

A photograph of four mink pups in a nest made of dry grass and twigs. One pup is white, and the other three are dark grey. They are all looking towards the camera.

Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre

MINK WELFARE
CONFERENCE
Oct 4 2014

Dave MacHattie DVM

Seven veterinarian Practice in the beautiful ANNAPOLIS VALLEY



New Code of Practice May 2013

- Finally...A rule book
- Some Control is now in place





•Productivity=Welfare

•???

•Welfare=Productivity

Mink Industry “coming out of the closet”

- A good thing
- 100 years of working within themselves
- New outside opinions and ideas
- Changes are happening fast

What do I see as a Mink Vet

Less Nursing Sickness- This changed in 4-5 years

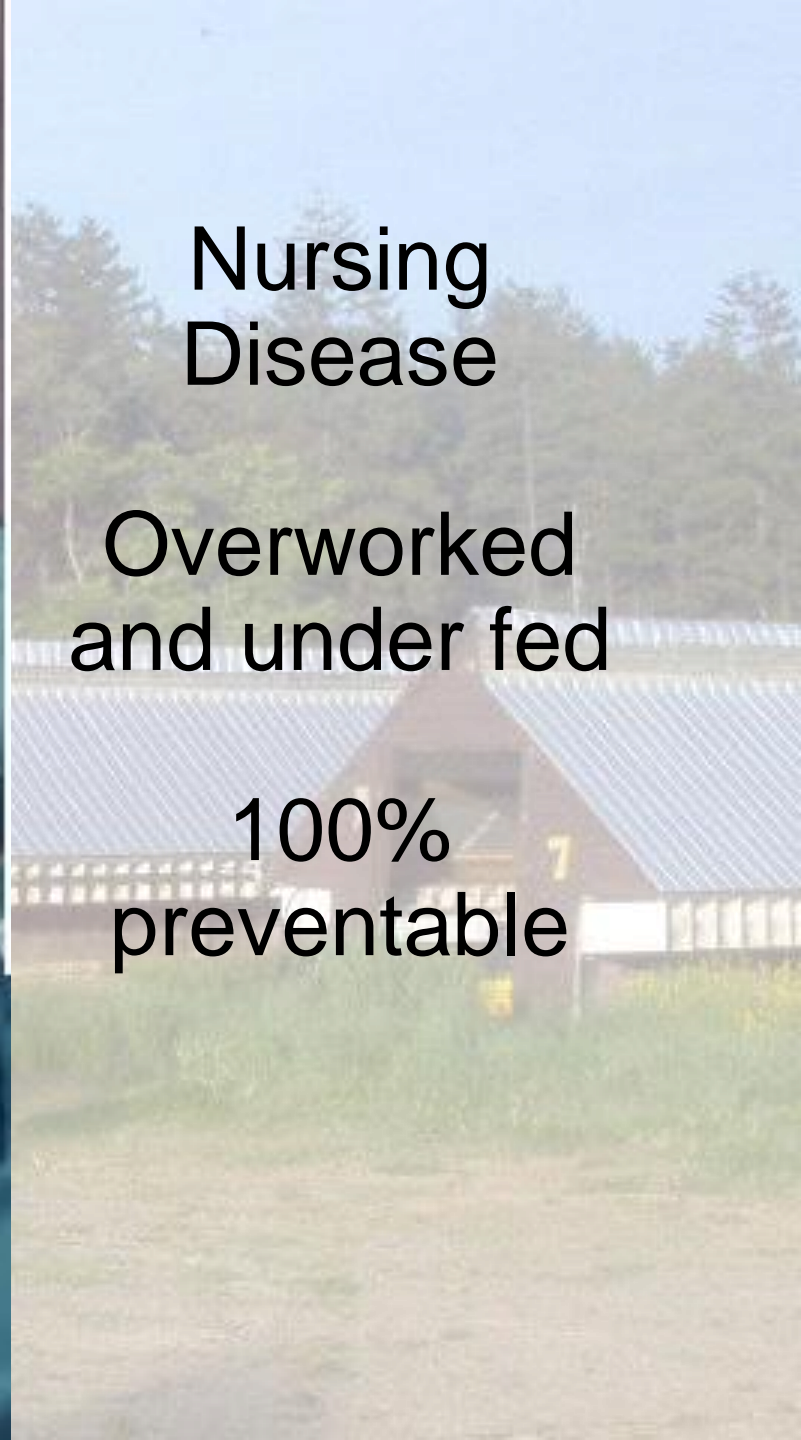




Nursing
Disease

Overworked
and under fed

100%
preventable



What do I see as a Mink Vet

Less Nursing Sickness- changed in 4-5 years

Less Bite wounds-Separating by Family



Metacam

Pain Relief for mink....big time off label

Ranchers jumped on the opportunity to relieve pain

Foot Pad Necrosis

Bite Injuries

Whelping difficulties



NuFlor

Improve welfare by reducing handling
Easy effective long duration antibiotics

Bite Wounds

Mastitis

Face and foot rot/Staph/Food Pad Necrosis

What do I see as a Mink Vet

Less Nursing Sickness- changed in 4-5 years

Less Bite wounds-Separating by Family

Less Runts- Separating and nutrition



What do I see as a Mink Vet

Less Nursing Sickness- changed in 4-5 years

Less Bite wounds-Separating by Family

Less Runts- Separating and nutrition

Less Stereotypic Behavior





What do I see as a Mink Vet

Less Nursing Sickness- changed in 4-5 years

Less Bite wounds-Separating by Family

Less Runts- Separating and nutrition

Less Stereotypic Behavior

Less Post Natal losses- Nutrition and BCS

What do I see as a Mink Vet

Less Nursing Sickness- changed in 4-5 years

Less Bite wounds-Separating by Family

Less Runts- Separating and nutrition

Less Stereotypic Behavior

Less Post Natal losses- Nutrition and BCS

Less Neonatal Chewing

What do I see as a Mink Vet

Less Nursing Sickness- changed in 4-5 years

Less Bite wounds-Separating by Family

Less Runts- Separating and nutrition

Less Stereotypic Behavior

Less Post Natal losses- Nutrition and BCS

Less Neonatal Chewing

Less personal chewing

What do I see as a Mink Vet

Less Nursing Sickness- changed in 4-5 years

Less Bite wounds-Separating by Family

Less Runts- Separating and nutrition

Less Stereotypic Behavior

Less Post Natal losses- Nutrition and BCS

Less Neonatal Chewing

Less personal chewing

Less Aleutian Disease Crashes



AD RESISTANCY



All Mink Are Not The Same

- Each ranch is a selected genetic group
- 30% females kept for breeding...by selection
- 20% males kept for breeding....also be selection
- In 3 years
- Each mink is still an individual

Cage Enhancement

- If I could only do one thing to improve welfare



Cage Enhancement

- If I could only do one thing to improve welfare
- **Put in a shelf, not a hammock**





Cage Enhancement

Hospital areas

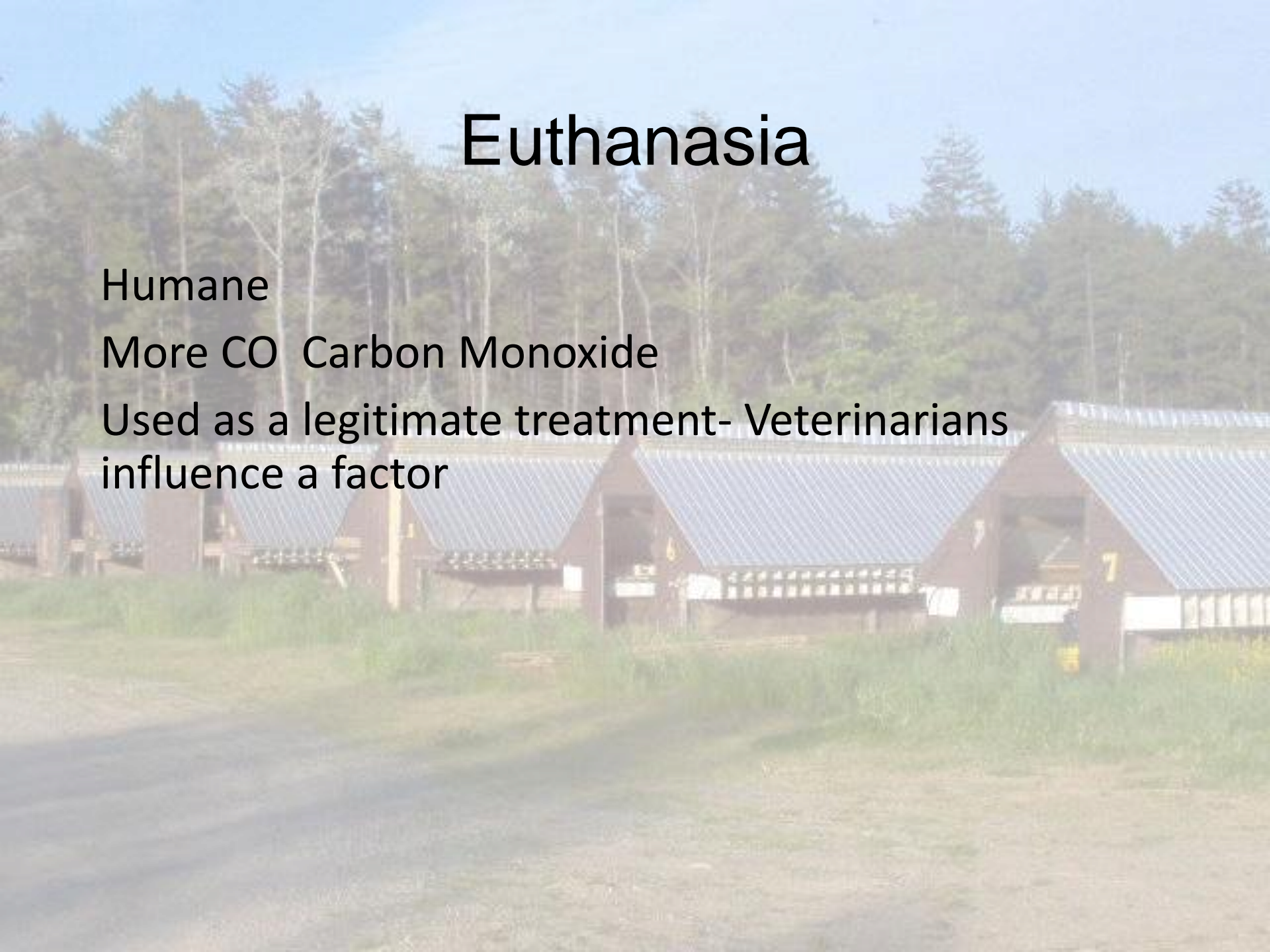


Euthanasia

Humane

More CO Carbon Monoxide

Used as a legitimate treatment- Veterinarians
influence a factor



The Future

NEXT EXIT











New design of boxes
shows how new
ideas can improve
welfare

More importantly
RANCHERS CARE



Thank You
For
Your Attention