Approved: Eugene L Shore 3-18-93
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Eugene Shore at 9:08 a.m. on March 10, 1993 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Gatlin - Excused
Representative Lawrence - Excused
Representative Rezac - Excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Kay Johnson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association
Teresa Arnold, Animal Health Department
Dr. Roger Fingland, K-State University

Chairman Shore called the meeting to order and opened hearings on **SB 247** and **SB 201**.

SB 247: Cryogenic branding of livestock.

Proponents:

Mike Beam, Executive Secretary, Cow-Calf/Stocker Division, Kansas Livestock Association, attachment #1, explained his association asked for this bill to be introduced to amend the definition statutes in the brand laws to recognize cryogenic branding as a permanent identifying mark that may be registered with the Brand Division of the Kansas Animal Health Department. It is commonly referred to as freeze branding and is currently being used predominantly by horse owners. It is the Livestock Commissioner's interpretation that until the definition is amended his agency cannot recognize and issue a registration certificate for the brand.

Responding to a question from Representative Powers, Mr. Beam explained that freeze branding is not currently prohibited, but the brand cannot be registered.

Teresa Arnold, Kansas Brand Recorder, Kansas Animal Health Department, attachment #2, supports this method of ownership identification because it offers another choice of legally identifying livestock and could bring in more brand registrations from those who will only use the freeze brand method.

Opponents: None

SB 201: KSU veterinary medical students allowed to spay or neuter animals.

Proponents:

Roger Fingland, DVM, MS, Head of Small Animal Surgery, K-State University, attachment #3, explained why student surgery experience has been reduced and how KSU developed the Humane Society Spay/Neuter Program (HSSNP) to augment junior surgery training. This bill eliminates perceived inconsistencies over the legality of the HSSNP while maintaining strict limitations on elective sterilization procedures on homeless animals.

Written testimony was submitted from Senator Lana Oleen, attachment #4.

Opponents: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:20. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 1993.

Kansas Livestock Association

6031 S.W. 37th Street • Topeka, Kansas 66614-5128 • Telephone: (913) 273-5115
FAX: (913) 273-3399
Owns and Publishes The Kansas STOCKMAN magazine and KLA News & Market Report newsletter.

March 10, 1993

TO: House Agriculture Committee

FROM: Mike Beam, Executive Secretary, Cow-Calf/Stocker Division

RE: **SB 247 - Legislation to Recognize Freeze Branding as a Legal Registered Brand**

The Kansas Livestock Association supports SB 247. This bill amends the definition statutes in our brand laws to recognize "cryogenic branding" as a permanent identifying mark that may be registered with the Brand Division of the Kansas Animal Health Department. The use of liquid nitrogen or dry ice for branding is commonly referred to as "freeze branding" by most animal scientists, veterinarians and producers. The process involves an extreme cold temperature to kill the pigment producing cells and causes the hair to turn white where the brand configuration is applied.

Horse owners are using freeze branding as a herd identification tool. Cattle ranchers are utilizing freeze brands for individual identification.

There are some advantages to a properly applied freeze brand. First, it can be more legible than hot iron brands. Scientists also claim it causes less stress when applied, and some experts claim there is less hide damage from freeze brands compared to hot iron brands.

I know the Animal Health Department has received several inquiries over the years, primarily from horse owners, to allow them to register the brand with their department. It's the livestock commissioner's interpretation that in less we amend the definition of brand in the statute,(KSA 47-414), the agency is unable to recognize and issue a registration certificate for their brand.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, we support the legislation and would be happy to respond to any questions or concerns. Thank you.

HOUSE AGRICULTURE
3-10-93
ATTACHMENT #1

STATE OF KANSAS

Animal Health Department

March 10, 1993

TO: House Agriculture Committee

FROM: Teresa Arnold, Kansas Brand Recorder, Kansas Animal Health Dept.

RE: SB 247, Legislation to recognize cryogenic-branding as a legal registered brand

The Kansas Animal Health Department supports SB 247. By including cryogenic-branding, or "freeze-branding", into the methods of ownership identification, will give the livestock owner another choice of legally identifying their livestock.

Judging by the inquiries received by the Brand Division, if this statute is amended a higher percentage of horse owners will be using this method compared to cattle owners. I have been told because of the horse's thin hide freeze-branding is less stressful than hot iron branding for the animal.

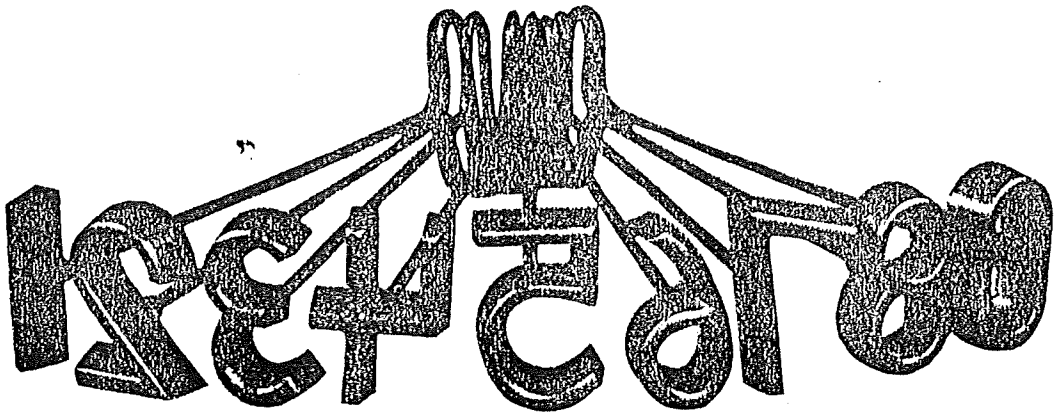
It would be the owner's choice as to which method of identification they want to apply.

By amending KSA 47-414 this could bring in more brand registrations from those who have refused to brand livestock with anything other than the freeze-brand method.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, we support this legislation and would be glad to respond to any questions. Thank you.

HOUSE AGRICULTURE
3-10-93
ATTACHMENT # 2

712 Kansas Ave., Suite 4B Topeka, Kansas 66603 Phone 913\296\2326 Fax 913\296\1765



ILLUSTRATIONS OF COMPLETE SET OF L & H FREEZE BRANDERS

DRY ICE & ALCOHOL METHOD: Alcohol will be needed for this branding method. Among refrig erants used are Methyl, Ethyl or Isoproply alcohol. Methyl alohol is the most readily available. This is a anti-freeze type called Methanol and can be obtained at most service stations. However, it is important that any alcohol used be 95% in strength or it will turn to slush at the extremely low temperature needed. Acetone is another very good refrigerant, because it is clear and the quantity of dry ice in the container is always visible. Some of the suppliers of Acetone are Drug Companies and Welding Supply Firms. Dry ice comes in 50 pound blocks and can be obtained from Welding Supply Firms, Frozen Food Handlers and others. Some firms will cut the block into smaller sections for added convenience. After extensive use alcohol will lose strength because of its tendency to absorb moisture. Alcohol should be changed after branding approximately 200 head of Livestock.

LIQUID NITROGEN METHOD: Liquid Nitrogen is a very good refrigerant and is available through Artificial Insemination Organizations, some Welding Supply Firms and others. Liquid Nitrogen will cool and recool your irons faster than the dry ice method.

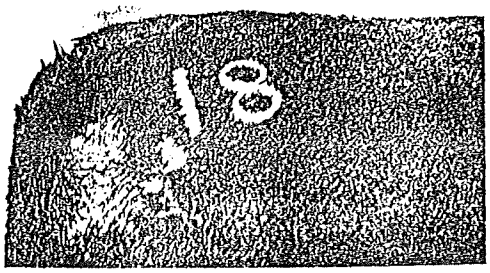
COOLANT CONTAINER: An insulated container will be needed for the dry ice and alcohol. They can be inprovised by putting a half bushel basket or other metal containers inside a bushel basket with insulation on the bottom sides. An insulated picnic container is also satisfactory. However, it is important that the container be large enough so all the irons being used will be submerged in the collant. A good insulated container will be needed for storing the dry ice prior to use.

HAIR CLIPPERS: A clippers is an absolute necessity for this type of branding. A manual clipper may be used but an electric clipper is almost a must when large numbers of livestock are being branded.

PROCEDURE, DRY ICE AND ALCOHOL METHOD
Pour enough alochol into the collant container to adequately cover the irons you will be using. Add dry ice, approximately two inches squares, into the alcohol. This will immediately create a boiling action in the liquid. This action will continue until the liquid is completely chilled or about 90 degrees below zero. The amount of dry ice in the liquid is not critical as long as some solid pieces are visible. Place the branding irons in the collant. The irons have reached the temperature of the dry ice and alcohol mixture when the rapid boiling action stops around the irons. Restrain the animal in a holdng chute or use some means of keeping it completely still. Clip the hair as closely as possible from the area you will be branding. Use room temperature alcohol and a grooming brush to clean the branding area of all foreign matter. Immediately before applying the iron, again saturate the branding area with room temperature alcohol. It is important that this area is wet when the iron is applied. A squirt bottle improvised from a plastic liquid soap container with a cap that has been perforated is an excellent dispenser for applying alcohol or acetone. An ordinary oil can, clothes sprinkler or hand sprayer will also work well. Apply the iron to the hide with pressure and make sure that all portions of the brander are in contact with the hide. Lack of pressure or uneven pressure has resulted in poor brands. Hold the iron on the hide at least 40 to 50 seconds on calves and 50-60 seconds on cows. When liquid nitrogen is used the branding time can be cut approximately 10 seconds.

RESULT OF THE BRANDING OPERATION:
Immediately after the iron is lifted from the hide this area will appear frozen and in several hours the area will become swollen as in frost bite. In about twenty two days after branding the hair where the brand was applied will have completely fallen out and the brand can be read. White hair will appear on the branded area in two or three months. However, it is known a cow has two hair growing cycles, spring and fall, For this reason it has been experienced that cows branded in the middle of the winter did not grow hair on the branded area until spring. Thickness of the hide also seems to effect the application time of freeze branding. Calves are easiest to brand, followed by yearlings, cows and bulls.

PRECAUTIONS: Dry ice and the cold liquid can be injurious to humans and precautions should be taken that these do not come in contact with your skin. Acetone and alcohol are inflamable and should be used in the open air or a well ventilated building. Avoid smoking and keep this material away from open flames. Vapor from this liquid is also dangerous to the tissues of your eyes and nose. Do not put this liquid in a closed container after use until it has warmed up or it may explode. Contact your County Agent or Cooperative Extension Service for any additional information on materials needed and procedure.



Number 18 applied on an Angus for 40 seconds produced these good results.

Before ordering a FREEZE BRAND for proof of ownership or in other words a registered brand, contact your state brand inspection agency. The use of such irons is subject to laws relative to each individual state.

Materials used and procedure are based on factual information believed to be true but not guaranteed. Freeze Branding is primarily used for individual number identification of your livestock.

Some other quality products Mfg. by L & H are: The Original Electric Brander, Electric Docker, Electric Dehorner, Electric Horn Brander, Electric all Purpose and Bronze Fire Heated Irons. For Further Information write for Brochures L & H Mfg. Co. Box 629. Mandan, N. Dak.

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NUMBER 100 CURRENT INFORMATION SERIES APRIL 1969

Freeze-Branding

Equipment and Methods

Loren Kambitsch Marvin Wittman
Morris Hemstrom

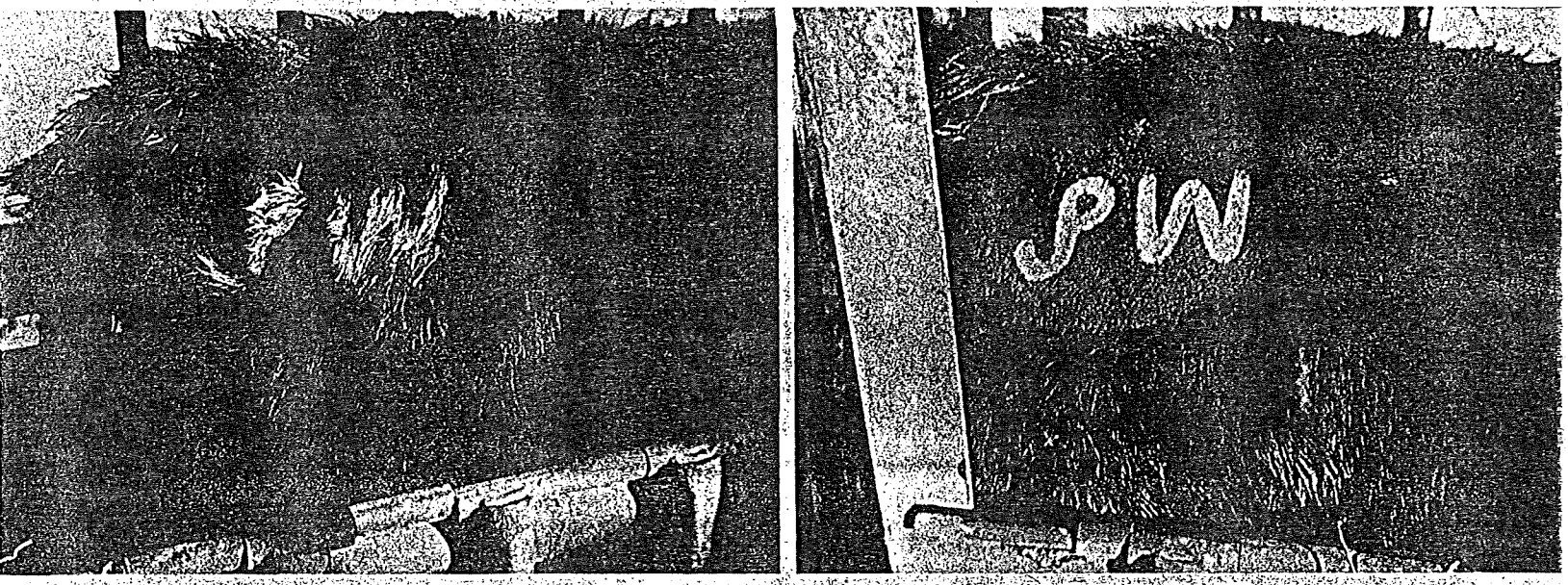

Figure 1. Clipping improves legibility of the brand as these "before and after" pictures show. The Angus calf was branded in June, 1968. These pictures were taken in November, 1968. At the time of branding, the brand site was pre-clipped with EA-1-SUR blades on Sunbeam Stewart Clipmaster. The branding iron was applied for 15 seconds.

Freeze-branding, also known as cryo-branding, when done according to procedures listed in this report will produce a legible identification mark on cattle. This mark or brand is distinguished by white hair on the brand site in contrast with black or red hair.

Freeze-branding costs about five cents per head using the dry ice-alcohol method. In timed trials in Idaho, the freeze-branding process took an average of two minutes per head.

Freeze-branding is accomplished in much the same way as fire branding. The major difference is that a super-cold copper branding iron is used instead of the traditional hot iron. The extreme cold kills the pigment-producing cells, called melanocytes in the animal's hair follicle. The hair grows back white instead of colored.

Freeze-branding was developed by Dr. Keith Farrell D.V.M., Agricultural Research Service, U.S.D.A., Pullman, Washington, in about 1965. Since that time stockmen have become interested in the process and its practical application for individual animal indentification.

Neck chains, ear tags, brisket tags and horn brands have been used to identify cattle with only limited success. Beef cattle improvement programs are largely dependent on a permanent, legible identification system. Freeze-branding may be the answer.

Freeze-branding with ownership brands is not legally restricted in Idaho. However, brand officials have recommended further research and study to perfect the technique before suggesting field use. The studies reported here were made in an effort to discover a satisfactory means of identification, not necessarily to replace the registered ownership fire brands.

Agricultural Experiment Station Agricultural Extension Service
College of Agriculture ★ University of Idaho

2-3

Merits of Freeze-Branding

Freeze-branding offers several advantages. These include:

1. Freeze-branding causes little or no hide damage as compared to the hot iron method.

2. Animals show little reaction to the super-cold iron, indicating that freeze-branding is relatively painless. The stress and shock associated with the hot iron branding is eliminated.

3. Good freeze brands are more legible on dark haired cattle because of color contrast. Blotching and distortion associated with hot iron branding is absent.

4. The potential is good for a freeze-brand number system for permanent cow identification in beef cattle improvement programs.

Experimental Studies

The authors conducted freeze-brand experimental studies in Idaho during the past three years, 1966-1968. This Current Information Series leaflet reports the results of these trials.

The trials, which took place on the Wittman Farms, Culdesac, were conducted in cooperation with the Nez Perce county agricultural Extension agent, the Extension livestock specialist, and Dr. Keith Farrel. The freeze-branding studies involved the 100 Hereford cow herd heifer replacements, and three successive calf crops. March and April calves were branded in June, and cows and heifers were branded in December and February.

Equipment

The necessary equipment needed for freeze-branding includes copper irons with adequate body to hold the cold, a cooling agent, an insulated container, and electric clippers. A squeeze chute to restrain the animal and to provide access to the brand location is desirable.

Special skills are not necessary, however precise procedures must be followed for the best results.

The trials conducted to date have determined that the most satisfactory branding irons for use in freeze-branding are made of pure bar copper with a ½ inch face and a 1-½ inch depth. The face of the iron should have rounded edges. The irons should have wooden handles short enough to use in the chute.

The irons used at the Wittman Ranch were made to these specifications in their farm shop. (See figure 2).

Two sets of branding irons are desirable. While one iron is being used for branding, the second is cooling.

Dry Ice-Alcohol Method

A styrofoam box (12 inches x 20 inches x 10 inches deep) is satisfactory as an insulated container. Do not use plastic lined boxes as thin plastic will crack. Dry ice is broken into egg-sized pieces to cover the bottom. Alcohol (95 percent methyl) is added to cover the ice two or three inches. The iron is then immersed in the liquid. When first immersed the iron causes the alcohol to bubble actively for about five minutes. However, after this initial cooling, subsequent cooling takes considerably less time. The iron is ready for use when very small bubbles arise from the submerged iron.

Important Safety Notice

At all times take care not to splash the super cold solution on your skin or in your eyes. Dry ice-alcohol has a temperature of -90°F.

Twenty pounds of dry ice and 3 gallons of 95% alcohol should be ample to freeze-brand 100 head of cattle within a 3-4 hour period. Dry ice will need to be added to the alcohol from time to time. Under damp atmospheric conditions, alcohol should be changed every two hours since it absorbs moisture from the air. This "watered down" alcohol loses its cooling capacity and will begin to slush up as water accumulates and ice forms.

Clipping—Wetting—Cleaning—Branding

Preparing the brand site correctly is very important. Damp hair is difficult to clip, therefore, brand when the weather is favorable. Clip the hair as close to the skin as possible.

The length of the hair on the brand site after clipping is a major factor in timing the application of the branding iron. In recent trials with calves, three different clipper heads were used to determine the insulating effect of hair left on the brand site after clipping: The E-8 Sunbeam Stewart, the Oster No. 10, and the EA-1-SUR Sunbeam Stewart. The latter is a modification of the Sunbeam Stewart 31Q-1 blade, and is to be manufactured.

The EA-1-SUR Sunbeam Stewart is a surgical blade on the Sunbeam Clipmaster large animal clipper. It shows promise of improving the freeze-brand technique by speeding up the clipping with sufficient power and design to go through heavy coats of hair. This will provide a surgical clip at the brand site and thereby require less application time.

This head was designed by Dr. Keith Farrell and is to be produced by Sunbeam Corporation. The EA-1-SUR clipper blade used in the 1968 trials and additional blades for continued research were furnished by Sunbeam Corporation.

The trials at the Wittman Ranch determined that slightly differing application times were needed depending upon how closely the hair was clipped. The application times for irons cooled in dry ice and alcohol, according to the type of hair clipper used, were as follows:

E-8 Sunbeam Stewart Clipmaster Blades	20 seconds
Oster No. 10 Blades	15-20 seconds
EA-1-SUR Sunbeam Stewart	15 seconds

After clipping, saturate and then wipe the brand site with a stainless steel creamery sponge dipped in normal temperature alcohol. This cleans

the hide of excess scurf and dirt and helps assure the best possible transfer of cold from the iron to the hide. Cattle with scurfy or scabby hide due to lice were freeze-branded in one trial. Resulting brands were poor. The cattle should be free of lice and the hide should be normal before freeze-branding.

Next, remove the iron from the dry ice-alcohol coolant solution and apply to the prepared site with even, heavy pressure. NOTE: The heavy pressure is important.

After the iron is removed from the hide, a frozen indentation is evident. After the hide thaws, a slight swelling will occur.

The swelling will disappear in a few days followed by a dull appearance of the hair in the brand design. From one to two weeks later, the hair will start shedding from the brand site. This disturbance of hair appearance gives sufficient brand legibility for identification until white hair comes in.

Underbranding will result in very little or no hair loss at this stage and subsequently very little or no white hair growth. Overbranding will cause complete shedding of hair and scab formations, resulting in some hide damage and very little or no regrowth of white hair in the center of the brand. However, some white hair will grow back on the perimeter of the brand when overbranding has occurred resulting in minimum legibility without clipping. Rounded edges on the face of the branding iron produce this effect.

Depending somewhat on the season of the year, white hair will start to show six to eight weeks following branding. The brand grows in size with the animal (See Figure 2).

Proper technique and timing will produce a clearly legible white hair brand when the regrowth appears, which is legible from a distance during all seasons of the year.

The white hair in the first few growth cycles will be longer than normal. On some animals it

Figure 2. A freeze-brand grows with the animal much the same as a hot iron brand does. This growth factor can be seen in this picture comparing the branding iron that was applied in June and the enlarged brand as it appeared after clipping in November.

will be twice the length of the hair adjacent to the brand. This excess growth will diminish with each growth cycle until all hair is approximately the same length.

On white cattle, deliberate overbranding, 30 seconds or more, will produce a bald brand suitable for identification after clipping.

Evaluation of Freeze-Brands

In Idaho trials, the brands were scored in the fall with "5" designating an excellent brand. Less legible brands were scored with a lower number. In the Wittman trials in 1968, most of the brands were given "5" ratings before clipping; and all were rated excellent after clipping. In many cases, clipping improved legibility because of lengthy adjacent hair coat partially covering the branded area.

Unsatisfactory results with freeze-branding have been reported both in Idaho and in other states. Reasons are not fully identified. The procedures reported in this publication have been highly satisfactory. Careful attention to all details and consistently following a proven procedure are important for successful freeze-brands.

Heifer calves branded in June 1966, and retained for replacements in the Wittman cow herd are being observed to determine the permanence of freeze-branding. As of this report (March 1969), there is no change in legibility from the first evaluation report in the fall of 1966.

As the result of trials completed over the past three years, sufficient information has been accumulated to insure satsfactory results from the freeze-branding technique on young calves. Progress has been made on adult cattle but not sufficient to make specific recommendations at this time.

The need for a practical and permanent individual animal identification system (legible from a distance) is vital to the success of a beef cattle improvement program. Freeze-branding shows promise of solving this problem. Trials are continuing on adult cattle and results will be given in forthcoming reports.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Loren Kambitsch is University of Idaho Agricultural Extension Agent in Nez Perce county at Lewiston. Marvin Wittman is a co-owner of Wittman Farms near Culdesac and manager of the livestock operations. Morris Hemstrom is University of Idaho Extension Livestock Specialist headquartered in Moscow.

NOTE: Trade names are used occasionally for better understanding of information presented. No endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ACTS OF MAY 8 AND JUNE 30, 1914 BY THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, JAMES E. KRAUS, DIRECTOR; AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING.

James E. Kraus

JAMES E. KRAUS, *Director*

8M—4-69

2-6

Testimony before the House Agriculture Committee
Honorable Gene Shore, Chairman
March 10, 1993

The principal pre-clinical surgical training for veterinary students occurs in the junior year during the Small Animal Surgery course. The Small Animal Surgery course includes 14 weekly 5-hour laboratory periods referred to as junior surgery laboratories. Historically, inanimate models and laboratory animals were utilized in the junior surgery laboratory. Owing to fiscal limitations and concern for humane treatment of animals, the number of live-animal laboratories was reduced and survival laboratories were eliminated. This noncompulsory alteration of the junior surgery laboratory curriculum, while a responsible and ethical change, created a deficit in surgical training of veterinary students. Specifically, the number of surgical procedures performed by each student was marginally acceptable for proper surgical training and the opportunity for students to gain experience in postoperative patient management was eliminated.

The Kansas State University, Humane Society Spay/Neuter Program (HSSNP) was developed to augment the junior surgery laboratory experience. The program was conducted during seven of the 14 junior surgery laboratory periods in the Fall semester of 1991 and 1992.

The HSSNP was designed to meet the following objectives:

1) To assist junior veterinary students in developing surgical skills including pre- and post-operative patient management by reintroducing recovery experience to the laboratory.
2) To reduce the number of laboratory animals used in the teaching laboratory.
3) To enhance the symbiotic relationship between the College of Veterinary Medicine and area humane societies and animal shelters and to emphasize their commonality of purpose.
4) To serve the community by enhancing the adoptability of homeless animals. Animals included in this program are selected by the humane society or animal shelter as likely candidates for adoption.

Animals from area humane societies or animal shelters are transported to the College of Veterinary Medicine two days prior to the surgery laboratory. A team of four junior veterinary students is assigned to each animal and is responsible for the animals' care during hospitalization under the supervision of a senior faculty surgeon. Each animal receives a thorough physical examination and routine preoperative laboratory evaluations. A complete medical record, including results of twice-daily clinical evaluations, is maintained for each animal during the entire hospital stay. Surgery is performed by student surgeons under the direct participatory supervision of a senior faculty surgeon. Students care for the animals postoperatively; learning valuable lessons in anesthetic recovery, consequences of proper tissue handling, and normal tissue healing. The animals are returned to the humane society or animal shelter four days postoperatively. A certificate of sterilization and complete postoperative care instructions accompany each animal. Humane societies and animal shelters remunerate the College of Veterinary Medicine $45 for each female and $35 for each male that subsequently is adopted.

The 1991 and 1992 HSSNPs were quite successful. Students, faculty, administrators, and animal welfare organizations overwhelmingly believed the program accomplished its' objectives and exceeded expectations. We appreciate constructive criticism and concerns over the legitimacy of the HSSNP program initiated by a few individuals because we join them in insisting upon the highest standards of animal welfare. Recently, a complaint was forwarded to the USDA against Kansas State University for perceived improprieties in the procurement and utilization of random source animals for the HSSNP. Dr. Steve Swartz with the USDA inspected our facility and evaluated the HSSNP on February 25, 1992. Dr. Swartz found the KSU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital was in full compliance with federal law covering the use of animals from animal shelters.

The Kansas Veterinary Practice Act allows veterinary students to perform specific medical and surgical procedures as part of the veterinary curriculum. We believe procedures performed by junior veterinary students during the HSSNP are legitimate under the intent of this Act. Statute No. 47-1731 appears contradictory. The revision to No. 47-1731 before you eliminates perceived inconsistencies over the legality of the HSSNP while maintaining strict limitations on persons authorized to perform elective sterilization procedures on homeless animals.

I urge you to consider this legislation favorably.

Submitted by,

Roger B. Fingland, DVM, MS
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons
Head, Small Animal Surgery

STATE OF KANSAS

LANA OLEEN
SENATOR, 22ND DISTRICT
RILEY AND GEARY COUNTIES

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE
1-800-432-3924

TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

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March 10, 1993

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 201

Chairman Shore and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased today to offer my support to SB 201 which comes before you for your consideration.

The reputation for state-of-the art, quality care at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University is well-founded. I have had the opportunity to visit the college and note firsthand the expert supervision, care, and tracking process. The process allows upper class veterinary students, under direct licensed instructor's supervision, to perform spay or neutering procedures. The agreements in place with humane shelters and the opportunity for veterinary students to provide recovery procedures is commendable.

The support for this bill in the Senate was overwhelming, passing 40-0 on February 22. It also passed both houses in the 1992 session with significant support but was vetoed by the Governor due to another bill which was amended into it.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 201 and encourage it be recommended on its own merits without amendments. Thank you.

Senator Lana Oleen

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HOUSE AGRICULTURE
3-10-93
ATTACHMENT #4