

DIRECTIONS



Bill to Ban Force Feeding of Ducks and Geese Passes First Hurdles

SB 1520, a bill to ban the force feeding of ducks and geese in the production of foie gras, along with sales of the product in California, passed the first Senate committee by a vote of 4-3 and then passed the entire Senate by a vote of 21-14. In order to pass out of the Senate committee, the bill was amended to include a phase-out period of 7 1/2 years.

Force feeding involves shoving a 12-inch metal pipe down the esophagus of a duck or a goose and forcing large quantities of corn meal mush and compressed air into the bird's stomach. The force feedings are done two or three times a day for two or three weeks. This causes the birds' livers to expand to up to 10 times normal size. The fatty livers are sold as foie gras.

The bill's author, Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, sent a letter, photos, and videotape of the force feeding process to other senators asking for their support. At the committee hearing, he made an impassioned speech about force feeding and the cruelty that it entails. Joining him at

the hearing in support of the bill were Bea Arthur (Golden Girls, Maude), courtesy of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and Melissa Rivers (E-Entertainment, Fashion Police), courtesy of The Humane Society of the United States, Hollywood. Lauren Ornelas of Viva!USA testified about her organization's efforts to improve duck welfare and the effect the marketplace has on the foie gras industry. About 50 individuals also attended and lent their support. The expert witnesses on animal health were three AVAR veterinarians.

AVAR Vice-President Holly Cheever, DVM, testified that she has on two recent occasions inspected a foie gras operation which mirrors that in California. She described the injuries incurred by force feeding and the pathology reports of deceased ducks. AVAR member Chris Sanders, DVM, an avian veterinarian, described fatty liver disease and its detrimental effect on the birds. AVAR member Laurie Siperstein-Cook, DVM, also an avian veterinarian, testified that gorging

continued on page 8



Melissa Rivers (back row, left), Lauren Ornelas, Viva!USA, Bea Arthur and (front row, left) Dr. Holly Cheever, Dr. Laurie Siperstein-Cook, and Dr. Chris Sanders, testify at hearing.

I N S I D E T H I S I S S U E

Bill to Ban Force Feeding of Ducks and Geese Passes First Hurdles 1

An Interview with AVAR member Dr. Catherine Dell'Orto . . . 2

AVAR Files Lawsuit Over Pound Seized Animals 3

AVAR Project Updates and Other Information 4

Veterinarians Needed for Study on Guardian Campaign 4

American Kennel Club Cannot be Trusted 5

AVAR-Sponsored Spay Camps Reach Milestone in Juarez, Mexico 6



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A copy of the AVAR's latest annual report may be obtained upon request from its national office or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

An Interview with AVAR member Dr. Catherine Dell'Orto on challenging an animal research project at Columbia University in New York.

Catherine Dell'Orto graduated from Mississippi State University in 1997 with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine and performed a post-doctoral fellowship in comparative medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. She currently is working on a master's degree in public health at Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and is an associate veterinarian in a small animal clinic in New York. As part of her duties at Columbia University, she oversaw animal health. During that time, she witnessed what she believes is improperly conducted research on nonhuman primates. AVAR interviewed Dr. Dell'Orto about her experience and the ongoing challenge to animal research at Columbia University.

AVAR: Can you describe the research project that prompted your complaint?

Dell'Orto: It was a research study into neuroprotective agents and was performed on baboons. The baboons' left eyes were enucleated (removed) and the middle cerebral artery was clamped for a defined period of time, 45, 70, or 90 minutes. Either a drug or placebo was administered. The animals were kept intubated until 16 hours after the procedure. After anesthesia recovery, they were placed in ICU. The laboratory and veterinary staff were allowing these animals to die in their cages after the procedure was performed. Some animals had so little function left that they would simply slump over in their cages -- unable to move or swallow. Their breathing was shallow and labored. Worst of all, they were not administered any medications



Dr. Catherine Dell'Orto

for pain. Death was used as an endpoint, which is not only unethical, but will bias research results because the hypoxia (lack of oxygen) during terminal distress will affect the brain tissue that the grant recipients were so interested in studying. Despite this, the animals found dead were taken for MRI's anyway, and they were included in the study. According to the protocol, animals who could not self-care after the procedure were either supposed to be intubated and maintained under anesthesia or be euthanized. This was not happening.

AVAR: What process did you follow for filing the complaint?

Dell'Orto: Initially, I went to the department director. We had a meeting with all the veterinarians. I was told I had the authority to say if an animal needed to be euthanized. Despite this, I was told that, in the future, I was not allowed to go into the experimental surgery area!! I then went to the University, specifically, to the administrator of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee



(IACUC), which oversees animal research protocols. I also notified the United States Department of Agriculture inspector. These avenues were unproductive in certain significant respects, so I contacted People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. They were extremely helpful in drawing much needed attention to the problem and prompting an "official" USDA investigation. PETA also filed a complaint with the District Attorney's Office in Manhattan, New York, asking that criminal charges be brought against the researchers and members of the IACUC.

AVAR: How did the university respond?

Dell'Orto: The University stopped the stroke experiment on baboons and called together a committee to investigate. The committee was composed of other researchers

including a researcher who was actually on the stroke study. They limited my testimony to one hour and would not accept additional documentation. Due to media and public pressure the study has not resumed. There are other studies ongoing on nonhuman primates that need to be halted and investigated. Further information can be found at: www.columbiacruelty.com.

AVAR: What can veterinarians do to help?

Dell'Orto: Veterinarians can write to Tom Wornom, Deputy Chief, Special Projects Bureau, New York County (yes, that's right "County") District Attorney's Office, 1 Hogan Place, 7th Fl., New York, NY 10013, to support the call for charges of cruelty to animals. New York has a law that allows research to be challenged if it is not conducted appropriately. What

Columbia allowed to happen to the baboons used in this study is indeed criminal.

There also needs to be reform of the Animal Welfare Act and its enforcement. Practicing veterinarians not affiliated with the institution should be incorporated into IACUC committees. The situation in the institutions is that no person wants to risk their career to speak out about such cruelties. And, if you do, you are shunned or, worse, lose your job. This happened to colleagues in Miami and Wisconsin after they spoke out about research cruelty. It would be wonderful if AVAR members could specifically request that they be considered for their local university or college IACUC's. These committees are stacked against fairness to animals right now and action on our part is required.

AVAR Files Lawsuit Over Pound Seized Animals

A lawsuit has been filed against Sacramento County, California, for failing to protect and keep track of animals sold for research and teaching from the county's animal shelter to the University of California, Davis (UCD), and Sutter Hospital. Sacramento County is the last county in the state of California to allow sales of unclaimed or unadopted companion cats and dogs from its shelter for research and teaching.

In 1986, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement was adopted by the county as a result of public concern regarding the practice of "pound seizure," whereby adoptable yet unclaimed or unadopted animals are sold from the shelter for various medical and educational uses. In order for animals to be purchased and then used for research or teaching, the purchasers agreed to comply with various requirements set forth by the county. Those requirements include keeping records, ensuring the animals are not used in duplicative procedures, complying with local, state, and federal laws, and keeping animals free from avoidable stress. For 18 years, almost every requirement of the MOU has been violated.

Humane organizations oppose the practice of selling companion animals from shelters. Many believe that a shelter is supposed to be a place where animals can be found if lost or adopted when they have been abandoned. Selling them creates distrust in the community and leaves open the possibility that a lost companion could end up being used for research or teaching. The practice of purchasing unwanted or unclaimed animals for research or teaching does not reflect a concern for the well-being of animals by the veterinary profession. It should be doing more to prevent overpopulation and the resulting unwanted animals instead of taking advantage of the situation.

AVAR, as well as the Animal Protection Institute and In Defense of Animals, the other plaintiffs in the lawsuit, have tried for years to get the policy of selling animals by Sacramento County changed. AVAR has worked to convince the University of California, Davis, to stop purchasing shelter animals for veterinary training. Most of the hundreds of animals sold each year were used in terminal procedures at the veterinary school. In the last year, however, the university made substantial changes to its curriculum, making pound-seized animals unnecessary to its training of veterinary students.

Sutter Hospital uses dogs in heart device studies and uses kittens to train nurses in neonatal intubation training, this despite the fact that other hospitals in the area do not use live animals for this purpose and that realistic, anatomically-correct models are available.

The lawsuit calls for an end to the MOU agreement and discontinuation of sales of animals, as well as changes to policies and procedures on animal care at the shelter. It also seeks damages for the animals sold illegally, which will go toward free and low-cost sterilization of community animals.



AVAR Project Updates and Other Information

Early-Age Sterilization Presentation in Oregon:

AVAR member Dr. Giovanna Rosenlicht gave a presentation on early-age sterilization to the Willamette Valley Veterinary Medical Association in Oregon in May. Dr. Rosenlicht presented the video on Early Age Neutering: A Practical Guide for Veterinarians (co-produced by AVAR and UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine) and also reviewed current research literature on the subject with a group of about 25 veterinarians from the region.

Presentation on Farmed Animal Issues at University of Pennsylvania:

AVAR Vice President Holly Cheever spoke to a group of about 60 students at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in April on the subject of farm animal welfare. Cheever addressed several factory farm practices which are particularly inhumane including the use of battery cages as housing for hens and the use of sow farrowing crates for pigs. She also discussed the practice of force feeding of ducks and geese in the production of foie gras, which AVAR is trying to ban in the state of California.

(See related story on **SB 1520**.) Finally, Cheever pointed out that the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) positions on farm animal welfare issues are outdated and inhumane and stated that pressure must be brought to bear on the organization to take a more active role in promoting the humane treatment of farm animals.

Presentation on Foie Gras Legislation:

AVAR National Director Teri Barnato gave a presentation on the foie gras legislation to students in an animal law class at the University of California, Los Angeles, in April. Two of the students subsequently joined AVAR in its efforts to pass the bill by helping to coordinate lobbying in district offices of key legislators.

Presentation on Veterinary Medical Ethics at Cornell University:

AVAR Vice President Holly Cheever, DVM, spoke to a group of students at Cornell University about veterinary medical ethics and animal rights in May. She also spoke to students who are interested in starting an AVAR student chapter at that school.

Veterinarians Needed for Study on Guardian Campaign

The Foundation for Interdisciplinary Research and Education Promoting Animal Welfare (FIREPAW) is asking veterinarians to participate in a study for their Guardian Campaign. FIREPAW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to stopping animal suffering through research and education.

FIREPAW, on behalf of In Defense of Animals, is conducting a nationwide study of companion animal caregivers. The study will examine attitudes and behaviors associated with those who consider themselves animal "guardians" and those who consider themselves "owners." The purpose of the study is to uncover potential factors that can help to stop companion animal suffering.

Veterinarians are being asked to reach out to their clients and other clinic visitors by placing the survey in the waiting or reception areas.

The surveys and return postage-paid envelopes will be sent to veterinarians upon request. For information, or to request surveys, contact FIREPAW, Inc. at 228 Main Street, #436, Williamstown, MA 01267; fax, 518-658-0979, or email, info@firepaw.org



The American Kennel Club Cannot Be Trusted

by Dr. Herm David, Committee for an Ethical AKC

Years of lies and malfeasance have harmed man's best friend and duped the public, and the American Kennel Club (AKC) is responsible. In 1989, the AKC was presented with the unfavorable results of a large consumer fraud investigation involving its registration of countless "AKC-certified" purebred dogs and its cover-up of fraudulent activities. Since being officially notified of their flagrant fraudulent business practices almost 15 years ago, the AKC continues to sell certificates affirming information about "purebred" dogs that it knows is false. And, no charges have been brought against the AKC for doing so.

The AKC says it isn't responsible for any fraudulent activities. It doesn't buy, sell, kennel, or keep dogs. What it does, however, is certify the accuracy of unsubstantiated information submitted by third parties, and then it resells that information.

Consumers have spent billions of dollars on dogs who have been misidentified by AKC certifications. The AKC knew or should have known what it was doing when identifying animals because, in some cases, it does check the background information.

Previous findings of its inspectors, senior staff, administrators, board members, and court transcripts indicate that registration papers should not have been issued in 50%-90% of the cases actually investigated. In a 1995 court submission, the AKC stated it had erroneously registered 600,000 dogs and made approximately \$5 million dollars by selling the certification papers to unsuspecting consumers.

Because of its practices, puppy mills continue to breed dogs which (if they survive the abhorrent conditions of

their birth) may suffer from chronic diseases for the duration of their short miserable lives. AKC supports such breeders and has renamed them "High Volume Breeders" in a new public relations effort to increase registration income. There is no progeny testing, no follow-up on puppies sent out by the breeders, and thus no controls on breeding genetically defective animals.

Correcting the problem isn't difficult, but it could drastically lower AKC's revenues and damage its reputation, both of which AKC jealously defends with collusion and threats. Meanwhile, the market in illicitly produced and inaccurately identified dogs takes a huge emotional toll on hapless owners and causes veterinary costs to skyrocket. Consumers shouldn't have to pay for it.

Current lawsuits in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee confirm the problem with victim consumers who purchased puppies based on the false perception that an AKC-certified puppy has some assurance of health, quality, or even that the dog is the breed the papers say the dog is. Such deceptive practices are promoted by the AKC and should not be tolerated.

AKC is a not-for-profit and, therefore, is different from an Enron or Tyco. But it's no charity. And it isn't

required to open its books to regulators because there are no shareholders or individual members. It is accountable to no one. Its corporate culture has become one of secrecy and deception. This once prestigious social club protects its image by donating a small portion of its tax-free registration income to veterinary schools and by making contributions to its own foundation. It thereby silences critics and deflects attention from questionable business practices.

Please contact your Congressperson and ask that the Federal Trade Commission investigate and prosecute potential consumer fraud being committed by the AKC. Alternatively, if you have any personal experiences with AKC's practices, let them know. Your personal request as a constituent is the most effective means for pressuring the FTC to take up this matter.

Editor's Note: The AVAR does not support any breeding of cats or dogs, be it by AKC affiliates or any other breeders, while millions of animals are being killed each year due to overpopulation. For more information on the Committee for An Ethical AKC, please contact www.akcethics.org or e-mail inbox@akcethics.org



AVAR-Sponsored Spay Camps Reach Milestone in Juarez, Mexico

Next Spay Camp Planned for Bonfil, Cancun



Merris Waters helps with intake at Spay Camp.

AVAR sponsored a third Spay Camp in Juarez in late March, with an estimated 150 dogs and cats sterilized during the five-day camp. That brings the total number of animals sterilized during the three clinics held in Juarez to 450. In addition to the AVAR volunteer veterinarians, three University of California veterinary medical students participated in the most recent camp and helped with intake and recovery, as well as transporting supplies to the camp.

At the conclusion of the third Spay Camp, the local Juarez group announced that they plan to open a sterilization clinic with financial help from a foundation in the United States. AVAR will sponsor a final Spay Camp in Juarez to coincide with the opening of this clinic later this year.

In the meantime, the Bonfil colony in Cancun, Mexico, has been chosen as the site of the next AVAR-sponsored Spay Camp in August. Although Cancun is known as a vacation destination, the areas outside the resorts are very poor, and the animal overpopulation problems are severe. The local government continues to use electrocution as a means of destroying unwanted animals, and poisoning of stray dogs is common.

Help Also Needed for Clinic in Baja California, Mexico

AVAR also has been asked to help with a spay and neuter clinic in Baja California. Dr. Denise Jones, a veterinarian living in Baja California, operates a free spay and neuter clinic in the town of Loreto. Many of the families living in Loreto are low-income and cannot afford to have their companion animals sterilized. There are also many homeless animals on the streets there.

Jones, a 1973 graduate of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, currently operates the spay and neuter clinic two to three days per month out of a local kitchen. A friend from the United States has pledged to

donate a trailer outfitted for surgeries, but medical supplies are much needed. Jones also could use the help of volunteer veterinarians. Contact Jones via email at santuariobj@hotmail.com or tel. 011 52 613 104 4254 if you're interested.

The following is the "wish list" of supplies needed for both the AVAR-sponsored Spay Camps and the clinic in Loreto. Please send any donations to AVAR, 635 Anderson Road, Suite 13B, Davis, CA 95616, Tel: (530) 759-8106. NOTE: Please call to coordinate shipment of larger items.

WISH LIST

- Good small light suitable for surgery
- Autoclave
- Vaccines (especially distemper and combos, even if outdated)
- Flea and tick products
- Heartworm tests and heartworm preventive
- Medical supplies such as gowns, masks, gauze and sutures
- Surgical instruments
- Instrument disinfectant
- Antibiotics
- Eye ointments
- Identification tags



UCD veterinary student Christi Payne, coordinator of Spay Camp, with dog



MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM THE AVAR

BOOKLETS AND BROCHURES

"Cosmetic Surgeries... Standards of Cruelty"

A brochure that details the history of the ear cropping and tail docking of dogs and the surgical procedures involved. 10 cents each.

"Guide to Congenital and Heritable Disorders in Dogs"

A 28-page booklet detailing the congenital and heritable disorders found in 153 breeds of purebred dogs. \$1 each.

"Surgical Claw Removal... An Extreme Solution"

A brochure that describes the medical and ethical reasons for not declawing cats and provides alternatives to this extreme surgical procedure. 15 cents each.

"Early-Age Sterilization: The New Standard for Performing Castrations and Spays in Shelters, Private Practices, and Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospitals"

An educational brochure on the need for early-age sterilization and how this can help reduce cat and dog overpopulation. 15 cents each.

"Learning Without Killing: A Guide to Conscientious Objection"

At about 150 pages, this guide provides detailed information on the how-to's of student conscientious objection to harmful animal use. \$10 each.

DETAILED REVIEWS

Written by AVAR co-founder Nedim C. Buyukmihci, V.M.D. \$1 each. Reviews may be photocopied, if unaltered, and include the copyright statement on the first page.

"Ethical and Practical Concerns for the Use of Nonhuman Animals in Research"

"The Issue of Dissection"

"The Draize Eye Irritancy Test"

"Serious Moral Concern is Not

Species-Limited" (and other thoughts)

"Non-Violence in Surgical Training"

"Safety Testing of Products for Human Use: Irrefutable necessity or morally indefensible false sense of security?"

"Apparel of Misery"

"Ethical and Practical Considerations for Nonhuman Animals Used for Food and Fiber"

EDUCATIONAL DATABASE

"Alternatives in Education Database"

This database is now only available online, through the world wide web. Log onto AVAR's home page (<http://AVAR.org>) and choose the link for this. Instructions, search hints and more are provided online.

FLYERS

The AVAR will send one free copy with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Flyers may be photocopied.

"Contemporary Veterinarian's Oath"

A new oath for veterinarians that places nonhuman interests first.

"Forget the Myths—Get the Facts About Sterilizing Your Companion Animals"

AVAR challenges frequently used arguments for not sterilizing companion animals.

"The Veterinarian's Role in Solving Dog and Cat Overpopulation"

A look at how veterinarians can help resolve the problem.

VIDEOS

"Early-Age Neutering, A Practical Guide for Veterinarians"

Demonstrates useful techniques for veterinarians for neutering male and female puppies and kittens from 6-16 weeks of age. The purchase price is \$15, plus shipping. Videos may be borrowed for up to two weeks with a \$20 check made payable to the AVAR, \$15 of which will be refunded when returned. U.S. residents add \$5 for shipping, non-U.S. residents add \$8.

Now Available in Spanish.

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Ban Force Feeding of Ducks and Geese
continued from page 1

prior to migration is not similar to force feeding, as the opponent's experts stated. Further, she clarified that the Mulard, a hybrid derived from the cross-breeding of Muscovys and Pekins, does not migrate.

The bill now goes to an Assembly committee. Game show host Bob Barker is helping by making phone calls to legislators. He plans to contact Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to ask for his support. Activists in Israel held a demonstration in front of a hotel where the governor stayed during his recent visit there, asking him to support the California bill.

Nearly 1,000 letters from individuals and dozens from animal protection organizations were sent, including one

from Sir Paul McCartney. The sponsors of the bill, AVAR, Farm Sanctuary, Viva!USA, and Los Angeles Lawyers for Animals, thank everyone for their support.

If you live in California, please contact your Assembly member as soon as possible. Ask her or him to support SB 1520! If you don't know who your Assembly member is, go to: www.assembly.ca.gov.



Demonstrators in Israel ask visiting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to support foie gras bill.



"COMMITTED TO BALANCING THE NEEDS OF NONHUMAN ANIMALS WITH THOSE OF HUMAN ANIMALS"



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