

Animals are people too

Owing to the rigorous inspection of the quality of human life in our society, interest has grown in examining the quality of animal life in our society. An aspect of animal life subject to close scrutiny in our time is that of the care and treatment of experimental lab animals. Abuses to laboratory animals have been outlined in such recent books as "Victims of Science" by Richard Ryder, and "Primate", a film concerning ill-treatment of laboratory primates in an Atlanta clinic. Because there is a large amount of ongoing scientific research involving laboratory ani-

mals on this campus, the "Gazette" decided to investigate how Dalhousie's laboratory animals are treated, and to ascertain whether this care is as humane as possible.

Dalhousie University has a University Committee on Lab Animals, which serves as a controller of all facets of animal care within the University. Each department of the University is responsible for care of its own animals, but is ultimately responsible to the Committee on Lab Animals. For each experiment using laboratory animals, an experimental plan (which outlines

such topics as expected amount of pain for the animal in question, rationales for pain control etc.) must be authorized by the Committee before the experiment is conducted. The University Committee on Lab Animals has stricter control measures than does the Federal Government, which has little legislation to insure proper care of lab animals.

The care of lab animals in all Canadian universities is regulated by the Canada Council on Animal Care, a government-funded organization concerned with the welfare of Lab Animals. It sends inspectors around to the various universities, checking on the living conditions of its experimental animals. If a university is not caring for its animals, complaints are made to the University Vice-President. If effective measures for improvement are not taken, members of the council who represent large granting organizations (such as the National Research Council) could suspend funding of the experimental work at the University. In these ways, and in the preparation of progress reports, the Canada Council keeps close watch on the Universities.

The Animal Care Centre, site of much animal research on the Dal Campus, is situated in the basement of the Tupper Medical Building. Head of this centre is Dr. Jim Love, who is responsible for care of animals in the centre.

The well-known experimental animals (rats, cats, dogs, etc.) are kept there, along with goats, frogs, chickens, rabbits, and primates. They are bought from suppliers, cage size of each animal, and standard food for each animal is regulated, following the rules set down by the University Committee on Laboratory Animals. Some animals must have special nutritional supplements, but most of the animals eat a standardized brand of food.

Much emphasis at the Animal Care Centre is placed on immunological research, in which rats, mice, and rabbits are used as research animals. Sometimes the rats or mice may be infected with cancer to determine the course of the disease. Most animals are at the centre for long-term research; there are few short-term experiments. Short term experiments usually deal with such specialized areas of study as neurophysiological research; cats are used mainly for these experiments. Heart and kidney surgery is performed, and a great deal of research is done on such chronic diseases as hydrocephalus (Dr. Love's special area of research). This research is done to provide much-needed information on such conditions found in the human animal.

In experimental animals, care is taken to eliminate any more pain than is absolutely necessary. Adequate anaesthetics are used with every operation. Post-operative care is oriented towards the prevention of unnecessary pain.

Upon inspection of the Animals of the Animal Care Centre, there was no indication of inadequate feeding, over-crowding or general ill-treatment of the animals. All the animals looked sleek, shiny, and in good health. Operating facilities are also clear and well-appointed.

Today, scientific research is starting to head away from animal research. Tissue cultures are being used instead of live animals wherever possible (especially in cancer research). However, in many experiments, it is necessary to use live animals, to study the effect of the experiment on a living organism - results are then more generalizable to the human animal.

If live Animals must be used in experiments (and evidence seems to indicate that they must), then they should all be treated as well as they seem to be at the Animal Care Centre.

Truedough Yeasty

by Kathy O'Brien

There is little doubt that we are all part of a global village. Decisions taken in one country have far reaching effects and often alter the economies and lifestyles of nations on the other side of the world. A case in point is the decision taken by Canadians last October to put a freeze on wages and prices in key sectors of their economy. Who would have thought at the time Prime Minister Truedough of Canada announced these measures, that the chain of events set off by them would effect every country from Afghanistan to the United States of America?

You may recall that at that time the initial reaction of most Canadian union officials to the move was negative and offensive. "It will never work", they claimed. "Wage demands are only a reaction to inflation. The government should deal with rising prices first. It's not fair." But eventually they realized that nothing could be done. Law was law. They would have to accept their ten percent annual increase.

But by November of last year, contracts of the larger Canadian unions were up for re-negotiation and prominent members of the C.L.C. (Canadians' Laborious Congress) approached the president of their Union to see if they might not be able to get a better deal from the government. "After all", they argued, "We haven't had a raise for six months and prices are still rising. Besides, half our union dues go to lobbyists in the House and contributions to the Liberal election campaigns. You must be able to do something."

I.M. Tightwad, newly elected president of the C.L.C., sadly shook his head. "Sorry fellows", he said, "My hands are tied. The anti-inflation review board would be after me in no time. And you know how mean that Barrel Plum-Bush can be, don't you?" They all nodded gloomily.

"Maybe we should disband the Union until after the freeze is over?" ventured one. "At least then we'd all save our union dues".

"Wait", said Tightwad hurriedly, "I have a plan. We'll invest the union dues and then distribute the profits to all the members".

"Invest where?" queried one. "Business is down. Inflation exists in every country in the world."

"My plan" said Tightwad with an air of mystery, "is foolproof. But secrecy is vital for its success. I can only say that by December every union member will have a 5% increase in pay plus a 2% Christmas bonus". The union representatives looked at each other skeptically.

"Trust me", said Tightwad and smiled confidently. And so, for want of a better alternative, the union representatives reluctantly gave their consent.

As soon as they had left, Tightwad, with a curiously sly grin, brought his already packed suitcase out of the closet. Into it he placed all

the union dues that had accumulated over the past six months, and the savings from his own salary which, mercifully, had been unaffected by the wage freeze. Then, donning a pair of dark sun glasses and pulling a hat low over his forehead, he clutched his suitcase and made his way to the Toronto airport.

It was a month later that the union finally tracked him down in Monte Carlo.

"Well" said the inspector from Interpol as he led Tightwad from the Casino, "What have you to say for yourself?"

"I've succeeded", exclaimed Tightwad ecstatically, "All this money I've won from the Arab oil magnates goes back to the Union. Christmas bonuses for everyone!"


Word spread quickly. Before long, leaders of the Postal Union and the Quebec Labour Federation were seen hard at work at the slot machines and blackjack tables. The profits poured back into Canada, investment soared, the economy boomed.

England was the next country to impose wage and price controls and by early spring every capitalist country had followed suit. Casinos quickly cropped up around the world, and as capital flowed freely from country to country, economies gained new vitality and new jobs were created. The communist countries were soon forced to abandon their Marxist beliefs and form democratic labour unions so as not to be left behind in the economic surge. At last the world had flung off the oppressive problems of inflation and unemployment. Prosperity ruled once more.

In the light of the overwhelming success of the wage and price controls imposed by the Truedough government it is difficult to believe that last year there were those who actually doubted the wisdom of the move. In a press conference, Prime Minister Truedough recently stated, "It is now evident to everyone that those who claimed the measures wouldn't work, or that the government did not really know what it was doing, were simply uninformed prophets of doom. This government was well aware of what effect the measures would have, otherwise we would never have made them law." Such a statement defies all contradiction.

NOTICE

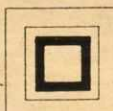
In an effort to receive more student feedback about the entertainment that is available in the Student Union Building the Entertainment Policy Review Board has decided to hold a series of informal weekly meetings where any and all suggestions, inquiries and complaints will be welcomed. The first meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, in Room 218 of the SUB.



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