



JEROME WOOLPY

SOCIAL ANIMAL—This wolf, properly trained by Dr. Jerome Woolpy, shown here, has formed a lasting bond of affection with his master. Wolves can be socialized even after they have grown into adulthood.

GENERAL SCIENCES

Petnapping Bill Passed

Animals and medical research are both protected under the new petnapping bill

► **MEDICAL** research can “live with” the petnapping bill that finally became law Aug. 24 after months of dispute between humane groups and scientists.

Though inspection and registration of research facilities were included in the final draft, the new law contains enough safeguards to protect medical experimentation, believes the National Society for Medical Research, which has represented scientific interests throughout the conflict.

Ostensibly intended as a curb on the theft of family pets and their use as laboratory animals, the legislation is aimed at a larger area—humane care of animals by dealers and laboratories alike. The successful bill meets this requirement, the NSMR said, while preserving the integrity of medical research.

Instead of licensing laboratories, as humane groups wanted and medical interests feared, the law provides for a system of registration. It opens laboratories to inspection and sets down penalties for substandard animal care as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. But, most important to medical

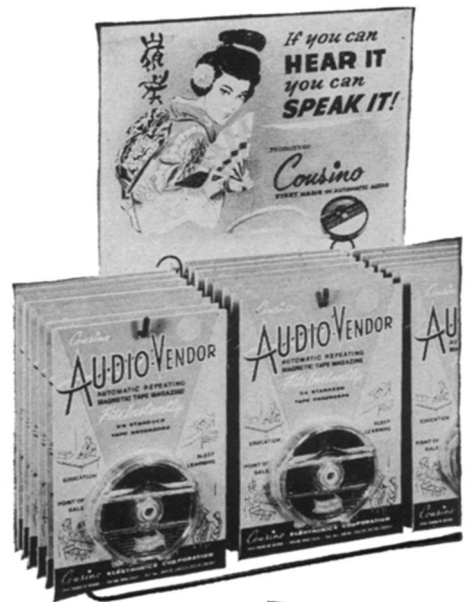
research, the licensing clause was struck and violation of standards does not mean withdrawal of Government money.

Medical research has blossomed so fast in the past decade that laboratory animal facilities have been somewhat shortchanged, and most medical authorities believe a licensing provision would have crippled the nation’s research effort.

As for actual petnapping, the new law requires dog and cat dealers to hold their animals for five days before selling them to laboratories. Also, research facilities must keep records on the animals. These provisions should give owners a chance to recover lost pets before they become subjects of an experiment.

Hopefully, the new bill will put out of business those dealers who have raised a storm of public protest with their widely publicized mistreatment of animals. They now must buy licenses and adhere to standards.

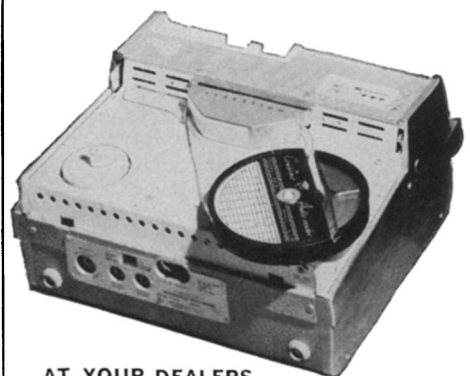
Meanwhile, laboratories are protected against harassment by humane groups.



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