

*Treatment of Animals***RESEARCH****STUDY BY STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARE,
UTILIZATION AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East)
moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the following matters should be referred to a standing committee, designated by the Prime Minister, with authority to call for persons and papers and report its deliberations with recommendations (a) the use of animals for medical research purposes, their care and utilization, and procedures for government licensing and inspection of, and control over, all premises using animals for laboratory research or medical training (b) the treatment of animals as pets and, as far as federal jurisdiction permits, recommendations regarding legislation providing penalties for those abusing animals, and any persons making a business of raising or catching animals for sale to research individuals or centres and not keeping same in a humane manner (c) the most humane method of trapping fur-bearing animals (d) consideration of the entire Canadian picture relative to the maintenance of fish, bird and animal wildlife and the regulations required for conservation.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is the third consecutive year in which I have presented a motion the same in principle as the one now before the House. On the two former occasions, the motion was debated and then time was called. On December 20, 1968, and again on March 31, 1969, it was talked out. On both those occasions, every member who spoke was 100 per cent in support of the principle of the motion. Unfortunately, some government supporters found a small technicality upon the basis of which they felt justified in taking the position that the motion should be talked out. I hope a similar course will not be followed this afternoon.

If hon. members will read the motion they will note I have outlined the problems surrounding the use of animals for medical and scientific research, humane methods of trapping fur-bearing animals, and the conservation of the wildlife of our country. The motion outlines the very important problems. In no way whatsoever have I endeavoured to put forward either solutions or recommendations. It is, therefore, worthy of note that I am dealing wholly and solely with the principles which were supported unanimously by the speakers in 1968 and 1969. I am asking them to support this motion in principle today so that all these important matters can be referred to a standing committee of the House of Commons. I fully realize there is involved here a matter of constitutionality or split jurisdiction between the federal and provincial authorities. But while I am admitting

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

that, it is my sincere belief that the fields and phases outlined in the motion have been ignored by authorities, in the main, both provincially and federally. It is also my belief that someone must give direction to an initiation of studies so that recommendations can be made to the responsible authorities whether they be on the federal or provincial level.

● (5:00 p.m.)

Since in past years certain matters have been raised by other speakers may I state that I am fully aware of the work and interest of the Canadian Council on Animal Care. I am also fully aware of its report on the care of experimental animals, a guide for Canada. As a matter of fact I have it before me at the present time. I also have a very good knowledge of the submission by the Council for Laboratory Animals to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in December of 1969. I also have that document in front of me. I should like to quote from it at some length because it places this matter of the utilization in Canada of animals for scientific and medical research purposes in what I feel is its proper perspective. It places it in a most understanding manner. So I shall quote from the publication entitled "Animals in Research", a submission by the Council for Laboratory Animals to the Prime Minister of Canada in December, 1969:

A survey of Canadian research institutions carried out in 1966 by the National Research Council following expressions of public concern, revealed that 70 per cent of the animal facilities were inadequate, and that the personnel in charge of animals were largely untrained. As a result, the Canadian Council on Animal Care was established by the universities in 1967.

Early in 1969, the Council's inspection teams conducted a more detailed inspection of university facilities, in which some half million animals are used each year. The detailed findings of this survey have not been made public, but the Council reported:

"In general, it may be stated that no deliberate improper treatment of animals was observed. In some institutions, poor administrative practices, inadequate supervision and poorly trained animal care personnel resulted in poor management of experimental animals in the pre and post experimental periods—

The long term care of experimental animals on chronic studies at most institutions across Canada leaves a great deal to be desired—

Reports in the medical journals indicate that a considerable number of experiments are carried out each year in Canada which involve pain, fear, stress, or prolonged discomfort for animals involved. Animals have been burned, poisoned, shocked, blinded, starved, scalded, frozen, paralyzed and subjected to every conceivable form of stress. They are subjected to painful stimuli and frustrating experiences by psychologists. They undergo nu-