal ocular discharges. This animal was housed with other apparently healthy dogs.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Alabama, inspectors reported: “Several dogs needed veterinary care or euthanasia. I helped the owner euthanize them. Dogs emaciated, purulent nasal discharge, semi-comatose. Two dead dogs in pens, one being eaten by other dogs.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Washington, inspectors reported: “Female hound #0464 very thin and appears emaciated .... Female hound #1373 is limping noticeably on badly swollen left front paw .... Female hound #470 is thin (appears emaciated), lethargic, apparently anoerectic and has open wounds on right hip and on right mammary.”
In June 1994, USDA inspectors discovered a number of sick and emaciated dogs at an Indiana Class B dealer’s facility. When the inspectors returned the following day, they discovered the dealer had still not provided the animals with veterinary care. The inspectors confiscated twenty-nine animals; seventeen of the animals had to be euthanised because of malnourishment, Parvo and distemper. In 1995, this dealer was charged with cruelty to animals for failure to provide veterinary care to sick dogs he was transporting to another dealer’s facility.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE HOUSING/SHELTER FROM THE ELEMENTS:

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Massachusetts, inspectors reported:
  “Five outdoor runs ... are in total disrepair. All pipes and bars are rusty. Several have begun to crumble .... There are also panels of chain link with jagged edges protruding into the enclosures.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in West Virginia, inspectors reported:
  “Roof of sheltered facility has weak areas with evidence of heavy leak. Ceiling has dropped and is separated on interior and is not structurally sound ... Numerous sharp wires exposed in sheltered facility and on outdoor runs.”
  “Inside Pen 3 and Pen 2 were sharp metal edges from tin that was rusted out .... Some wires are sharp and need cutting or covered to protect dogs from injury.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Tennessee, inspectors reported that a mother dog and her four puppies “were tied to a trailer outside the dog compound. There is ... No shelter as such. The animals are able to retreat under the trailer, but there is no other shelter, and no protection from predators.” At another dealer’s facility in Tennessee, animals had “[n]o shelter from direct sunlight in outdoor housing.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Washington, inspectors reported:
  “Dogs not provided with safe primary enclosures (chained to bumper of old pickup truck, chained to overturned and unstable pickup bed rack; [housed in] old chicken coop with loose wire and nails protruding into enclosure.”
  “[D]ogs (36) are still chained to doghouses outside and exposed to elements of sunlight, wind, rain, snow and cold.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Missouri, inspectors reported: “Many of the dogs were wet and shivering and no bedding was present in the shelter. The temperature was 45 degrees Fahrenheit and dropping...”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Arkansas, inspectors reported: “One-hundred and sixty-two dogs are housed in enclosures that have insufficient protection from the
Delapidated dog shelters on a Pennsylvania dealer's premise. Below, gaping holes and protruding wires in the floor of a cage at a dealer's facility pose risk of injury to dogs.
Substandard housing at an Iowa Class B dealer's facility.
A Class B dealer's premises. Below, a dealer's truck at a trade day.
cold. The dog houses for these dogs shall have front walls provided—they currently are three-sided with an open front.”

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Minnesota, inspectors reported that “[t]he temperature in the barn was measured 23 degrees F .... All of the dogs there were random source and non-acclimated. Water in bowls was frozen, indicating that the temperature was below 45 degrees F for more than four hours. Many short-haired dogs were shaking horribly from the cold.”

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SANITATION:

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Massachusetts, inspectors reported:
  “[F]acility had an accumulation of trash, debris, tools, food and water receptacles, fencing, chemicals, insecticides, etc. .... All runs had an accumulation of feces. One run with two large dogs had over 20 piles of feces within it. A run with three Miniature Pinschers had over 30 piles of feces within it .... Animals continue to be housed in pens ... Which still contain glass and other harmful material .... Used needles and syringes were found within a dog’s primary enclosure.”

  “During today’s inspection it is apparent that excreta and food waste are not being removed daily .... [S]everal of the outside runs had an accumulation of feces. [A run with] two daschunds had 12 piles of feces in it, and another with two Boston terriers had 25 piles of feces in it .... Animals continue to be housed in pens with glass in them."

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Tennessee, inspectors reported: “...Floors have accumulated dried feces .... The ground adjacent to the kennel building is riddled with rat dens and covered with rat feces.”

• During an inspection of a Class B dealer’s facility in Ohio, an inspector reported: “I observed two cages with large amounts of feces .... One of these was infested with maggots. The general level of cleanliness was poor with encrusted feces in cages and pens throughout the facility. Many feeders were filthy with caked, molding food .... There were maggots in at least one dog feeder. Many water bowls were dirty with algae growth in them.”

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FOOD AND WATER:

• At a Class B dealer’s facility in Kentucky, inspectors reported:
  “Licensee feeding raw human garbage along with regular pelleted feed.”
  “Both dog pens, holding 11 dogs, had no food. Feed bins were upside down and dirty .... Both dog pens ... Had no water. Water buckets were tipped over and water pans were empty.”
  “All dogs still without feed. Feed buckets are still upside down in enclosure .... All
Rotting cow carcass on an Iowa dealer’s premise. Below, garbage on the floor of a dog pen at a dealer’s facility.
dogs still without water. [We] offered water to the dogs—they exhibited thirsty behavior by gulping water and competing for space around bucket.... Dogs had dug holes in dirt floor and were attempting to drink from rain accumulation."

· At a Class B dealer's facility in Washington, inspectors reported:
  — "Old animal bones (some with meat scraps still attached) are scattered about floors of pens and shelter and badly contaminated with mud and excreta."
  — "No commercial dog chow is currently available on premises. "Day old" (and older) bread is being fed to adult breeding females. Much of this bread is observed to be stale and all is seen to be haphazardly scattered about the ground around dog houses."

· At a Class B dealer's facility in Ohio, inspectors reported:
  — "One [feed] container was a used paint roller pan (bent) and the other was a hubcap. These are not appropriate food containers for dogs.... Tethered dogs water receptacle[s] were rusted coffee cans.... Tethered dogs 128 and 62 had no water. At the request of the inspector, water was provided and these dogs drank vigorously."
  — "Water receptacles do not contain potable water. Two water receptacles were felt by hand and had thick scum, black and brownish in color. Water is very murky and tinged grey with particles of food."
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TD - Trade Days
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I - Individual
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R - Research
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TD-Trade Days  
P-Pound  
I-Individual  
D-Dealer  
R-Research
SOURCES OF DOGS AND CATS PURCHASED BY A PENNSYLVANIA CLASS B DEALER

SOURCE:
D = Dealer  I = Individual  TD = Trade Day  P = Pound
DESTINATIONS OF DOGS SOLD BY A MISSOURI CLASS B DEALER

USDA’s 1990 Stolen Dog Task Force audit of this dealer’s records revealed that he had illegally acquired dogs and cats from at least three unlicensed individuals. This dealer also acquired animals from another dealer who was investigated by both USDA and the Missouri State Attorney General for acquiring dogs under false pretenses.
Congressman Scott Klug, during an undercover investigation of Class B dealers. Below, Congressman Klug purchases dogs from a county dog warden.
HISTORY
The Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966

The Laboratory Animal Welfare Act was passed and signed into law in August 1966. It is ironic indeed that today’s hearing is being held during the 30th anniversary of this landmark law, since the event that triggered its introduction was the disappearance of a family pet, a Dalmatian named Pepper. Her owner, Mr. Lakavage, was in the hospital recovering from a heart attack when he saw a photograph of her in the morning newspaper together with 17 other dogs and a goat who had been temporarily unloaded from a Pennsylvania dog dealer’s overcrowded truck. Mrs. Lakavage and three of the couple’s children set off in pursuit of Pepper, who allegedly had been taken across state lines to a big New York state dog dealer. When the exhausted family arrived at the dog dealer’s kennel, he refused them entry.

Congressman Resnick, in whose district the dealer’s premise was located, was angered by the dealer’s high-handed refusal to let the family look for their missing pet. He decided to introduce a bill to prevent such wrongs from occurring again. Meanwhile, pressure from the state police brought an admission from the Pennsylvania dealer that, contrary to his previous statement, he had taken the truckload of animals directly to Montefiore Hospital in New York City. When called, hospital staff reported that Pepper had died on the operating table the day before, and her body had been incinerated. The hospital had put out a call for female Dalmatians to dealers rather than to breeders. The dealer claimed the dog wasn’t Pepper, but proof of the dog’s identity had already been destroyed.
Animal Protection

The Senate Commerce Committee has, in a humane way, taken the bull by the horns so to speak and put the brand of its approval on a solid, sensible bill to protect research animals from needless, wanton cruelty. Its bill, introduced by Senator Magnuson and measurably strengthened by Senator Monroney's amendment, is markedly superior to the animal care measure passed by the House. We hope that the Senate will give it speedy endorsement and that the House will accede to its wise humaneness.

The Senate Commerce Committee bill would require laboratories, animal dealers and persons transporting animals to be used in scientific research to observe certain elementary standards to be set by the Secretary of Agriculture for the handling of these creatures before they are used for experimentation. The standards would be designed to deter the stealing of pets for sale to laboratories and to require giving them decent shelter, ventilation, sanitation, food and water. The legislation would not limit or affect actual use of the animals for scientific experimentation in any way.

There is not a syllable in this bill that can be said to impair or impede research. It is not antivivisectionist, or antimedical or antiscientific or anti-anything save senseless neglect and brutality. It amounts to no more than a simple expression of humanity.