

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1983

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-6521

## DOLE CHAIRS ANIMAL WELFARE HEARING

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, today chaired a hearing on his bill, S. 657, the "Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act."

"This issue has had increasing attention in Congress during recent years and several ideas have been put forth for correcting what many citizens feel are inequities in the care, treatment and practices of using research animals," Dole said.

Dole's bill would amend the Animal Welfare Act, administered by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of USDA. The Animal Welfare Act covers dogs, cats, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits and primates. The Act specifically excludes birds, rats, mice and domestic farm animals.

"It's important not to impede scientific research which has produced many of the 'miracle cures' for various human diseases," said Dole. "At the same time careful treatment of lab animals will insure valuable research results and a greater return on the money spent for research."

"Many citizens have been alarmed about reported misuses of laboratory animals. My bill will insure that necessary safeguards are in place," said Dole. "This is a logical approach because it works within the framework of the existing Animal Welfare Act."

The bill would set up committees to periodically review conditions in research facilities and establish special procedures such as using anesthetics for operations when scientifically appropriate. The bill would also establish an information service at the National Agricultural Library to provide information to research facilities on the latest methods for reducing animal pain and use in testing procedures.