

Animal Treatment Study
NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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, I should like to invite all hon. members of the house to support motion No. 29 standing in my name on today's order paper. I do not feel it necessary to speak at great length on this motion because it is written in a way that is self-explanatory. However, I should like to say that I moved a somewhat similar motion in this house on December 20, 1967. On that occasion every hon. member who rose in his place to speak to the motion completely agreed in principle with it, but raised two objections to it. This was the reason it was talked out on that occasion.

The first objection raised was to the effect I had recommended that all matters affecting the trapping and killing of fur-bearing animals, the treatment of animals, cruelty to animals, their use in research and also the entire question of the conservation of the wildlife of our country be referred to the agricultural committee for study and consideration, the hearing of witnesses and the making of recommendations to this House of Commons. Objection was taken to my suggestion that the matter be referred to the agricultural committee. I did this because during my intensive study of these matters over the years I had found, almost without exception, that every country of the world that recommended studies of this nature always referred the question to their agricultural committee.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

In addition, any legislation dealing with the matter was always placed under the jurisdiction of the department of agriculture. Therefore, this is my reason for phrasing my motion today in this way, hon. members having failed to pass my motion on the previous occasion. My motion today does not name any committee. I have done what I anticipate will be agreeable to hon. members, in particular to hon. members on the government side, namely asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), should the motion carry, to designate to which committee the matter should be referred.

The other objection that was raised in 1967 was this. I made reference on that occasion to the seal kill that takes place every year in this country, and objection was raised that the matter of seal killing was one for the Department of Fisheries, not the Department of Agriculture. As a result of that little excuse, my motion was not accepted.

This time I have also met that objection. I have not mentioned the seal hunt at all. This is included in the entire study of the trapping and killing of fur-bearing animals. In view of the fact that I moved the motion on December 20, 1967 and everybody endorsed it in principle, and since I have now removed those picayune objections which were taken, I trust hon. members will consider the matter to be strictly one of the principle and will endorse my motion as it stands.

There are two main principles of major importance here, in my estimation. It is rather remarkable that we in this country, who regard ourselves as civilized and humane to animals, have never made a study of cruelty to animals. We have never made a study of the use of animals in scientific and medical laboratories. Many members have read the evidence that has been given over the years, particularly the last five years, such as the evidence that was placed before the Lyttleton royal commission in the United Kingdom as well as a congressional study that was made in the United States. Sworn evidence given before those commissions amply demonstrates a situation that is in need of correction.

I am sure we can take it for granted there is not much difference between the use of animals in Canada for scientific and medical research and use of animals for this purpose in other countries of the world, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States. Surely, this is a matter in which we should be interested, especially when I give the house instances of cruelty, and I shall give