

HUMANE SOCIETY of CANADA

Protecting Animals and the Earth

29th October 2009

Phil Kent
Mayor
City of Duncan
302-43 Lois Lane
Duncan, BC V9L 5H4

Re: Stopping Animal Suffering Not Worth \$1.70

Dear Mayor Kent,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman & CEO of The Humane Society and on behalf of the animals in your care and the people in your community who care about them.

Once more confusing Council Chambers with reality, you have failed the animals and the taxpayers of your community who care about them. Rather than leaving animal protection to the experts, you seem to know better instead about what is best for animals.

By relying on tunnel vision to decide about how you kill animals, you failed to take us up on our offer to help you and local citizen groups develop and implement strategies to actually reduce the numbers of animals you kill in the first place.

Your reasoning is bolstered by your observations about what the American Veterinary Medical Association recommends as a "humane" death were correct – in 1999.

However, you deliberately chose to ignore the information we sent about what the American Veterinary Medical Association is doing ten years later in 2009.

More specifically, in our letter of 28th August 2009 addressed to you and other Members of Council, we pointed out: *"... The American Veterinary Medicine which established its own guidelines did so in 1999 drawing upon expertise from only 13 individuals in the field of veterinary medicine. In 2009, they are revising those guidelines and this time relying on 72 different individuals with a wide range of expertise who will be divided up into 12 different groups."*

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the Protection of Animals and
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Page 2

The American Veterinary Medical Association would not be revising those guidelines if they believed there was nothing wrong with them.

Further we also pointed that as the attached 2007 document from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association indicates in part: "... *The intravenous injection of a concentrated barbiturate with prior sedation is widely considered the most humane method for euthanizing animals. It causes a comparatively aesthetic death, is rapid-acting, reliable and effective*".

Finally, we also provided you with additional information, more specifically:

"Further, in a seminar presented on December 16, 2004, Dr. Mohan Raj, Senior Research Fellow in the Farm Animal Division of the School of Clinical Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in England described the effects of CO₂ on the body. CO₂ induces breathlessness – a subjective distress in breathing known as dyspnoea. According to Dr. Raj, dyspnoea in both birds and mammals "activates brain regions associated with pain and induces an emotional response of panic."

Instead of listening to the combined expertise of those involved in animal protection that spans decades and more than 100 countries, you have unilaterally decided that stopping animal suffering is not even worth \$1.70.

We are asking you once more to reconsider your decision.

Awaiting your reply, I remain, yours sincerely,



Michael O'Sullivan
Chairman & CEO

(Euthanasia cost of \$ 1.70 based on Duncan's estimated population 5,000 and the upper range additional cost of \$ 8,500 each year to humanely euthanize animals – ref. Coastal Animal Services, 24th August 2009)