Defining “Humane” in Human-Wildlife Interactions

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The Humane Society of the United States
• To frame the term “humane” as a keyword

• To consider how the term “humane,” like many other important words with broadly accepted common meanings, is used and misused

• To propose concepts for use toward an operational definition for the term within the human-wildlife conflict arena
Etymology

- Ca. 1500

- Characterized by behavior or disposition towards others as befits a man;

- Marked by sympathy with and consideration for the needs and distresses of others;

- Characterized by tenderness, compassion and sympathy for people and animals, especially for the suffering or distressed
• 1774 Royal Humane Society

• 1770 Philadelphia Humane Society

• 1849 Philadelphia Skating Club

• 1861 The Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society
The Animal Protection Movement

- 1848 RSPCA
- 1866 ASPCA
- 1877 AHA
- 1954 HSUS
• Humane metropolis
• Humane nursing
• Humane learning
• Humane neighborhoods
• Humane economy
Complete & Humane Animal Trapping & Relocation Services

Humane Removal and Handling

Humane Trapping and Removal

Humane Removal Procedures
Welfare Measures
(Kirkwood et al. 1994)

- The number of animals affected
- The cause and nature of the harm
- The duration of the harm
- The capacity of the animal to suffer
Welfare Standards
(Proulx 1999)

- Time to death
- Efficiency
- Statistical confidence
- Uncontrolled environmental settings
- State-of-art traps
Domains
Sharp & Saunders (2011)

• Food or water deprivation, malnutrition

• Environmental challenge

• Disease/injury/functional impairment

• Behavioral restriction

• Anxiety/fear/distress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall impact on welfare</th>
<th>Duration of Impact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immediate to Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>No impact</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Actions are “humane” when they:

• seek to avoid suffering

• do not involve killing unless to relieve suffering

• are justified, targeted and timely

• produce tangible benefits

• benefits minimize need for further action
Humane as a keyword

• A socially prominent word that is capable of bearing a cluster of interlocking yet sometimes contradictory contemporary meanings

• A keyword can be said to illuminate socially important arguments that should not be obscured

• Keywords are building blocks of cultural understanding