

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

### Section 80, Pages 2371 - 2400

This collection contains correspondence regarding indemnities for cattle killed by tuberculosis, concerns over the findings of veterinary inspection, discussion of an outbreak of rabies among Kansas dogs that affected cattle, complaints of veterinary treatments killing animals, and general discussion about livestock diseases. The correspondence is mostly between the Livestock Sanitary Commissioner and various livestock owners throughout Kansas.

Creator: Kansas. Livestock Sanitary Commission

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

DR. C. I. CRAWFORD

GRADUATE AND REGISTERED VETERINARIAN

*you in tracing the origin of the  
30 head of cows would be glad to  
do so.*

*Very Truly Yours  
Dr. Chas. Crawford.*

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

Dec. 18, 1928

Dr. C. I. Crawford,  
Overbrook, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Soon after you phoned me about two weeks ago with respect to T. W. Gilmore losing cattle, etc., after I had arranged for Dr. Fowler and Dr. Grimes to confer with you I went east to attend the U.S. Sanitary Live Stock Association meeting and while in Washington took the flu and was laid up for about a week. Just returned to the office today. I find Dr. Fowler and Dr. Grimes' report of their investigation. I would take it from their report that the cattle in question were infected with the disease anaplasmosis - that has been quite prevalent in certain sections of the state during the fall and winter months.

I am going to try and find out the origin of the car load of cows in question. If Mr. Gilmore has any information as to where the cattle came from I wish you would furnish me same. Also would be glad to have you write me the present condition of the cattle.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929



J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

805 L. S. Exchange,  
Kansas City, Missouri,  
December 8, 1928.

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

The following report is respectfully submitted:

Pursuant with instructions from your office by telephone on Dec. 3, 1928, Dr. Fowler and I drove to Dr. C. I. Crawford's farm near Overbrook, Kansas, on Dec. 4th, and in company with Dr. Crawford, we visited the farm of Mr. T. W. Gilmore, Overbrook, Kansas, where Dr. Crawford was treating some sick cattle.

We found Mr. Gilmore had bought on the Kansas City market about the middle of October one car load of wet, Hereford cows, some wearing half moon brand on left hip and loin, others the scissor brand on left side. About a week later he bought two car loads of straight matador cows, approximately one hundred head in both purchases. The sickness is occurring in the first car load of cows. Mr. Gilmore noticed two of them refused their feed on Nov. 28th; he called Dr. Crawford soon thereafter who administered a purgative and stimulative treatment. One of these cows recovered the other dying within three days. In the meantime, one or two more would develop symptoms of this condition which would progress rapidly and all except the first animal failed to yield to the treatment as applied by Dr. Crawford. When he called your office on Dec. 3rd, six had died, all of which were from the first car load.

When we arrived on his farm, Dec. 4th, we found three cows in which the disease was well advanced, one apparently in the last stage. They all exhibited about the same symptoms, the first being a yellowish discoloration of the skin on all parts of the body where the hair is soft and thin, about the eyes, on the brisket and the inner sides of the limbs. When urged to move, their gait was wobbly and weak. In the early stages of the disease a slight rise in temperature was observed which gradually declines until death would occur. They would refuse feed from the first and would drink water sparingly; finally lie down and in a short time death would ensue.

On post-mortem examination of one of the sick animals we found a yellowish discoloration of all tissue and organs. The lungs showed a pneumonic condition which we considered as secondary owing to the fact the animal had been sick for two or three days and lying down most of the time. The lung tissue itself presented the same yellowish color, the liver, fatty tissue, muscle tissue and viscera all displayed the same condition. The gall bladder was slightly distended and was filled with a very heavy yellowish

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J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

Mr. Mercer - 2.

dark fluid, about the consistency of a heavy oil. Urine dark in color, spleen slightly darker but about normal in size.

After a careful study of the history of this condition, and the post-mortem lesions present on examination, we are of the opinion that Anaplasmosis is causing this loss. A careful inspection of the remainder of the herd showed one, and perhaps two more animals exhibiting mild symptoms of this disease.

We suggested that Dr. Crawford continue the treatment already prescribed by him, and in addition, injections of normal salt solution, one pint intravenously, and liberal injections of sodium cacodylate also intravenously.

We tried to locate or trace these cattle to their original point of origin, but were unable to positively identify them. However, we did learn there are two such herds of these brands in Oklahoma, one near Comanche and the other near Haskell. Mr. Gilmore bought these cattle through the Haggart-Wilson Com. Co., here, and they in turn bought them from Wolf & Metzger Com. Co., who are traders or speculators in cows.

If we can develop anything further in this case we will present it later to your office.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Fowler,  
R. B. Grimes.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

Jan 24, 1929

Graber Tractor & Implement Co.,  
McPherson, Kansas.

Gentlemen:

Answering yours of the 21st instant.

I am enclosing you a pamphlet that contains the condensed requirements of the various states and call your special attention to the requirements of the state of Iowa.

Your local veterinarian, Dr. E. F. Kubin, can make the test and issue the certificate to meet the Iowa requirements, otherwise you would have to take the matter up with the state veterinarian of the state of Iowa and advise them that your horses were healthy and ask them for a permit for the shipment without the certificate, which they might give you.

Unless you provide feed and water in the car for your horses they would have to be unloaded at the end of 28 hours for feed and water unless you signed a release for 36 hours. It appears to me that if you got any kind of transportation service at all that you would not need to unload your horses between McPherson and points in Iowa. So I would take the matter up with the railroad agent and find out just what kind of transportation service they could give you and then I would direct him to bill your horses not to be unloaded for feed and rest at Kansas City and let them route them some other way.

Trusting this is the information desired and if there is any further information we can give you please write us.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

### Graber Tractor & Implement Company

John Deere Farm Equipment

McPherson, Kansas

January 21, 1929

Mr. J. H. Mercer  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir:

We received your letter of January 11th and understand you are taking care of our claims, which we appreciate.

As we are planning to ship another carload of horses in the near future, I would like to know if same could be shipped direct to Iowa without stopping at Kansas City.

If inspection is necessary could veterinary inspect horses before loading?

Would like an early reply.

Yours very truly,

GRABER TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT COMPANY

BY *R. M. Kuehl*

FK:HH





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

Jan 16, 1929

Honorable John H. Myers,  
House of Representatives,  
B U I L D I N G.

Dear Mr. Speaker Myers:

With reference to the bill introduced by a member of the legislature from Wyandotte county creating the position of humane officer representing Wyandotte county on the Kansas City stockyards, I am herewith submitting a brief outline of a matter that was brought to the attention of this department last June.

The Santa Fe railroad company wrote me under date of June 13, 1928, advising that a humane officer alleging to be a representative of the Wyandotte County Humane Society had destroyed live stock on the Kansas City stockyards for which a loss claim had been filed against their company. It was alleged by the representative of the Santa Fe railroad company that W. J. M. Murphy carried a badge of authority as a humane officer and was paid at the rate of \$100 per month by the packers located at Kansas City.

On receipt of the complaint I submitted the matter to the attorney-general of the state in order to ascertain just what authority the humane officer might have. The attorney-general submitted an opinion under date of June 28, 1928, in which he gave as his opinion that the representative of the Humane Society of Wyandotte county was not within his legal rights in destroying live stock of any kind within the Kansas City stockyards unless he had positive knowledge that the owner of the live stock had abandoned same.

I took the matter up with W. H. Weeks, Vice-president of the Kansas City stockyards company; Fred Olander, chairman of the sanitary committee of the National Live Stock Exchange, Cudahy Packing company, who it was alleged by the Santa Fe railroad company paid Mr. Murphy \$100 a month; Dr. J. Fleming, Federal Inspector in Charge and a Mrs. Liggett, superintendent Wyandotte County Humane Society. All of these people with the exception of the Cudahy Packing company replied that they did not know who was responsible for W. J. M. Murphy acting as humane officer at the Kansas City stockyards. Mrs. Liggett, superintendent of the Wyandotte County Humane Society stated in a letter under date of August 14, 1928, that Mr. Murphy was not connected with the Wyandotte County Humane Society in any way.

I wrote Mr. Murphy on two occasions but received no reply. I also sent him a copy of the attorney-general's opinion, to which I received no reply. I also received a communication from one James K. Ewing, who states that he is in charge of the disposition of crippled live stock at the Kansas City stockyards. After making this rather searching investigation with regard to this matter, I was advised by





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Fred Olander and others that Mr. Murphy had ceased to destroy animals on the yards unless ordered to do so by owners of the live stock or their agents. No further complaint has come to this department since September 1, 1928.

I have all the records in connection with this transaction and will be pleased to turn them over to you for your investigation if you wish to see them. I am calling your attention to this matter for the reason that it is my opinion that there is no need of a humane officer on the Kansas City stockyards, and especially if he is to be maintained on a salary and at state's expense. You are as familiar or more so with the situation at Kansas City than I and I am sure you will agree with me that there is but little need of a humane officer down there at the market. If the packers desire to maintain an officer of this kind to look after the handling of their own live stock after purchase, no one could offer any objections, but surely the city of Kansas City Kansas or the state of Kansas should not be expected to maintain such an officer for their use.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M



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### The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company

W. T. TRELEAVEN,  
General Live Stock Agent  
C. R. GILFILLAN,  
Asst. General Live Stock Agent  
C. R. WADDLE,  
Asst. General Live Stock Agent

LIVE STOCK DEPARTMENT  
Rooms 814 to 822, Live Stock Exchange

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, JUNE 13, 1928.

Mr. J. H. Mercer, Secretary,  
Kansas Live Stock Association,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Regarding conversation with Mr. Waddle in my office  
yesterday:

It is my understanding that name of party referred  
to is W. J. M. Murphy, and I further understand that he was  
appointed by the packers, such appointment being approved  
by the Wyandotte County Humane Society, - salary, one hundred  
dollars per month, which is paid by the packers. Cudahy pays  
this amount and assesses other packers.

Mr. Murphy wears a humane officer's star and, as  
I understand it, the purpose of his appointment was to pre-  
vent rough handling and bruising of animals.

We have had several cases where he has killed  
animals that were of considerable value, and, if properly  
salvaged by the Kansas City Cripples Association, would have  
netted \$85.00 - in fact, I recall one instance where two  
steers of similar kind and quality were handled. One was  
killed by this humane officer and netted three dollars from  
the Standard Rendering Company. The other steer was handled  
by the Kansas City Cripples Association and netted eighty-  
five dollars.

In many instances this is a direct loss to the  
producer as carriers would not pay where there was no lia-  
bility for the damage. On the other hand, it would be a  
direct loss to the carriers where there is liability and we  
are forced to reimburse the shipper.

I am further advised that Mr. Murphy does not  
recognize state lines very closely and kills animals indis-  
criminately in Missouri or Kansas. Furthermore, many of these  
animals are in interstate commerce channels and I cannot help  
but believe that he is exceeding his authority in killing any  
of them.



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Mr. J. K. Ewing, who represents the Kansas City Cripples Association, is a man capable and trustworthy in every respect and if there is to be any killing done think it should be left to his good judgment and I believe members of the Kansas City Live Stock Exchange will concur in this.

If you can grant us any relief, I assure you it will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

*W. J. Treleaver*

CRW; JLM



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

I understand that Mr. Murphy is furnished ammunition by the Standard Rendering Company and that the Standard Rendering Company is owned by the Morris Interests and, further, that the Stock Yards Company is owned by the Morris Interests:

It would, therefore, appear that it would be to the best interests of the Standard Rendering Company to get all the animals killed, possible.

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

June 19, 1928

Mr. W. T. Treleaven,  
General Live Stock Agent,  
Live Stock Exchange,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 13th at hand and same  
noted.

I have submitted the matter to the  
attorney-general asking his opinion with respect  
to the legal duties of a humane officer under the  
state and federal law. As soon as we receive  
this opinion we will advise you and will also  
look into this matter further.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

June 20, 1928

Honorable W. A. Smith,  
Attorney-general,  
B U I L D I N G.

Dear Sir:

There seems to be some little trouble or misunderstanding with respect to the authority of the humane officer of Wyandotte county, Kansas. It is alleged that one, W. J. M. Murphy selected to be humane officer by the packers at Kansas City, Kansas, such appointment being approved by the Wyandotte county Humane Society, - salary, one hundred dollars per month which is paid by the packers, destroys crippled cattle, hogs and sheep at the Kansas City stockyards.

It is further alleged that he destroys crippled live stock of considerable value and if properly salvaged by selling to the packers to be killed subject to post mortem results the carcasses would bring to the owner several dollars. In one instance they claim that an animal was killed by this man that would have salvaged \$85. The cattle killed by this humane officer are turned over to the Standard Rendering Company and salvages usually about \$2 per head.

It is also charged that Mr. Murphy does not recognize state lines in any way. I am not so certain that an investigation of this kind comes under the jurisdiction of this department, neither have I any desire to get in conflict with this humane officer, therefore I am submitting this to you with the request that you advise me as to just what a humane officer's duties are and also as to whether or not there are any federal laws governing the subject.

I might add that I have knowledge that these crippled animals are disposed of at Kansas City and I am sure that there is very little delay in having these animals sent to the killing plants when found in a crippled condition. I have knowledge also in many instances of crippled live stock salvaging several dollars to the owners.

Thanking you in advance for this favor and an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

WILLIAM A. SMITH  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

ASSISTANTS

JOHN G. EGAN  
J. RALSTON  
ROLAND BOYNTON  
LEON W. LUNDBLAD  
WALTER T. GRIFFIN

R. M. KIMBALL, CHIEF CLERK

STATE OF KANSAS

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL

TOPEKA

June 21, 1928

Hon. J. H. Mercer,  
Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner,  
Building.

Dear Commissioner:

I have your letter of June 21 in which you advise that one W. J. Murphy, an officer of the Wyandotte County Humane Society is claimed to have destroyed crippled live stock of considerable value.

The law on this matter is rather meager. The statutory provision authorizing an agent of an incorporated Humane Society to appraise animals is contained in section 21-1203 of our 1923 Revised Statutes. It seems to refer only to animals found abandoned and provides that any officer or agent of any duly incorporated Humane Society may take any animal found abandoned that may appear to be diseased or disabled beyond recovery for any useful purpose and thereupon such officer or agent shall cause such animal to be appraised under oath. It would be advisable to examine this statute and you will note that it refers only to abandoned animals which may be diseased or disabled.

Section 47-619 of the 1923 Revised Statutes provides that your inspectors at stock yards shall, in conjunction with the United States Government authorities, act to prohibit and prevent stock infected with any contagious or infectious diseases from being driven or shipped out of such stock yards except to some rendering establishment or to a suitable place for killing and disposing of such diseased animals.

Section 8681 of U. S. Compiled Statutes for 1918 provides in paragraph (1) for a federal inspection of diseased live stock and that animals appearing to be diseased shall be set apart and slaughtered separately and that the carcasses shall be subject to a careful examination and inspection under the rules prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

From these statutory provisions it would appear that there may easily be an overlapping of duties, and that in so far as diseased animals are concerned your inspector could have jurisdiction over the same diseased animals that the Humane officer appears to be handling.

It is my view that the Humane Society officer's



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authority is limited to animals that have been abandoned and are found abandoned. It is quite probable that the animals so found will be comparatively few, leaving the greater portion of injured or crippled animals to be handled either by the owners or consignees or handled by Federal employees or your inspectors under the provisions of the statute that I have cited. It appears likely that if the Humane officer confines his activities to abandoned animals there will not be much conflict of authority.

Very truly yours,

*William D. Smith.*

Attorney General

WTG:MH



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

June 27, 1928

Mr. Fred Olander,  
National Live Stock Commission Co.,  
Live Stock Exchange,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

It has been called to my attention that W.J.M. Murphy, Humane Officer appointed by the Wyandotte county humane society has been destroying maimed and crippled animals on the yards at Kansas City. It has come to me that in one instance this man killed an animal that would have salvaged \$85 and the owner only received \$3 for the carcass.

I have looked up the law in regard to a humane officer's duty and I find that he has no authority under the Kansas statutes to destroy animals unless he finds them in a diseased or suffering condition and abandoned by the owner and then if they are worth more than \$5 he is required to have the abandoned animals appraised before destroying same.

I am writing you as the sanitary officer of the exchange for the reason that I am sure you are familiar with all these transactions. I am also writing the stock yards company for information. I might add that I do not want to interfere with the local authorities of Kansas City Kansas providing they are rendering a service that is worth while. Otherwise, we will have to enforce the provisions of the law so far as it applies to the territory of the yards lying in Kansas, as is set out in chapter 47 section 619 of the Revised Statutes of 1923. Will be pleased to hear from you with respect to this matter, at your very earliest convenience.

I am Thanking you in advance and with personal regards,

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

P.S. It is alleged the four packers are paying this humane officer a salary of \$100 per month.

J.H.M.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

June 27, 1928

Mr. W. H. Weeks, Vice-president,  
Kansas City Stock Yards Company,  
Live Stock Exchange,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Information came to me a few days ago that one, W.J.M. Murphy, an officer of the Wyandotte county humane society is destroying crippled animals on the Kansas City stock yards that have considerable value. I do not know why a humane officer is designated with any authority to destroy live stock on the Kansas City stock yards. Under the Kansas law a humane officer has no authority to destroy live stock unless he finds same in a badly diseased or in a suffering condition and abandoned by the owner, and then if the value of the animal exceeds \$5 an appraisement is to be made.

In one instance it is alleged that this officer destroyed an animal valued at \$85 and it only salvaged the owner \$6. Is there any necessity for a humane officer at the Kansas City stock yards? I do not wish to interfere with local officials if they are rendering a good service but according to the complaint coming to me it would appear this man is not rendering a genuine service and is destroying property with value which he should not do. Will you please advise me as to what you know about this.

I am                      Thanking you in advance for an early reply,

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

June 27, 1928

Mr. W. T. Treleaven,  
General Live Stock Agent,  
Live Stock Exchange,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Can you furnish me the local address of W.J.M. Murphy, Humane Officer representing the Wyandotte county humane society. The attorney general advises me that this humane officer has no authority to destroy live stock unless he finds such live stock in a diseased or disabled condition and abandoned by the owner, and then if the value of the animal exceeds \$5 an appraisal is to be made. I want to take the matter up with Mr. Murphy and would be pleased to have you furnish me his address.

Thanking you in advance, I am

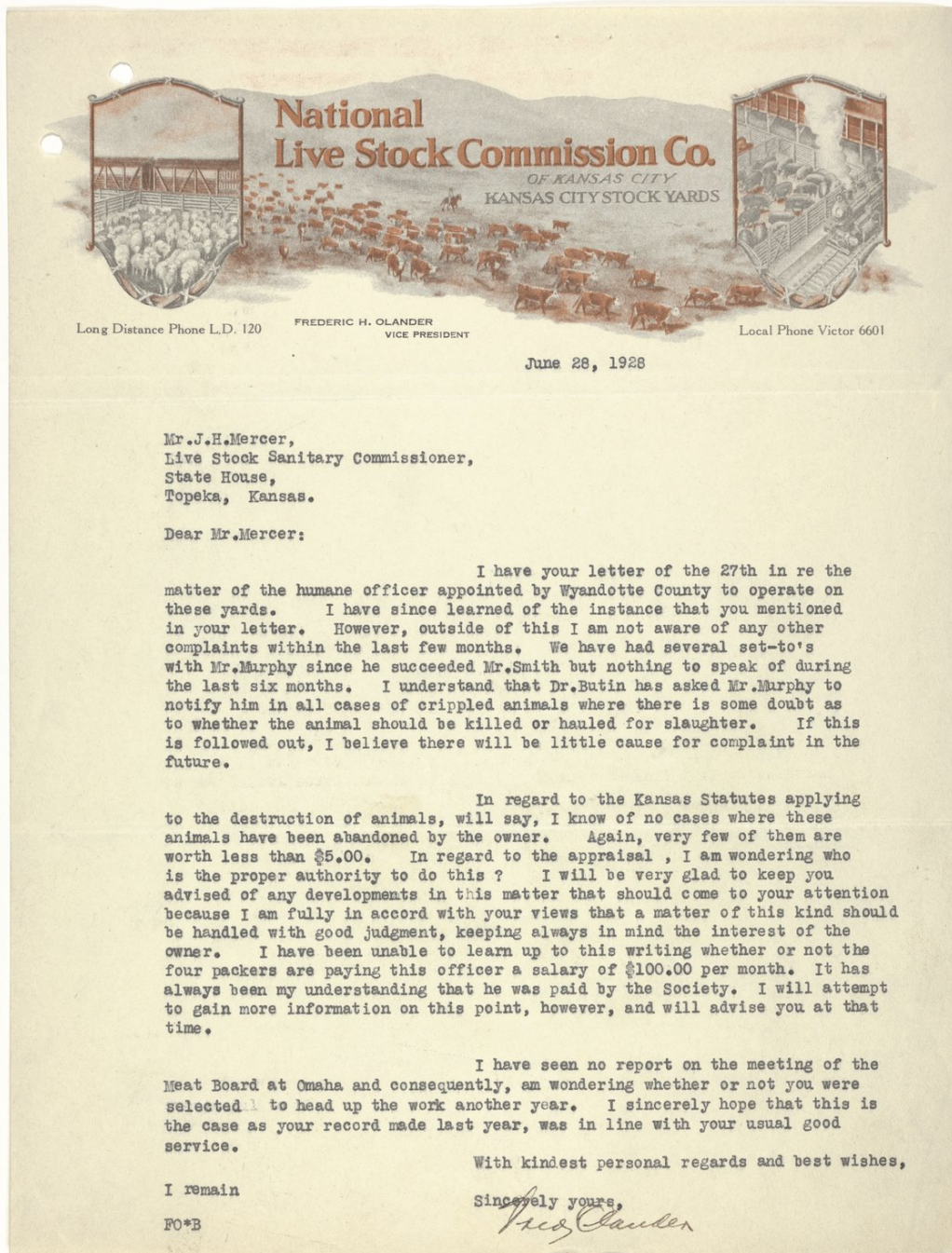
Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929







## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

### The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company

W. T. TRELEAVEN,  
General Live Stock Agent  
C. R. GILFILLAN,  
Asst. General Live Stock Agent  
C. R. WADDLE,  
Asst. General Live Stock Agent

LIVE STOCK DEPARTMENT  
Rooms 814 to 822, Live Stock Exchange

File--LS-291

Kansas City, Mo. July 3, 1928.

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter June 27th:

Home address of W. J. M. Murphy

is -

1021 Sandusky Avenue,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

His business address is W.J.M.  
Murphy, Humane Officer, in care of Kansas City  
Stock Yards Company, Kansas City, Missouri.

Yours truly,

*W. J. Treleven*

CRW:GM

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

July 13, 1928

Mr. W. G. M. Murphy,  
Wyandotte County Humane Officer,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Information has come to me that you have been killing animals on the Kansas City stock yards when found to be crippled or maimed in shipment. It is stated that you destroy these animals without appraisement and that only a few dollars salvage is realized, if anything.

I am well acquainted with the method of the handling of live stock of all kinds including cripples at the Kansas City market and I am at a loss to understand why you as a humane officer should take any action in connection with the disposition of any live stock found on the public market. Surely, there is no live stock crippled or otherwise that is abandoned by the owner or the owner's agent within the enclosure of the stock yards company at Kansas City; and as I understand it you have no jurisdiction in matters of this kind until you find live stock in a diseased or disabled condition beyond recovery and abandoned by the owner. Will you please advise me as to this.

I might add in connection with the complaint the charge is made that you destroyed an animal that would have salvaged \$85 and that it only netted the owner \$3. Thanking you in advance for an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

KANSAS CITY STOCK YARDS COMPANY  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

GEORGE R. COLLETT  
PRESIDENT

July 19, 1928

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Mercer:


Pardon, please, for the delay in answering your letter of June twenty-seventh, which was addressed to Mr. Weeks and came in after his departure for the West.

We understand that the Mr. W. J. Murphy referred to is employed by the National Humane Society and has been issued a Kansas commission by the Police Department of Kansas City, Kansas. Further, we understand from Mrs. Liggett, Superintendent of the Wyandotte County Humane Society, that they appointed Mr. Murphy humane officer in the Kansas City Stock Yards and he draws his salary from the Packers.

Inasmuch as you are working very closely with the Packers through the Meat Board, possibly you will want to take the matter up with them, or possibly it comes within the supervision of the Packers and Stock Yards Supervisor in this market. I have not said anything to him about it because I do not have any reference to the case.

Certainly, if what you say in the second paragraph of your letter is correct, some action should be taken.

Yours very truly,



GRC:R





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

Kansas City, Mo.,  
August 11, 1928,

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
State Livestock Sanitary Commissioner,  
Topeka, Kans.

Dear Sir:

It has always been the custom, or rule, of the B.A.I. where ante-mortem inspection is conducted, to take the temperature of all downer animals. Animals that are hurt, bruised about the body, or suffering from internal injuries, etc. The ante-mortem inspector, in taking these temperatures, finds an animal with a temperature 4 degrees over or under normal temperature will not allow same to be slaughtered in the packing house, but will either allow it to be held indefinitely or killed and sent to the dead house, for which we are allowed a small sum for fallen hide and a tanked carcass. It seems to the writer that this rule is doing away with a good many sound meat animals. In fact during extreme hot weather we will loose on an average of 10 cattle a week, likewise in extreme cold weather. On an animal that comes into the pens out of the cars, drinks too much water, lies down on the hot pavement and no doubt will have an abnormal temperature in extreme hot weather. When these animals get too hot they refuse to walk and are hauled out to the packing house where the temperatures are taken and if the temperatures are too high, or low, they are held up by the B.A.I. inspector until the following day, which in 90 cases out of a 100 the animal dies.

There are thousands of animals, that are walking, slaughtered daily in the packing houses, during extreme hot weather, that have abnormal temperatures. They are all sound meat animals passed for food. We know this will make the carcass cut down dark but it is a sound meat carcass, not diseased. I think an animal that can sit up, hold it's head up, or stand on it's feet should be given the opportunity to go into the packing house for a pose-mortem inspection, regardless of temperature, and if afterwards found not fit for food condemned and the cause of same given, whereby we may furnish the cattle owner the full details and also give him more money for his livestock which would be a green hide instead of a fallen hide.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

Mr. J. H. Mercer - 2

I have had this matter up with Dr. Jam. Fleming, head of the B.A.I. livestock and meat inspection, at this station but it seems like I am unable to make any headway and I thought that by writing you that your knowledge and prestige would probably bring some consideration with the B.A.I., either in Washington or with Dr. Fleming. This looks like a small matter to work on but it will mean more money as well a great saving of livestock, which I know you have always been greatly interested in. I wish my name withheld.

Thanking you in advance for any help you can give us, and that this letter puts this case clear to you, I beg to remain

Sincerely and Truly yours,

*James K. Ewing*

Kansas City Cripples Assn.  
Stock Yards Station  
Kansas City, Mo.





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

August 13, 1928

Dr. J. Fleming,  
Federal Bldg.,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

Dear Doctor:

Some time ago complaint was made to this department with respect to the action of a Wyandotte County Humane Officer, one W.J.M. Murphy, that he had been destroying cattle within the enclosure of the Kansas City stock yards. The matter was submitted to the Attorney General of the state who advises that Mr. Murphy would have no right to destroy any live stock within the enclosure of a public market unless he had absolute knowledge that the animal had been abandoned and, of course, such a thing could not be as either the stock yards company, the commission company or the owner would be in charge of a maimed or crippled animal and, hence it could not be classed as abandoned.

On investigating this matter it has been stated that quite a number of cattle that were crippled or became unable to travel have been classed under ante-mortem inspection as not being fit for slaughter and it is claimed that were they privileged to have these cattle slaughtered on the day they were found to be in abnormal condition that a large percentage would pass for food. I, of course, know nothing about this matter and could not give any intelligent reply. Hence I am writing you for information. Will you advise me as to the procedure of handling live stock of this kind and also who makes the ante-mortem examination.

Thanking you in advance for this information,  
I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

August 13, 1928

Mrs. Liggett,  
Supt. Wyandotte County Humane Society,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

Some time ago complaint was filed with this department alleging that one W.J.M. Murphy, an appointee of the Wyandotte County Humane Society had destroyed crippled live stock found within the enclosure of the Kansas City stock yards company.

I submitted the matter to the attorney general with a request that he advise as to whether or not a humane officer had authority to kill animals within the enclosure of a public stock yards assuming of course that no animal found in such an enclosure could be classed as an abandoned animal. The attorney general advises under date of June 13th that under the law a humane officer would have no authority to kill animals found on a public market unless he was positive that they had been abandoned, and then it would be necessary for him to have an appraisal of said animals made unless he did not consider they would salvage to exceed \$5. The complainant in this case alleges that he destroyed an animal that would have salvaged \$85 and that the animal in question only salvaged \$3. This amount being paid by the Standard Rendering Company of Kansas City.

I wrote Mr. Murphy under date of July 13th, a copy of letter attached, but have had no reply to this letter. Will you please advise me as to what you know about Mr. Murphy's connections in this case and also as to whether or not he represents your organization.

Thanking you in advance for an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
LOCAL OFFICE

23 Federal Building,  
Kansas City, Kansas,  
August 14, 1928.

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
L. S. S. Commissioner,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 13th inst., relative to the destruction of cattle by the Wyandotte County Humane Officer, you are advised that this office has no data bearing on this matter.

The ante-mortem inspection of cattle is not conducted in the stock yards, the same being carried on in the pens of the various slaughtering establishments. However, you are right in assuming that if crippled animals are slaughtered immediately the probability is that a number of them would be passed for food after removal of the injured parts. If commission firms and others would see that such animals are removed immediately from the stock yards to the slaughtering establishments it would entail a saving to the owners.

Some of the employees of this force at the stock yards have noticed delays in taking care of crippled animals, but since no records were made we cannot be specific. Your letter has been referred to the Packers & Stock Yards Administration, and Dr. Dyson, who is acting in the absence of Dr. Butin, will no doubt write you further regarding this matter.

Very respectfully,

*J. Fleming*  
Inspector in Charge.



The Humane Society of Wyandotte County

Office and Animal Shelter:  
333 Minnesota Ave.

Kansas City, Kansas.

Phone Drexel 3869

Mr J. W. Murcer August - 14 - 1928  
Livestock Commissioner  
Topeka, Kansas -

Dear Sir - We are in receipt of your letter of the thirteenth inst. which you make inquiry about W. J. Murphy. I was under the impression that Mr Murphy was employed by the stock yards and worked under their direction. However, he has never been connected with our organization in any way nor has our society ever assigned one of our officers to duty at the stock yards -

I am sorry to be unable to give you more definite information.

Sincerely

(Mrs) Mae L. Lippitt  
President.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

August 17, 1928

Cudahy Packing Co.,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

Gentlemen:

Some time ago complaint was made to this department with respect to the action of one, W.J. Murphy, who claims to be a representative of the Wyandotte county Humane Society. It is alleged that Mr. Murphy kills animals found on the public stock yards that were in a maimed or crippled condition and that in many instances crippled animals that would salvage considerable amount.

In one instance it is alleged that he destroyed an animal that would have salvaged \$85 and that the salvage was only \$3 secured through the Standard Rendering Company. Complaint further sets out that the packers have Mr. Murphy employed and pay him on a basis of \$100 per month and that your firm pays this amount and makes an assessment on other packers.

From the fact that this complaint came to this department it made it necessary for us to make some investigation and we find that Mr. Murphy has been destroying live stock on the public market at Kansas City. Under the law he has no authority to do this unless he finds animals that have been abandoned. And according to the information I have there are no animals of any kind abandoned by the owner or the owner's agent at the Kansas City Stock Yards. Furthermore, the law provides that if he destroys an animal that an appraisalment must be made. I have no record of his taking any such action.

According to information received in a letter under date of August 14th, on the stationery of the Humane Society of Wyandotte county, signed by Mrs. Mae F. Liggett, president, Mr. Murphy has no connection with the Humane Society's organization of Wyandotte county.

Will you please advise if Mr. W.J. Murphy is an employee of your company or of other packers and your company. And if he is an employee of your company just what his services might be in connection therewith in so far as it relates to the destruction of live stock at the public markets. Also, if you can, I would like Mr. Murphy's post office address. I have written him but received no reply. Thanking you in advance for this information, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

August 17, 1928

Mr. James K. Ewing,  
Kansas City Cripples Assn.,  
Stock Yards Station,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of the 11th instant.

I am enclosing you a copy of correspondence that explains itself. It would appear from Dr. Fleming's letter that there is too much delay in getting these crippled animals to the slaughtering house. This correspondence is for your information but confidential. The first time I am in Kansas City I will talk this matter over with you.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.