

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy  
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# Update

3/1973

## HSUS POLICY

(a) Hunting: We are attaching a statement of the Society's position on hunting. The most important part of the statement is that The HSUS is unalterably opposed to the killing of any living creature for fun or sport. Regional office personnel should be thoroughly familiar with this policy so that no wrong statements will be made when the position of the Society is questioned by news media or others.

(b) Rabies Vaccination: The Society highly recommends the inoculation of dogs as a protection against rabies. We encourage pet owners to take this protective measure as part of their responsibilities of animal ownership. The Society, however, does not support legislation requiring the compulsory vaccination of dogs. Neither does the Society oppose compulsory legislation of this kind. The reason is that, while anti-rabies inoculation for dogs is a good thing, its requirement by law discriminates against the dog owner when, in fact, cats contract and transmit rabies almost as often as dogs and livestock and all other warm-blooded animals can contract and transmit the disease. It would be inconsistent, therefore, to support compulsory vaccination for just one species. Thus we neither support nor oppose compulsory rabies vaccination, but we always recommend this protection to individual dog owners.

## IDAHO WILD HORSE CASE

Excellent investigative work by Frantz Dantzler and Hal Perry of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office resulted in nationwide publicity exposing the roundup and slaughter of wild horses in the high, remote mountains of southeastern Idaho. Frantz and Hal were first notified of the case by "Wild Horse Annie" Johnston, who paid for helicopter rides over the area. The badly mangled carcasses of at least seven horses - some with their nostrils clipped to restrict breathing - were found at the foot of a cliff after an attempt by ranchers to roundup a herd of some 60 horses for slaughter. We later found about 36 of the horses at a dog food cannery in North Platte, Nebraska.

Federal laws, of course, protect wild and free-roaming horses. We discovered, however, no permit had been issued by the Bureau of Land Management and the horses had in fact been rounded up by helicopter and transported in trucks to North Platte. Strong protests were lodged with the Bureau and with the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. Frantz went to North Platte to see what care and treatment the horses were getting. We were able to pressure the Bureau of Land Management into authorizing medical care, sufficient food, and proper treatment for the animals.

Nationwide publicity on the case included television, radio, and newspaper coverage. It was a classic example of the lack of responsibility of the Government in enforcing the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act passed in 1971. And, because it is a good example, The HSUS is joining with the American Horse Protection Association in court action against BLM and the Department of the Interior.

We will keep you informed of further developments.

#### ACLU HELPING HSUS (NJ) BRANCH

The American Civil Liberties Union has joined with The HSUS New Jersey Branch and the Sierra Club in a suit in Superior Court in Passaic County, New Jersey attacking as unconstitutional the state Fish and Game Council's member-selection policy.

The complaint charges that the Council excludes persons interested in the protection of the environment, thus violating the right to "equal protection". The eleven member Council (an independent agency of the Department of Environmental Protection) consists by statute of three farmers, six sportsmen, and two commercial fishermen. The six sportsmen are members of the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

The Council's primary interest is promoting hunting, trapping, and fishing. This, of course, is an abuse of public trust since wildlife and public lands belong to all the people of the State of New Jersey who, in fact, are not represented. Further, the method of financing is a conflict of interest since wildlife management funds are raised primarily by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

Domination of Fish and Game Commissions by pro-hunting interests is prevalent across the country. Success of the suit in New Jersey, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, would mean that similar court action could be taken in other states with good prospects of success.

#### U.S. POSTAL SERVICE REGULATIONS

As you doubtless know, considerable consternation was caused among humane societies late last year when the U.S. Postal Service indicated a possible change in regulations that would deny animal welfare organizations special third-class mail rates.

In case you are still receiving inquiries, you now should know this proposed change was not made. Not only has The HSUS qualified as an educational-philanthropic organization entitled to the lower mail rates, but local humane societies can also qualify (if their special third-class permit has been rescinded) by reapplying at the local post office where mailings will be deposited. Any local humane societies needing information on this question should also be told that the modification of the philanthropic category of the postal regulations so as not to exclude organizations like animal welfare societies appears in the Federal Register, Vol. 38, No. 9, Paragraph 4, of January 15, 1973.

INPUT ITEM - BEQUESTS

Jim Shaw, New England Regional Office, wants us to pass along that his office has form letters which can be mailed to all attorneys and all bank trust officers along with HSUS literature. These letters advise that the material is sent for file, and for reference in cases where clients express a wish to make bequests to animal welfare.

A friendly banker will be glad to furnish you, upon request, a list of trust officers and a lawyer friend can lend you a list of attorneys. And, of course, if you write to Jim in the New England Regional Office, he will gladly send you sample letters. (Be a decent fellow, however, and send him your own self-addressed envelope!)

THE LIMITS OF YOUR LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

How much legislative work can you do without jeopardizing the tax exempt status of The HSUS?

Very little. Direct work on behalf of legislation must be minimal and should be undertaken only after very careful consideration of its extent in relation to your overall activity. It is difficult to be specific in this crucial area, but perhaps the following general observations will be helpful:

- (a) Do not publicly endorse or condemn a candidate for public office because of his position on animal welfare issues.
- (b) Do not issue bulletins or general circulation letters urging people to write for or against legislation except in cases which have been cleared with the Washington office.
- (c) Do not lobby in the sense that you or one of your employees goes to the state legislature and directly solicits the support or opposition of the legislators to a specific bill or bills.
- (d) Do write letters, when appropriate, to legislators considering a specific bill and give the HSUS position on the issue. (If you have any question about our position, you should check with Washington.)
- (e) Do issue bulletins or letters, when it seems advisable to do so, with information about bills before the legislature but not urging people specifically to write. This kind of information reporting may include details of the bill, the legislative committee considering it, what the bill would do; and there can be a statement to the effect persons interested have the right to write their legislators about it. (Economics, of course, dictate that any such mailings be cleared by Washington.)

(f) It is appropriate and permissible to respond to inquiries from legislators regarding the Society's position on legislation.

(g) It is appropriate and permissible to testify for or against any piece of legislation when you are asked by a committee chairman, the sponsor of a bill, or any other legislator.

(h) It is in order to write - and encourage others to write - to state governors, attorney generals, mayors or other municipal officials about problems relating to animal welfare in a state or community.

The legislative arm of The HSUS is an organization known as Legislation for Animal Welfare, Incorporated (LAW, Inc.). It has been dormant for some time because of lack of funds to carry out its legislative work. (Contributions to LAW, Inc. are not tax deductible.) We hope, however, to be able eventually to reactivate that organization and do much more in the legislative field than is now possible under the auspices of HSUS.'

#### PERSONNEL ITEMS

John Dommers, New England Regional Office, has been presented the first annual Environmental Award by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Governor Thomas J. Meskill made the presentation at ceremonies in Hartford on February 15. The citation was for John's record of accomplishments in environmental improvement within the state, perhaps the most significant of which was his highly successful New Haven Rock Nature Center program that has provided nature and environmental education to several thousand City of New Haven children.

Congratulations, John, you make us mighty proud!

#### MESSAGE WITH A MORAL

It's an old story but we want to tell it because of its pertinence to our work.....

A man telephoned a doctor in the wee hours of the night and said that his wife seemed to have symptoms of acute appendicitis. "But good Lord, man," the doctor expostulated, "I took out your wife's appendix three years ago. Did you ever hear of appendicitis without an appendix?"

"No, Doc," the caller replied, "Indeed, I haven't. But didn't you ever hear of a man getting a new wife?"

Look at all the facts in a situation. If any are ignored, false conclusions are the likely result.

HSUS OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON HUNTING

The Humane Society of the United States has a long-standing and firm policy with respect to hunting. Its ultimate goal is to develop, largely through education and the exposure of the unnecessary cruelties involved in much of the public hunting as conducted today, a generation of adults who will no longer have any wish, desire, or willingness to kill any living creature purely for pleasure and recreation.

Along with the majority of the serious and responsible persons in the humane movement, we are fully aware of both the tragedy and necessity of removing or eliminating excess and unwanted animals. This we attempt to do responsibly and professionally in dealing with the frightful surplus of domestic pets in the United States.

Where "hunting" embraces the same measure of responsible conduct in performing the sad task of animal control and reduction, we are unable to object. But The HSUS is unalterably opposed to the killing of any living creature for fun or for sport - not solely for the animals' sake, but in large measure because of its negative effect upon the young who learn to accept and live with this type of needless suffering and killing.

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