

*Wash, D.C.,
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*For Immediate
Release*

Congressman Bob Dole stated today that more than 50 witnesses have appeared before the "Livestock and Feed Grains" Subcommittee the past two days to present their views on the need -- or lack of need -- for federal legislation to regulate animal experimentation and to curb the traffic of stolen animals in interstate commerce.

Congressman Dole stated he was "shocked" by the testimony and the pictures shown to Subcommittee members. Without question, many "dog and cat dealers" are guilty of gross neglect and cruelty to dogs, cats, and other animals procured for resale to research laboratories and for other purposes. It is also obvious that "pet stealing" has become a profitable -- though an illegal and immoral business -- particularly in large urban areas.

Dole said, "It would appear some federal legislation is necessary to protect animals from inhumane handling, exposure, overcrowding, and useless destruction..

"At the same time, nothing should be done to prevent legitimate medical research uses."