HSUS Saves Wild Horses from Slaughter

The badly mangled bodies of seven wild horses were found at the bottom of a cliff in southeastern Idaho by an HSUS investigator. Four of them had "hog rings" stapled to their nostrils to reduce their breathing.

HSUS Forces Hunting Policy Change

The Humane Society of the United States has forced the federal government to change its procedures for planning deer hunts on federal lands.

The change was made in January as a direct result of The Humane Society's federal suit against the Dept. of the Interior challenging its methods of deer herd reduction. HSUS failed in its legal approach in February but learned that the suit and related publicity had caused Interior to reassess its entire approach to game management on wildlife refuges.

(Continued on page 10.)

Society Sues Government For Okaying Round-up

Quick action by HSUS saved 29 wild horses from slaughter at a dog food cannery after HSUS investigators discovered that seven wild horses had been run off a cliff in Idaho and the remainder of the herd had been rounded up for slaughter with the aid of a helicopter.

Sues to Get Enforcement

The Humane Society and the American Horse Protection Assn. have filed suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D. C., to force the federal government to enforce federal laws protecting wild horses and prohibiting the use of airplanes to round up animals.

HSUS learned of the illegal action from Mrs. Velma B. (Wild Horse Annie) Johnson, who received a tip from an informant who had apparently participated in the round-up.

Rings Stapled to Nostrils

HSUS immediately sent Rocky Mountain Regional investigator Hal Perry, an old western hand, into the rugged southeastern Idaho terrain to confirm the tip. Perry flew into the area in a helicopter provided by Annie and hiked the remaining distance to the site.

He discovered the badly mangled bodies of seven horses at the foot of a cliff. Five of the horses had been "choked down," a method for reducing a horse's breathing by 80-90% by clipping C-shaped "hog rings" to their nostrils.

(Continued on next page.)
WILD HORSES Continued

Perry and Rocky Mountain Regional Director Frantz Dantzler returned to the site the following day, accompanied by an NBC cameraman, whose film was shown a few days later throughout the United States.

“I checked all the horses and found no brands or evidence any of them had been shot.” Dantzler said, “I am convinced they were wild horses.”

Dantzler also reported that one of the horses had caught his hoof in a crevice at the top of the cliff, and his leg had been severed in the fall. The hoof and a small section of the leg were still lodged in the rocks at the top of the cliff, he said.

In Washington, D. C., HSUS Chief Investigator Frank J. McMahon met with George Turcott, acting director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the federal agency in charge of enforcing the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, passed in 1971 to protect all wild horses and burros. McMahon said that HSUS would take any action necessary to save the horses and have them returned to their grazing land.

HSUS traced the missing horses to the Northern Nebraska Canning Co. in North Platte, Neb., where 31 out of a shipment of 36 were still alive. The other five had died as a result of injuries sustained in the round-up and transportation by truck from Idaho to Nebraska.

The horses remained at the canning company while the government investigated the case to determine the deposition of the horses. Dantzler visited the horses frequently, reporting that they were receiving adequate care and veterinary treatment. Two more horses, including a mare that had aborted a foal, had to be euthanized because of their poor condition. Dantzler predicted that the several more pregnant mares would lose their foals.

Turcott told McMahon and representatives of the American Horse Protection Assn., who accompanied him, that BLM had not issued a permit, as required by the wild horse protection law. Dantzler learned, however, that Ed Jones, BLM district manager stationed in Idaho Falls, had given oral permission for the round-up to Idaho ranchers who claimed the herd belonged to them but had been grazing on public land. The ranchers who conducted the round-up claimed that BLM had urged them to get the horses off public land. Several area residents told Dantzler that the horses had been there for as long as anyone could remember and had always been considered wild.

“This is just another example of the lack of responsibility being exerted by the Bureau of Land Management in enforcing the Wild Horse Act.”

HSUS’s Frantz Dantzler, director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Salt Lake City, examines the 29 surviving wild horses from Idaho during one of several trips to the dog food cannery in North Platte, Neb.

Autopsies performed on that horse and another one indicated both had died of starvation. One of the 20 dead horses was a foal.

Ranch owner L. C. Abbott was charged with cruelty only after HSUS turned to the state attorney general to help overcome the county attorney’s reluctance to permit the charge to be filed.

Owned by Riding Stable

HSUS believes most of the horses are owned by a Colorado riding stable owner that caters to summer vacationers. HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Director Frantz Dantzler said it is not uncommon for riding stable owners in the West to neglect horses during the winter rather than pay the high cost of hay.

“They figure it will be cheaper in the long run to replace a few dead horses than to buy hay for the entire string,” Dantzler said.

Dantzler said Abbott is now feeding the horses but that HSUS will press for his conviction on the charge.

HSUS and other organizations were asked to investigate the cruelty by Sherman Mast, president of the Laramie Animal Care Center. Other members of the inspecting party were: Dr. Herman Hancock, D.V.M., State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; Dr. Conrad Kercher, animal nutritionist, University of Wyoming; Richard Claytor, state brand inspecto; two employees of the Monolithic Portland Midwest Cement Co., who spotted the dead horses from the firm’s train, which runs near Abbott’s pasture.

As a result of Dantzler’s work with the TV station KUTV in Salt Lake City, the horses’ plight was telecast to many other areas of the nation by NBC affiliates. In addition, NBC reported the film was distributed for overseas use.

Perry’s investigation took an interesting turn when he learned that Abbott was claiming that the horses had died from gunshot wounds fired from a plane chartered by woolgrowers to shoot coyotes. Perry interviewed the pilot of the plane, who confirmed that he had been hired by woolgrowers to shoot coyotes but denied he had shot any horses. The autopsies conducted on two of the horses, by Dr. Hancock and Kercher, did not reveal any gunshot wounds or bullets.

When an HSUS investigator arrived this horse was frozen to the ground and could move only an eye and an ear. She died a few minutes later.
Legislative Roundup

HSUS considers the following bills of interest and merit in meeting most aspects of the problems at which they are directed.

Spay Clinics

S. 1032, Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) — to provide for loans to municipal governments for establishing low-cost spay and neuter clinics for dogs and cats and providing grants to train para-professionals to assist in performing such operations.

Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

Zoos

H.R. 1266, Rep. William Whitehurst (R-Va.) — to establish a National Zoological and Aquarium Corp. that would set standards for the voluntary accreditation of zoos and aquariums. The corporation would have authority to provide technical assistance, to make loans and grants for modernization, and to finance research and the training of professional staff.

Senate Committee on House Administration.

Animals in Air Transit

S. 399, Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) and H.R. 1264, Rep. Whitehurst — to regulate terminal facilities, including pet carriers, under the Animal Welfare Act, with the Animal Welfare Corp. to include birds in pet stores and zoos.

Senate Committee on Commerce, House Committee on Agriculture.

Endangered Species

H.R. 37, Rep. Dingell — to amend The Endangered Species Conservation Act to include species likely within the foreseeable future to become threatened with extinction and to expand the protection given endangered species which are native to the United States.

House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Predator Control

S. 819, Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) and H.R. 38, Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) — similar bills to establish a program of research for methods of controlling predatory and conserving native animals, to place responsibility for predator control on the states, to prohibit federal funding of predator control programs involving chemical toxicants, and to prohibit the use on public lands of any chemical toxicant for the purpose of killing predatory animals.

Senate Committee on Commerce, House Committee of Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

School Experimentation

S. 932, Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) and H.R. 4605 Rep. Wayne DeWilde (D-Calif.) — similar bills to discourage experimentation on animals by primary and secondary school children and to withhold federal funds from school districts that permit classroom experimentation.

Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, House Committee on Education and Labor.

Animals in Research

H.C.R. 40, Rep. Whitehurst — to establish as the sense of Congress that the federal government should take appropriate steps to determine if new research methods can be developed to complement or eliminate current methods involving the direct or indirect use of animals.

House Committee on Science and Astronautics.

Pet Diseases

H.R. 99, Rep. Leonor Sullivan (D-Mass.) — to authorize the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to regulate or prohibit the transportation, sale or other distribution in interstate commerce of live animals intended as household pets, if such animals are determined to transmit diseases to humans.

House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Ban on Pet Skins

H.R. 3347, Rep. Glenn Anderson (D-Calif.) — to prohibit the importation or interstate shipment of commercially produced domestic dog and cat products, such as surgical catgut and to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Hunting Unjustified As Sport, Hoyt Says

HSUS President John A. Hoyt told the members of two major conservation groups in February that he could see no justification for the wounding, maiming, and destroying of animal life in the name of sport or recreation.

When one considers that the hunter’s target is a living, feeling creature, wherein lies the justification for harassing, wounding, and killing such creatures?” he asked. “Is it possible that we are still at a point in the evolution of man where his own lack of intelligence and sensitivity permits him to regard such creatures as things?”

Hoyt spoke to the American Aspin of Conservation, Federation in Great Falls, Mont., and the Arizona-New Mexico Section of The Wildlife Society in Farmington, N.M.

“May it be that the hoofed animals that would hunt begins at that point when the animal is reduced to a victim for no meaningful or useful purpose, subject to the most unsavory and insipid pressures and satisfactions,” Hoyt said. “It is this aspect of hunting that I fail to understand.

The HSUS president said he is equally opposed to individuals who are hateful to people while loving animals as he is to those who seek to justify their actions toward animals on the assumption that animals are mere commodities, living under the gun of hunters who glorify the masculinity of hunting.

“When someone tells me that he wants his son to become a hunter because it is manly, I reject that manhood in our culture is so perceived,” he said. “The qualities of manhood that I respect find no support in our culture or enrichment from this kind of destructive activity.”

Hoosier Jury Falls to Back HSUS On Charges of Cruelty to Ponies

A jury composed primarily of farmers acquitted an Indiana man that the HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office had charged with neglecting 70 to 80 ponies.

Investigations found Russell Butler’s ponies locked in a barn without water, matted with manure, and in need of veterinary attention. The jury chose, however, to accept the testimony of two rural veterinarians that farm animals do not require the same attention as pets or show animals and that the ponies had received adequate care.

The ponies became one of the first concerns of Joseph H. Gray after he was appointed to the new position of field representative for the Great Lakes Office. Gray conducted the investigation with the assistance of HSUS Chief Investigator Frank J. McMahon, who spent two weeks working with Gray in the field to train him in all aspects of cruelty investigation and prosecution.

Gray and McMahon found the ponies in a barn in which the floor was covered with 2 ft. of manure and with water troughs almost dry. Owners of the Whitley County land where Butler keeps his ponies said they had not seen the ponies outside the barn for six to eight weeks.

One pony was badly wounded and showed signs of severe malnutrition. Another pony apparently suffered from a displaced hip. Several others had signs of hoof thrust, a rotting that is causing from standing in manure for an extended length of time.

The only supply of water on the property was a puddle in the barn yard that investigators thought might have accumulated from a leaking sewer pipe.

The ponies were brought to the regional office’s attention by Dr. Daniel Rodgers, a Fort Wayne, Ind., veterinarian. At HSUS’s request, Dr. Rodgers examined several of the ponies and found evidence of severe infestation of blood worms, the most injurious type of internal parasite to a horse.

When Gray entered the case, he discovered that Butler had moved the ponies and would not disclose their whereabouts. Gray then staked out Butler’s farm until he was able to follow him to the opposite end of the county. Through inquiries of residents of that area, Gray learned that someone had recently rented a barn and pasture and moved a large number of ponies onto the land.

The ponies turned out to be Butler’s. Russell Indiana has no legal provision for providing veterinary care or impounding animals without the owner’s permission; HSUS was unable to provide the instant care and treatment the ponies needed.

HSUS took advantage of the Butler case to dramatize to state legislators the need for legislation that would permit the courts to take immediate custody of animals involved in cruelty cases.

McMahon and Gray appeared before a legislative committee in Indianapolis considering a bill introduced earlier by State Rep. Dan E. Huff to define the dilemma of the Whitley County ponies. McMahon testified that Huff’s bill (H204) would provide the authority needed in such cases.

Although a jury acquitted the owner of cruelty charges, HSUS believes this case proves the point did not receive adequate care.

HSUS Chief Investigator Frank J. McMahon (left) accompanied Great Lakes Regional Investigator Joe Gray (center) and Regional Director John W. Houston (right) to Whitley County, Ind., to inspect the 70 to 80 ponies that were determined to be suffering from inadequate food, water, and medical care.

Although a jury acquitted the owner of cruelty charges, HSUS believes this case proves the point did not receive adequate care.

SPAY POSTERS

Promote spaying of pets with HSUS’s color posters, $1 each. Designate can or dog posters.

John Sorenson, Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette.
N. J. Branch Challenges Game Council Make-up

The HSUS New Jersey Branch in February filed suit in Superior Court, Trenton, charging that the composition and financing of the New Jersey Game Council are violations of New Jersey and federal constitutions.

The suit contends that selection of council members is delegated by state law to special interest groups and confined to members of certain groups that have a money interest in hunting and fishing. Other organizations and individuals are not permitted the opportunity to participate in land management and wildlife ecology policy, the suit charges.

Under the present statutes, the council consists of six sportmen, three farmers and two commercial fishermen. The Branch cited the fact that the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs has six members on the seven-member council. The federation is listed as a defendant because their majority gives them control over council actions.

"Public lands and resident wildlife belong to all the people," said Branch President Fred L. Stevenson. "We have grown weary of seeing this public trust abused and controlled by a small, select group whose interests center about killing wildlife for pleasure."

Stevenson said the Branch has repeatedly urged the state of New Jersey, including Gov. William Cahill, to appoint persons to the Fish and Game Council who would represent the interests of all the state’s citizens, instead of just a tiny minority.

In the book, seldom observed in similar works, is the author’s continued insistence that poaching is a threat to the protection and care for the animals, insects, and plants that share our world.

John J. Dommers

THE DEATH TOLL

The 102,000 exotic pelt handled by Vesely-Forte between Jan. 1, 1971, and May 31, 1972, included these: 30,680 otter, 46,181 mink, 10,429 muskrat, 15,470 otter, 5,644 leopard, 1,867 cheetah, 1,939 jaguar, 468 puma, 271 giant otter.

The international trade in exotic animal pelts has been drastically reduced by the cracking of a worldwide black market fur ring operated by American wholesale furriers.

The United States government, which cracked the ring, said New York furriers Vesely-Forte had purchased and/or sold 102,000 pelts of such endangered animals as leopards, jaguars, and cheetahs between Jan. 1, 1971, and May 31, 1972.

Ass't Sec. of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed told HSUS Vice President Roger Caras on the Today show that the 1967 cheetah pelts handled by the firm probably represented about 20% of the world population of cheetahs at that time.

Vesely-Forte was indicted of 50 counts of violating the Lacey Act, which prohibits U.S. citizens from dealing in pelt of endangered species anywhere in the world. The firm and 13 other wholesale furriers, as well as 19 individuals, signed a voluntary consent order promising to never again trade in illegal skins. Vesely-Forte pleaded guilty to all counts and was scheduled to be fined on April 13. The total for all 50 counts could be as high as $500,000.

Caras, a professional naturalist who writes a syndicated newspaper column, has authored several books and articles on endangered species. This account of the way the furriers operated:

"From New York, Vesely-Forte purchased illegal skins from poachers and had them collected in Brazil. From Brazil, they were shipped to Toronto, which they were then shipped to Europe and Asia for sale.

"Because the United States prohibits the importation of pelt of endangered species, the firm was careful to keep the skins out of the country.

"The tanned skins were sold to other American wholesale furriers, all of which were named in the civil suit, and then resold to Italian, French, Belgian, English, Greek, and German fur processors.

The sophisticated business operation hit a snag in the spring of 1972, when a plane carrying a shipment of skins from Brazil to Toronto was diverted to New York’s Kennedy International Airport. Employees of Pan American World Airways, charged with spotting cat skins showing through the loading of legal fur, secured the illegal skins and turned them over to authorities.

"What it boils down to is that poachers of endangered species have been financed by the U.S. fur industry," Caras said on the Today Show. "This is a far cry from the image the fur industry has attempted to paint of its being concerned about the protection of endangered animals."

Caras said he has received reports of recent deaths of game wardens that include 22 in the Congo, 80 in Poland, several in India, and 6 in the United States (5 Interior employees and one Michigan state employe). He said hundreds of game wardens have been killed in recent years.

"Although we can’t say a fur merchant in New York issued a contract ‘Mafia-style for the assassination of a specific game warden, these men are, nonetheless, being killed to prevent their interference with the wholesale fur industry," he said.

How does this differ from the actions of the Mafia? he demanded. Reed told Caras that the Vesely-Forte records showed that as many skins were thrown out because of improper processing as were finally designated for actual use in clothing.

The New York Post photo by Leonardo Vedrines

Members of the New York fur industry, such as the employee carrying pelt in the above photo, have a $100 million-dollar business in killing wild animals. The recent cracking of a black market fur ring revealed that many New York wholesale furriers deal in illegal endangered species, as well.
63 Nations Sign Pact On Endangered Species

The outlook for endangered species became considerably brighter on March 2 when 63 nations signed a treaty agreeing to prohibit trade in a lengthy list of endangered animals and plants.

The treaty was signed in Washington, D. C., at the conclusion of a three-week meeting called for under the U.S. Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969.

HSUS’s Sue Pressman attended many of the sessions and expressed elation with the outcome.

“The animals covered in this treaty include the well-known, such as all species of leopards, right through to the little-known ones, such as the apolo butterfly,” she said. “We’ve taken a giant step forward.”

Mrs. Pressman said that observers from non-governmental organizations helped force approving votes from several hesitant countries by producing embarrassing evidence that those particular nations had been trading in endangered animal skins or products.

She praised the American delegation, which she said was well informed and provided strong leadership.

Although the treaty represents the greatest advancement to date in behalf of endangered species, the protection of these species will depend largely on what participating nations do within their own boundaries to implement the agreement.

HSUS President John A. Hoyt told one 150 veterinary medical students at Colorado State University in Boulder earlier this year that there appears to be a great reluctance on the part of most veterinarians to involve themselves in social problems growing out of man-animal relationships.

“Vets Stand Apart”

“More often than not, it appears to be the layman who has been the greater advocate for animal rights, while the veterinarian has stood apart from this concern and chal- lenge,” he said. “Indoubtedly, many of them become defensive when it is even presumed that they should be involved.”

Hoyt cited the surplus of cats and dogs as a sociological problem in which veterinarians should be involved.

“There has been little evidence that the veterinarian recognizes or accepts any responsibility for stemming the tide of animal overpopulation as a matter of social or humani- ty’s concern,” he said. “Last August there was a specific exclusion of animal welfare organizations from the qualifying definition ‘philanthropic.”

HSUS, Animal Rights, and other national humane groups proposed the removal of this proposed to postal authorities, pointing out that it seemed a very unfair and distinct in light of the nature of other organizations that qualified under the term ‘philanthropic.”

HSUS President John A. Hoyt said the Society for Animal Rights, Helen Jones, president, was especially helpful in getting the proposal withdrawn.

The Postal Service has since announced that it was abandoning its plan to exclude animal welfare groups.

Any humane group that has its non-profit mailing privileges revoked or application for them turned down should contact the local postmaster about submitting a new application.

U.S. to Crack Down On Exotic Pet Trade

The U.S. Department of the Interior has announced that it plans to begin enforcing an old, seldom-used law to greatly reduce the importation of exotic animals.

The new enforcement will cut deeply into the exotic pet industry, a source of deep concern to The Humane Society for many years.

Spay Fees Too High?

HSUS’s needs your help in collecting animal fees at veterinary practices in your area and report to HSUS how much each vet charges for operating costs (spaying a female dog, neutering a male cat, etc) on the HSUS’s Web page.

HSUS, Washington, D. C. 20009

HSUS President John Hoyt and HSUS’s specialist in animal control programs, Phyllis Wright, are the featured speakers.

Miss Wright also conducts workshops at the National Humane Education Center in Waterford, Va., an hour’s drive from Washington, D. C.

The next session is scheduled for May 18-20.

Some 80 persons, many of them under 30 years old, representing local humane societies, attended the Southern Area workshop in Atlanta in January. Speakers said the response from participants was so enthusiastic that they are convinced the workshops are one of the most valuable services offered by HSUS.

The details on workshops in the regions or at Waterford, Va., are available WORKSHOPS, HSUS, Washington, D. C. 20006.
HUNTING Continued

Until January, Interior had operated under a policy of opening wildlife refuges to public hunting except when it could provide "defensible reasons for not authorizing it." That policy was established in 1967 by Interior Sec. Stuart Udall and was interpreted by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife as "a mandate to hunt unless it could be demonstrated that a given hunting program would be detrimental to the overall refuge program." / 

In its suit against Interior, The Humane Society contended that the use of bows and arrows, antique muzzle-loading guns, and buckshot-loaded guns on three specific refuges did not conform with principles of sound wildlife management that Interior contended that the Secretary of the Interior had abused his authority by authorizing public hunts at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge in Maryland, and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia.

HSUS learned of Interior's change of policy when it obtained a copy of an official memorandum dated Jan. 31, 1983, sent to the assistant director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, to Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife at Interior. That document cited The Humane Society's memorandum and suit and stated that Interior's new policy was "consistent with principles of efficient wildlife management. The bureau must be free to 'clean up' refuge hunting programs to determine how they may be improved administratively. The bureau's goals in this review, he said, will be to make the hunting of (a) better use of the hunter, (b) cleaner for the hunter, (c) acceptable to all but the most vehement anti-hunting segment of the non-hunting public.

As part of the review, Schmidt said the bureau will consider establishing qualified tests for hunters that would determine each hunter's ability to use the weapon and the conditions of the weapon. He said the use of high-powered rifles or rifled slugs in shotguns may be considered for public hunts.

"It would seem that hunters and our bureau must be willing to accept some changes in the way we get at this business of hunting," he concluded. "The alternative is probably that we do not hunt."
FLYING TO MASSACRE SITE—HSUS Investigator Hal Perry was photographed during a refueling stop en route to southeastern Idaho to examine the carcasses of seven wild horses that were run off a cliff during an illegal round up. (See page 1 story.)

Spay Posters

"A Trip to the Spay Clinic Changed My Life" is the heading for new full-color posters printed by HSUS to promote spaying of pets. The posters are appropriate for schools, club houses, stores, public buildings, shelters, or homes. Specify cat or dog. $1 each.

News of The Humane Society of the United States is published six times a year. HSUS headquarters is at 1604 K St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

Coleman Burke
Chairman of the Board
John A. Hoyt, President
Karl Nordling, Editor

Seal Dealer Quits

Wholesale sea lion dealer Jerry Mitchell has closed his Florida business, as a result of HSUS's embargo on his supply (see Winter News). HSUS's Sue Pressman reported after a follow-up visit to the facility in March that the unsatisfactory operation was no longer in business.

Literature Available

HSUS has a wide variety of literature available for use by local humane groups and individual animal lovers, including:

10,000 Per Hour—an in-depth discussion of the pet population explosion, 3¢ each.

Everyone Loves Puppies—a dramatic approach to the need for spaying, 3¢ each.

Everyone Loves Kittens—a version of the above for cat owners, 3¢ each.

Please allow three weeks for delivery of large orders.

The Humane Society of the United States
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