

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

STANDING COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Dear Friend:

You will be pleased to learn that the Senate has unanimously adopted my amendment designed to ensure that laboratory animals are treated humanely in medical research facilities.

This amendment - to be a part of the 1985 Farm Bill - marks the culmination of more than a year of work to frame legislation that does not stand in the way of research, but will help to eliminate the limited but unconscionably cruel mistreatment that some animals suffer.

The provisions of my amendment call for upgrading research facility standards. Also, committees will be established to periodically review conditions in research facilities and establish special procedures to minimize pain.

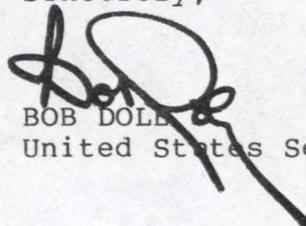
The committees will be at federal and private research centers. They will be made up of three or more members, with one member being a doctor of veterinary medicine and one member not affiliated with the research institution. The responsibility of these committees will be to ensure the humane treatment of the animals and to represent society's interest regarding animal research subjects.

Another provision of the bill will establish an information service at the National Agriculture Library to keep researchers up-to-date on the latest methods for reducing pain.

It is important to note that most research facilities do an outstanding job in their care of laboratory animals. However, there has been growing public concern about the practices of some institutions, caused by a few specific instances of mistreatment.

While these research institutions have strived to perform their vital work without inflicting unnecessary pain on laboratory animals, my amendment will ensure that all facilities adhere to the highest standards possible in maintaining this balance.

Sincerely,



BOB DOLE
United States Senate