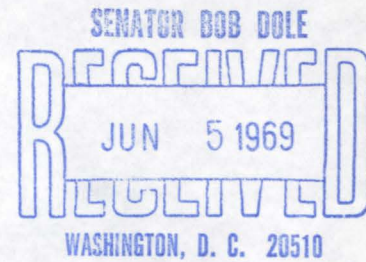


SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION
P. O. Box 3719
Georgetown Station
Washington, D. C. 20007

Leg - Animals

June 4, 1969



Hon. Bob Dole
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Dole:

The wisdom of the Senate in passing the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, P.L. 89-544, by a vote of 85 - 0 has been amply demonstrated by the honest and able enforcement being carried out by the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division which numbers 739 veterinarians, trained in regulatory work, and interested in animals and their welfare.

In 1967, Senator Javits introduced a bill to reverse the will of Congress by ousting these dedicated men from laboratory inspections, repealing the major coverage of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, passed the year before. Having failed in this attempt, a new bill is now being circulated by Senator Javits with a request for co-sponsors. While it appears to be leaving the strongly supported Laboratory Animal Welfare Act alone, it is a subterfuge aimed at putting the control back into HEW - from which the Senate voted unanimously in 1966 to remove it.

HEW could, at any time, without any additional legislation, do most of the things the lengthy Javits bill describes. HEW could have and should have made humane treatment of the experimental animals used by its grantees a condition of obtaining their part of the more than one billion dollars NIH distributes annually for research, most of which uses animals. It was the Department's negligence and unwillingness to insist on even the barest minimum humane standards that made it necessary for Congress to pass the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act. This Act has already brought about tremendous changes for the better in the care, handling and housing of research animals in scientific institutions, the premises of animal dealers, and in transit between them.

U.S.D.A.'s Animal Health Division, because it is a top-notch regulatory agency with a true interest in the work, has created an almost miraculous change from gruesome abuses to decent treatment

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and done it with a pitifully small annual appropriation - \$300,000 a year. The devotion of its veterinary inspectors who visit the 1,177 sites of the 559 registered research facilities once a month and of the lay inspectors who assist in visiting the 212 licensed dealers twice a month, is outstanding and deserves commendation and support.

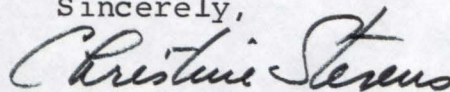
Because this regulatory work has been done so fairly and decently, the majority of scientists, many of whom originally opposed any kind of regulation in laboratories, accept U.S.D.A.'s inspections and cooperate. Strongly supporting the Senate's vote for the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act and opposing last session's Javits bill are the majority of active humanitarians and leading newspapers throughout the nation, including The New York Times, The Christian Science Monitor, The Washington Post, The Washington Evening Star, The Denver Post, and The Hartford Courant.

Were HEW put in charge of inspections of animals under actual research and experimentation, for it is this excuse which is used to push HEW into the regulatory picture, it would be authorized by the Javits bill to use non-governmental inspectors. This would be necessary because HEW has no body such as U.S.D.A.'s highly trained Animal Health Division to do the job. Non-governmental inspectors in so intensely controversial a field may run the gamut from white-washing incompetents to trouble-making zealots.

If Senators wish to extend genuine coverage to the animals exempted from the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, P.L. 89-544, that coverage should be enforced by the only agency in our country that has succeeded in making major improvements for research animals: U.S.D.A.'s Animal Health Division.

For the sake of the animals, and in the interest of avoiding greatly increased government expenditures and duplication of work by different agencies, we earnestly and respectfully hope you will not co-sponsor the Javits bill.

Sincerely,



Christine Stevens
Secretary