

# UNL animal experiments monitored by government

The use of live and preserved animals in experiments at UNL is monitored by a university-wide committee that reports to the federal government, according to a Life Sciences professor.

Royce Ballinger, vice-director of the School of Life Sciences, said the committee, which contains members from all parts of the university, deals with animal use in all UNL laboratories.

"Basically, the committee is set up for the monitoring of the facilities and care that the animals receive and the conditions they are treated under," Ballinger said.

He said the committee examines laboratories used for experiments and then reports to the federal government.

Live animals used in experiments are obtained in several ways, Ballinger explained.

Those who use live animals for a great percent of their experiments usually breed their own specimens, he said.

Ballinger said those who experiment with live animals periodically are able to obtain animals from various biological supply companies set up especially for this purpose.

Still others, according to Ballinger, capture their specimens from nature.

When the animals are no longer needed for experimentation, Ballinger explained, there is a university policy which requires that all animals be incinerated after use.

Ballinger added that there are "two full-time people who take care of this," and that they dispose of the animals properly.

There are also a number of experiments done in the Life Sciences Dept. that involve the use of preserved animals, he said.

The most common experiments involve dissecting specimens.

As with live animals, there is more than one way to obtain animals for experimentation, Ballinger said.

The most common method of obtaining preserved animals is through biological supply companies. In some cases, investigators doing original experiments will use their own preserved specimens.

Many of these animals are destroyed in the same way as the live animals—through incineration. However, Ballinger said some are saved for research purposes and others are eventually preserved permanently in museums and other educational settings.

Ballinger said in most cases "lab schedules for each class will indicate whether or not living material is used." He said all students have the opportunity to know ahead of time what experiments will be conducted in various classes.

Ballinger said he knew of no time when a student complained of being asked to do something he felt he should not be required to do. In fact, he said, "most students look forward to experiences such as this when entering biology classes."

## Chambers to talk

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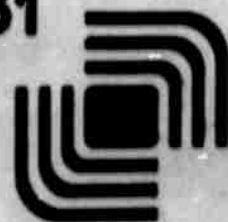
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