

animals, that's in Section 2, and it also defines the penalties. Penalties have been changed a little bit. We call the first offense a Class II misdemeanor, and each subsequent offense is considered a Class I misdemeanor. Now we tried to make that a Class IV felony on the third offense, but the legal counsel for the Judiciary Committee felt that this was not right, as did the committee members. So that has been stricken. But we still call for a Class II misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class I for each offense after that. We go to Section 3, which mentions indecency language. That's not new language, that's in the old statutes. And Section 5 firmly establishes liability for the owner for expenses incurred in caring for or disposing of these animals, places a lien on the animals in order to collect for the expenses incurred. Section 6 lists the exemptions. And I think it's necessary for us to go over each one of those, if you would. There are 11, but I'll do it briefly. Number one, is...it says that Sections 1 to 9 of this act shall not apply to the care or treatment of an animal performed by a veterinarian licensed under the Nebraska Veterinary Practice Act. So veterinarians are able to continue doing the things that they do and do well, I might add. The second exemption is research activity carried on by a research facility currently meeting the standards of the Animal Welfare Act. The second exemption is commonly accepted practices of hunting, fishing or trapping. The fourth exemption, commonly accepted practices occurring in conjunction with rodeos, animal racing or pulling contests. The fifth exemption is the humane killing of an animal by the owner or by his or her agent or a veterinarian upon the owner's request. The sixth exemption is commonly accepted practices of animal husbandry with respect to farm animals, including their transport from one location to another. I'd like to add to the record at this point that when we talk about farm animals, we also are referring to poultry and egg production. Seventh exemption is the use of reasonable force against an animal, other than a police dog, which is working, including killing, capture or restraint if the animal is outside the owned or rented property of its owner or custodian and is injuring or posing an immediate threat to any person or other animal. We exempt the killing of house or garden pests, that may seem a little strange, but we found it necessary to include that in the wording of the bill. Exemption nine is commonly followed practices occurring in conjunction with the slaughter of animals for food or food by-products. The last exemption is commonly accepted animal training practices. Those are the exemptions. Section 7 refers to rules and