

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE  
BRYN MAWR, PA. 19010

January 27, 1983

Mr. Spencer Wright, President  
Pennsylvania S.P.C.A.  
350 East Erie Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19134

Dear Mr. Wright.

As a Spaniard who is constantly criticized for the cruelty of bull-fighting. I was shocked to learn that the Pennsylvania S.P.C.A. utilizes an equally cruel, if somewhat more sophisticated procedure, namely, the decompression chamber.

This device has been banned in a number of states, the most recent being New Jersey precisely because it kills neither instantly nor humanely. Dogs and cats are known to survive one and in some cases even two cycles. Moreover, there is evidence that attests to the fact that gases, trapped internally, expand and cause excruciating pain before the animal loses consciousness.

Since the Womens' S.P.C.A. and the S.P.C.A. in Delaware County and in Montgomery County do not see the need for using the decompression chamber, I am curious to know why you continue to do so and why you defend its use--not in financial terms--but as humane. As someone who is knowledgeable in the sciences, I must tell you that research does not support your view. As a tax-payer, I shall ask the city of Philadelphia not to renew its contract with the Pa. S.P.C.A. unless you immediately cease to use this horrendous procedure.

Sincerely,

J. FERRATER-MORA

José María Ferrater Mora, Professor Emeritus