

Five things must be accomplished in meeting the needs for animal health and in reducing the wastes of animal diseases:

1. Research on the diseases of food producing animals must be increased. There is a developing imbalance of research fund support for diseases of animals related to food production as compared to diseases of animals with direct human health implications. The latter merits support and should be continued and increased. However, if the former is not brought alongside, man can become the healthiest starving critter the world has known.
2. Veterinary medical manpower must be increased. At the fastest possible rate which can be accomplished in the most efficient of educational process, the United States will have inadequate veterinary medical manpower in 1980 with prospects of even more acute shortages beyond that point.
3. Veterinary medical diagnostic laboratories and an effective and accurate national disease reporting system must be developed and expanded. From such a network can come the data so essential in animal health management.
4. Regulatory authority must be strongly supported and new laws and regulations provided as needed to control and or eradicate existing diseases and to prevent the importance of others from which this country is now free.
5. Greater emphasis, across this nation and in foreign countries, must be applied to the problem of ineffective or negative use of currently available animal health "knowhow." Extending knowledge to the producer and continuing education for the graduate veterinarian must have high priority in the decade immediately ahead. We know how to do more than we do.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The meat markets of this country are, for the most part, well stocked with good, wholesome meat of varieties and standards pleasing to the consumer. The customer can feel safe in his protection against transmissible diseases through his meat supply. He consumes great amounts of meat, milk, and eggs each year and is confident that his health is protected and he eats with pleasure and freedom from fear. Contrast this with the open, unrefrigerated, fly-infested and rodent-inhabited meat markets of many countries today where there is no effectively regulated meat and animal products inspection system.

Consumer protection is an unpopular and argued subject in some quarters. Why should the government protect a citizen who does not want this protection? The answer is clear. The majority of our people seek protection from that over which they have no individual control and look to collective protection through legalized governmental processes. The dissenters derive the benefits afforded the majority, and in this great land of ours, have a right to dissent. However, they do not have the right to deny the majority the collective protection it seeks.

Veterinary medicine plays a central role in consumer protection. As relates to safe and wholesome animal food products, this role extends from the healthy herd and flock through the processing plants and market place to the very hands of the consumer.

The American housewife can acquire, prepare, and serve to her family a nutritious, safe, palatable, and wholesome meal because there is surveillance by a guardian created in the due process of law. The system is costly, but in terms of consumer protection, it is one of the best and most productive of the investments Americans make.

The veterinary services of the U.S. armed forces seeks procurement and delivery of safe and wholesome food supplies to our fighting men around the world. There is no other current system by which this important job can be accomplished.

The Wholesome Meat Act of 1967, and a Poultry Inspection Act are programs aimed to secure good food for American people. They, along with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, require additional veterinary medical manpower.

REQUEST

The Congress is requested urgently to take the steps necessary to support and strengthen a valuable national resource—veterinary medicine in the United States of America.

The inclusion of veterinary medicine in all of the provisions of H.R. 15757 including the important institutional grant provision, and the passage of H.R. 15757 will give greater strength to veterinary medical education and make possible its meeting the challenge it seeks to deliver for all people.