HSUS Sues to Stop Coyote Poisoning

Houston Suit Brings Shelter Changes

The Humane Society of the United States and a Houston animal welfare organization have succeeded in forcing changes in the Houston animal control program after asking a state judge to enjoin city officials from continuing inhumane treatment of cats and dogs.

The legal action resulted in a plea of agreement by city officials to all charges made by HSUS and Citizens for Animal Control (CAP).

Ironically, the charges of inhumane treatment of animals centered on the city’s new $650,000 Rabies Control Center, which was opened last autumn.

Among the charges made by the two groups were these:

- Animals kept in overcrowded, unsanitary pens.
- Sick and injured animals not segregated from other animals.
- Inadequate, unsanitary, and insufficient food. Occasional absence of any food or water in some pens.
- Sewers continuously stopped up, causing sewage to back up into pens.
- Large animals kept in pens with smaller ones who could not protect themselves from injury or obtain their share of food.

(Continued on page 11.)

EPA Experiment Target of Suit

The Humane Society of the United States has asked a federal district court to halt a coyote poisoning program recently authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Coupled with the suit was a request for a temporary restraining order, which U.S. District Judge Thomas A. Flannery granted in Washington, D.C., on March 4.

HSUS told the court that EPA’s decision to permit ranchers in 44 Texas counties to use sodium cyanide for coyote control violates requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act.

Target of HSUS’s action is EPA’s decision to permit “experimental” use of the M-44, a mechanical “coyote getter” filled with a charge of sodium cyanide between Feb. 8, 1974 and June 1, 1975. The coyote getter, a cylindrical device that is hammered into the ground in areas known to be frequented by coyotes, attracts the coyote by a scent on a wick. When the animal pulls on the wick with his teeth, a charge of sodium cyanide is spring-fired into his mouth, causing certain and agonizing death.

Federal predator control programs have been a primary target of HSUS and environmental groups for the past several years. HSUS filed a federal suit against Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton in 1971 to force an end to the federal pred-

HSUS Requests Ban Of Pet Turtle Sales

HSUS and Consumers Union have asked a federal agency to ban the sale of pet turtles because turtles are proved transmitters of infectious salmonella to children.

In their petitions to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the two non-profit organizations cited a large number of documented cases in which children who had pet turtles had contracted the infection. Salmonella causes diarrhea, fever, and severe enteritis in humans, the petitioners stated.

Although the petitioners requested that all pet turtles, tortoises, and terrapins be banned because they present an “unreasonable risk of injury,” it is the red-eared slider turtle that is the most common house pet. The commission has adequate authority to declare and enforce such a ban, the

(Continued on page 10.)

Annual Conference

The 1974 HSUS Annual Conference will be held at the Drake, Oakbrook Hotel, Oak Brook, Ill., Oct. 10-13. It will mark HSUS’s 20th anniversary. Details will be announced in the May News.

(Continued on next page.)
The only justification the government can produce is statistics compiled by the sheeplemen themselves.

COYOTES Continued

ator control program. A few months later, on Feb. 8, 1972, President Nixon banned the use of poisons in all federal predator control programs and in predator control programs on federal lands.

EPA suspended the registration of poisons used in predator control on March 9, 1972, a few months after HSUS, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and five other organizations petitioned it to do so.

In its new suit, The Humane Society charges that EPA has violated the specific terms and policies of the President’s Executive Order that prohibited heads of federal agencies from allowing the field use of poisons in any federal predator control program.

The EPA action, HSUS charges, also contradicts EPA’s own findings of 2 years ago that questioned the need for any poisons in predator control programs. It was those findings that led EPA to ban the registration of all predator control poisons.

EPA has violated the National Environmental Policy Act, HSUS alleges, by failing to prepare an environmental impact statement.

The Humane Society has contended for many years that coyote getters are inhumane and indiscriminate because they can be discharged by other animals, including endangered species and pets, and even humans.

The Society’s suit charges that EPA has violated the U.S. Endangered Species Act because the proposed program has no means of preventing the accidental death of threatened and endangered species.

Aside from the technical aspects of the suit, HSUS charges that there is a strong likelihood that there is no real need for any coyote killing programs.

The government has no system of its own for determining the number of sheep losses to coyotes and cannot substantiate the sheeplemen’s figures.

Furthermore, the government has done little research to find a more humane and selective method of killing coyotes, the Society charges.

The measure, now known as H.R. 11266, would increase federal appropriations for killing programs and would have state agriculture departments, long sympathetic to woolgrowers’ interests, administer the programs.

The bill would also remove most controls over predator control poisons from EPA. Both the Dept. of the Interior and EPA are opposed to the bill in its present form, as is HSUS.

The bill is now before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Hearings on the original proposals for the bill have been held in both the House and Senate.

For further information write: WORKSHOPS, HSUS, 1604 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Joyce Mertz Gilmore
HSUS has lost one of its most dedicated leaders and valuable supporters. Joyce Mertz Gilmore of New York City died of cancer on Jan. 16 at the age of 44.

During the 4 years that Joyce was on the HSUS Board of Directors, she provided a leadership and perspective that was invaluable to HSUS and the entire humane movement. In contributing enormous amounts of time and money to HSUS, she always had but one objective: to make this world a kinder place for both man and animals.

Joyce was an active supporter of other causes, as well. She was an early and active supporter of Martin Luther King and other civil rights and civil liberties leaders, including A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin. She also devoted substantial time, energy, and funds to the peace movement and the performing arts.

Joyce was a general partner and executive committee chairman of Publishers Clearing House. She was a graduate of Swarthmore College.

Her husband, Robert W. Gilmore, has asked that memorial contributions be sent to the Joyce Mertz Gilmore Memorial Fund of The Humane Society of the United States.

Words cannot express the magnitude and depth of the loss of this great and gentle woman. A great citizen of the world has gone from us, yet the power of her spiritual and intellectual bequest remains firm.

John A. Hoyt

Leadership Workshops
HSUS will conduct two leadership training workshops in April for animal control officers, animal shelter personnel, and local humane society leaders.

April 5-7: Philadelphia
April 19-21: Norfolk, Va.

For further information write: WORKSHOPS, HSUS, 1604 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.
Los Angeles Zoo: 50-Year-Old Ideas

HSUS officials criticized the 8-year-old Los Angeles Zoo for its “50-year-old ideas” after a recent 9-day investigation of the facility.

HSUS Executive Vice President Mel L. Morse and HSUS zoologist Sue Pressman blamed the zoo’s problems on the failure of the Los Angeles Community to respond to the zoo’s needs.

“I find myself at a loss to understand how people who profess to be interested in human and animal welfare can tolerate the conditions I saw,” Morse said upon completion of the investigation at the end of January.

Mrs. Pressman, who has investigated 267 zoos for HSUS in the past 3 years, blamed the people of Los Angeles for the zoo’s problems. “The local citizens have not embraced the zoo as a community institution,” she said. “They see it only as a pleasant place to spend the day or as just another place in competition with Southern California’s tourist attractions.”

The zoo will improve, she said, only when the community sees it as an institution of higher learning, a place where everyone in the community can learn about the other forms of life and the world they live in.

It is the local zoological society, the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Assn., that has the responsibility for changing the community’s attitudes about the zoo, Morse and Mrs. Pressman concluded. When the community lends its ear to the zoo as a place to learn and exchange ideas, the zoo will have made the first step toward justifying its existence, they said.

“It feel strongly about either making the zoo an educational exhibit or closing it,” Morse said.

“Let’s stop having animals sacrificed and exploited, and enlighten the public.”

Although the HSUS investigators did not find cruelty or neglect in the usual and blatant sense of the words, they found several deficiencies that have caused inhumane conditions. They called for the following immediate actions:

- The removal of two adult orangutans from a 12 x 15-foot storage cage in which they have been kept for 7 years to an appropriate display area.
- Improvements to the health center to facilitate the intensive care of ill and injured animals.
- A temporary ban on the purchase of any new animals coupled with the sale of surplus animals to reduce the present inventory of 2,400 animals.
- Rodent control for the health and safety of the animals.
- Improvement of food and diet control.

Morse and Mrs. Pressman were particularly concerned about the orangutans, a male and a female, who have not been out of the cage for exercise or sunlight in 7 years. Keepers said they could not control the animals because of their strength. The 270-pound male has the strength of 8 or 10 men, they said.

Only some 5,000 orangutans remain in the wild, in the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra. They are considered the most intelligent of the great apes. A male orangutan was sold by one zoo to another recently for $11,000.

HSUS recommended that one of the zoo’s bear grizzlies be immediately adapted for use as temporary quarters for the orangutans until a permanent display can be built.

Morse found some incredibly bad conditions in the health center. The outdoor runs were built without any cover, and a makeshift cover was later added. The result is a roof that leaks so badly that 25-gal. garbage cans are necessary to catch the run-off from the leaks.

In the absence of protection on the sides of the run, a zoo keeper had improvised a heating unit for a monkey by hanging a heat lamp from an outdoor wire. It was “something one might see at a roadside zoo,” Morse said.

Shortly after the HSUS investigation, the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission allocated $450,000 to be used for the improvement of the zoo. The projects included a temporary display for the two orangutans and rodent control in the indoor cages, as recommended by HSUS.

Bureaucratic inefficiency has resulted in a high turnover rate of professional staff members. Mrs. Pressman was elated last month by the announcement that Director Emeritus Charles Schroeder, D.V.M., of the San Diego Zoo had been appointed temporary director of the Los Angeles Zoo.

“Charles Schroeder will attract more qualified staff because of his leadership and direction, and, hopefully, enhance the work of existing staff,” she said. She added that she was impressed by the particularly high caliber of the keeper staff she found at the zoo.

The zoo’s problems began, Morse and Mrs. Pressman concluded, when it was designed without the benefit of a full-time zoological architectural consultant. Consequently, the zoo is stuck with animal quarters that are neither appropriate for the animals nor conducive to learning by the visitors.

“It’s a new zoo with a Victorian concept,” Mrs. Pressman declared. She and Morse emphasized that the problems won’t be solved by merely changing the cages. It’s the entire concept that must be changed, they agreed.

L. A. ZOO Continued

“Let’s stop having animals sacrificed and exploited, and enlighten the public.”

News of The Humane Society of the United States was published six times a year. HSUS headquarters is at 1600 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Coleman Burke
Chairman of the Board
John W. Morse
President
Patrick B. Parkes
Executive Vice President
Karl Nordling, Editor

United Air Lines has been notified by the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) that it does not have authority to refuse animals being shipped in crates that it considers unsatisfactory.

United had announced (see Jan. News) that it would no longer accept any animals being shipped in crates, the flimsy wooden slat crates used by most puppy mills for shipping puppies to pet shops.

As an alternative means of banning the crates, 28 major airlines have joined United in proposing that CAB change its tariff requirements to prohibit the acceptance of “inadequately manufactured from wirebound unfinished wooden slats or wooden crates that are commonly used for shipping fresh produce.”

The airlines’ petition, however, has been opposed by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) and several other associations of commercial pet industry interests on the grounds that there are technical errors in the CAB’s method of dealing with the petition and that the description of crates to be banned is broader than necessary to ensure the safety of the animals.

HSUS believes that a 100% safe shipping container could be made available to shippers at approximately $4 per crate. Little more than an average of $2.75 that the wooden slat crates now cost the industry.

Meanwhile, HSUS continues to press its petition to CAB that animal air shipments be given priority both over other cargo to prevent the danger of the cargo “unusually long delays being caused by reduction in flights.”
**New Law to Protect Threatened Species**

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, which was signed into law Dec. 28, extends protection formerly afforded only to endangered species to species that are presently abundant but which might become threatened in the foreseeable future. Under the endangered species laws of 1966 and 1969, protective measures were available only to species that had entered into a dangerous downward spiral. Under the previous measures, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to list endangered native wildlife, but his department had jurisdiction over programs in which states authorized public hunts of animals on the Secretary's recommendation. The new law, P.L. 93-205, authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to enter into cooperative agreements with the states for the protection and propagation of endangered wildlife. States have 15 months to submit a satisfactory conservation plan for endangered animals within their jurisdictions. If such a plan is not submitted by that time, the federal government has authority to impose regulations for individual species in that state. Unfortunately, hunting and states made to help zoos and aquariums:
- The Zoological Parks and Aquarium Board, established by the bill, should be a bipartisan body made up of "a professional educator and two additional representatives of non-profit humane or conservation groups" in addition to zoo professionals.
- The definition of acceptable zoo research should state "clearly and without ambiguity that the research intended by this bill is uniquely and solely for the welfare and benefit of the zoo animals themselves."
- Federal funding should be restricted to "the improvement or replacement of existing facilities and/or the institution of educational programs for those visiting zoos." HSUS opposes using federal funds for the expansion of existing facilities or for the acquisition of new animals.
- Hoyt stressed three major problems that confront zoos: municipal interference, ill-conceived architecture that is inadequate for humane housing and care, and a lack of funds. "Our investigation, criticism, and in some cases exposure of these problems have resulted in sincere efforts toward improvement and correction," he said.

**HSUS Urges Senate to Accredit Zoos**

HSUS has urged the U.S. Senate to pass a bill to establish an accreditation program that would offer federal loans and grants to qualified zoos and aquariums. In testimony before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration in January, at the invitation of the subcommittee, HSUS President John A. Hoyt said S. 2747 (Hatfield, R-Ore.) reflects the mutual concern of animal welfare organizations and the general public with respect to the inadequacies of existing zoological park and aquarium facilities. Hoyt asked that the following changes be made to the bill:

- HSUS has vigorously protested the Dept. of Air Force and Army testing programs which are being conducted in the United States, and several congressmen.

In spite of the vigorous efforts of several animal protection organizations and expressions of protest from tens of thousands of citizens, HSUS has been advised by the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense that both the Air Force and Army testing programs are continuing.

In a letter to Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, dated Jan. 4, 1974, I requested answers to the following questions. The response, as dictated by Deputy Staff Assistant Philip A. Farris, dated Jan. 22, follows each question:

Q. Is the program initiated by the Dept. of the Air Force (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio) still being conducted, and if so, what is the proposed duration of this testing project?

A. "The programs of the Army and Air Force, which are being conducted in a humane manner, are still being carried out. Requirements for this research are still valid. Tasks within these programs differ in focus, but all require up to one year of study. It is almost certain, because of the chemical complexity of defense systems that, that requirements to evaluate the toxicity of new fuels and materials will occur in the future."

Q. How many animals, specifically beagles, are being used in this project and what is the current status of these animals?

A. "As to the number of animals involved, this information is being compiled in a special report requested by Congress. Until the compilation and full report are completed, we are unable to provide this information."

Q. "Has either the Dept. of the Air Force or the Dept. of the Army revised or cancelled either of these programs as a result of the publicized protest that has been registered with your office, the Depts. of the Air Force and Army, the President of the United States, members of Congress, etc."

A. "There has been no significant change in the projects involved, although they have received extensive review. The requirement for this research exists, as does our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our people."

Q. "What alternative programs have been considered by the Depts. of Air Force and Army that would not utilize similar projects utilizing animals in the future?"

A. "We feel that the criticism directed at the Dept. of Defense is unjustified, as our use of animals is scientifically conventional and numerically modest, as compared with nationwide totals. However, in view of the concern expressed by citizens, we have initiated a broad program to review certain aspects of this research and our use of animals has been initiated."

It is quite clear that there is no basis for criticism about the testing programs being conducted by both the Air Force and Army. A recent court case by an anti-vivisection group to prevent the use of beagle dogs in the Air Force testing program has been dismissed. Likewise, though there are vigorous protests by a few congressmen, there has been no genuine congressional pressure to halt these tests. Nor has public protest had much impact.

In spite of the apparently disregard of public outrage, you are urged to continue to express your views on this matter to your Representative, Senator, Secretary of Defense, Secretaries of Army and Air Force, and others.

We will continue to question the Dept. of Defense and any other research organization about the justification and methods of using animals in research. Americans have taken for granted the use of animals in research for much too long. HSUS believes it is imperative that the government and other scientific organizations accelerate the development and use of alternative methods for research and testing.

Molly Malone was near death from starvation, had been burned on the neck and face, and was covered with tar when the Wisconsin Humane Society found her. A month later, Molly looked like a different animal, after being adopted by Mike Linton and his family. Unfortunately, cruelty cases such as this are not uncommon problems for humane societies.

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**The Defense Dept. on Beagles**

By John A. Hoyt

During the past several months, HSUS has vigorously protested the Dept. of Air Force and Army's testing programs, utilizing beagle dogs and other animals. Opposition to these programs was registered with both departments, the Secretary of Defense, James R. Schlesinger, and with the United States, and several congressmen.

In spite of the vigorous efforts of several animal protection organizations and expressions of protest from tens of thousands of citizens, HSUS has been advised by the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense that both the Air Force and Army testing programs are continuing.

In a letter to Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, dated Jan. 4, 1974, I requested answers to the five following questions. The response, as dictated by Deputy Staff Assistant Philip A. Farris, dated Jan. 22, follows each question:

Q. Is the program initiated by the Dept. of the Air Force (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio) still being conducted, and if so, what is the proposed duration of this testing project?

A. "The programs of the Army and Air Force, which are being conducted in a humane manner, are still being carried out. Requirements for this research are still valid. Tasks within these programs differ in focus, but all require up to one year of study. It is almost certain, because of the chemical complexity of defense systems that, that requirements to evaluate the toxicity of new fuels and materials will occur in the future."

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THE CARNIVORES, R.F. Ewer (Cornell University Press, $21.50)

THE CARNIVORES became the day of its issue an essential book in any natural history library. It is scholarly, yet readable, and covers all aspects of all carnivores, Mrs. Ewer’s philosophy appears in the opening line of her preface: “Appreciation of animals has much in common with appreciation of works of art.”

The humane movement has a lot to gain from this book. The carnivores are among the most misunderstood and most heavily persecuted of all animal groups. This book will enable any concerned person to prepare for any argument. It will enable them to write meaningfully. It will help in one of ways. It would take a library shelf of books to provide the data included in this one massive, profusely illustrated volume.

Our most common companion animals are carnivores—our dogs and cats. The most precious furs sought by man are those of carnivores. The predator control program that we have all fought against for so long is levied at carnivores. THE CARNIVORES is one of those books that it seems impossible we ever did without. Recommended as essential.

Roger Caras
Roger Caras, a vice president of HSUS, is a nationally known naturalist who has had 22 books published, mostly on wildlife. He writes “Our Only World,” a syndicated newspaper column and broadcasts “Pets and Wildlife” on CBS radio.

Animal Photography Contest

Three $50 1st Prizes Three $25 2nd Prizes

Categories: I. People and Pets II. Domestic Animals (Cats, Dogs, Horses, etc.) III. Wild Animals (Native or Foreign, in Captivity or Out)

Contest Rules
1. All entries must be submitted by Nov. 1, 1974. You may submit as many entries as you like.
2. Entries cannot have been printed in any publication with circulation larger than 10,000 or have been mass reproduced for sale, such as on posters.
3. All entries become the property of HSUS and will be used in educational publications of HSUS. (Your return rights to the reproduction from negatives.)
4. Both black and color photographs are eligible. Black and white photos must be 8 x 10 glossies. Color photos must be prints 5 x 7 or larger or slides. The photographer’s name and address must be printed on the back of all photographs or, in the case of slides, attached to them.
5. All entries must be the original, untouched work of contestants.
6. Nominations must be available upon request.

Mail your entries to: PHOTO CONTEST, HSUS, 1604 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

WONDERS OF THE WORLD, Sigmund A. Lavine and Bradly Casey (Dodd, Mead and Company, $3.95)

Sigmund Lavine and Bradly Casey bring to the reader a blend of history and development of the horse together with man’s use, care, and training.

The information and discussions are presented in a factual, readable form, beautifully illustrated, which will delight horsemen both young and old.

The horse of myth and fiction is brought to every fact of function, thus making this book a valuable addition to every horse lover’s library. However, it is a pity that the authors did not include one photograph of a Tennessee walking horse.

Emily Adelman
Emily Adelman is an expert horsewoman in dressage and a member of the American Horse Protection Assn.

COCKLEBURR QUARTERS, Charlotte Baker, paperback (Avon, $5.95), ages 8 and older

This book about the efforts of two young black children to save a dog and her puppies from destruction was recommended by the November 1972 News when it was published in hardback. This was the last paragraph of the recommendation, written by Stuart R. Westerlund, Ph.D., director of the HSUS Humane Education Development and Evaluation Project: “COCKLEBURR QUARTERS is more than a story about a boy and his dog; it is a story about caring. Young Dolph’s concern for the well-being of his adopted dog generates an involvement on the part of a number of children and adults in the community. The book promotes the humane ethic, and clearly demonstrates the impact which a boy’s concern for an animal can have on the total environment of a community.”

Caveat. We still find many cases where the real intent of our supporters is frustrated by careless will drafting, and the failure to properly identify the organization of your choice in any will or trust.

The Humane Society of the United States announces The 1974 HSUS Animal Photography Contest

Our Only World, Emily Adelman

Emily Adelman is an expert horsewoman in dressage and a member of the American Horse Protection Assn.

A Trip to the Spay Clinic Changed My Life

The Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs has reclassified and thereby severely restricted the use of sodium pentobarbital, the drug recommended by HSUS and the American Veterinary Medical Assn. for euthanasia of cats and dogs.

Under the Jan. 1, 1974, reclassification, animal shelters can obtain federal permits to obtain the drug only if they have received certification under a state drug control law or if their state has no drug control legislation.

HSUS is working with two pharmaceutical companies seeking to develop additives to the drug that would cause nausea or diarrhea if injected into humans. Such additives would render the drug unusable for use by addicts and, therefore, do away with the bureau’s reason for the reclassification.

HSUS has also initiated reviews by several laboratories of non-barbiturate solutions that could be substituted for sodium pentobarbital.

In the meantime, HSUS is encouraging local humane groups to write to the bureau to request a re-evaluation of their ruling in light of euthanasia needs. Letters should be addressed to U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, Box 2003 Central Station, Washington, D.C. 20005.

For further information, write DRUG INFORMATION, HSUS, 1604 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Please keep in mind that there is no national “SPCA” and that care must always be taken to properly identify the organization of your choice in any will or trust.
HSUS considers the following bills of interest and merits in meeting most aspects of the problems at which they are directed.

**Horse Export**
H.R. 12511, Rep. Lawrence Hogan (R-Md.)—to prevent horse thefts by prohibiting the exportation of any horse unless proof of ownership is shown by either the consignor or consignee.

**House Committee on Agriculture.**

**Pets in Urban Housing**
H.R. 10315, Rep. Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.)—revised version of H.R. 4345—to prohibit federal assistance to any tenant who does not permit pets in rental housing.

**House Committee on Banking and Currency.**

**Trapping**
S. 1637, Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) and H.R. 10065, Rep. Glenn Anderson (D-Calif.)—to require the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit the use, on public lands, of any trap that does not painlessly capture or immediately kill its victim; to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or transportation in interstate or foreign commerce of any trap that does not painlessly capture or immediately kill its victim.

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.**

**Animals in Air Transit**

**Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.**

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**Legislative Roundup**

**Zoo Accreditation**
S. 2774, Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) and H.R. 12407, Rep. William Whitehurst (R-Va.)—to establish national companion-zoo accreditation and other standards for the transportation and use of zoos and aquariums to provide technical assistance, loans, and grants to such facilities for modernization, research, and the training of professional staff.

**Hearings in Senate on Jan. 23; see page 7.**

**House Committee on Agriculture, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.**

**Endangered Species**
Public Law 93-205 signed by the President on Dec. 28; see page 7.

**Pet Sterilization**
H.R. 11873, Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.)—to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and assist the states in carrying out a program of animal health research.

**Passed by the House on Feb. 4.**

**Whales**
S. J. R. 184, Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.)—to direct the Secretaries of State and Commerce to determine and report to the Congress on action which must be taken to obtain Japanese and Russian compliance with international conservation measures for the protection of whales and other marine mammals.

**Senate Committee on Commerce.**

**Interstate Animal Commerce**
H.R. 59, Rep. Leonor Sullivan (D-Mo.)—authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to prohibit the transporta- tion, sale, or other distribution in interstate commerce of live animals intended as household pets, if such animals are determined to transmit diseases to humans. This measure is intended to eliminate the sale of chicks, turtles, ducklings, and rabbits.

**House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.**

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**TURTLES Continued**

**petitioners contend.**

The Humane Society petition, which was filed in support of the Consumer Union, criticized the pet industry's current educational program of preventing the spread of salmonella to humans by keeping pet turtles out of water for all but 30 minutes a day. This method will result in dehydration, malnutrition, and poor muscle and bone development in the turtle, the Society contends.

"The pet industry, by emphasizing this desiccative (dry) method of maintenance, markets not a pet but a dying animal," HSUS declared. A pet turtle maintained primarily in an unnatural environment is being injured for the sake of commerce and, furthermore, little educational value to children, HSUS said.

The Society charges that the result of this method of care will result in a more rapid turnover rate of pet turtles and, hence, higher "invisible collar" has recently been placed on the neck of this wading animal. A plastic tube is simply rubbed around the pet's neck. According to a report in the May 1972 issue of Veterinary Medicine, a little Claviron, careful evaluation of this product has revealed absolutely no skin irritation.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has ruled that people are not trying to discourage the use of flea collars as these devices are highly effective against fleas. However, their ability to cause dermatic reactions in animals and men obligates owners to exercise proper caution in utilizing these devices.

Robert C. Ray, D.V.M., HSUS staff veterinarian, made the following comments about flea collars:

"As in the case of most products, there are certain advantages and disadvantages to their use. The flea collar is not a 'cure all' but has certain advantages over conventional bathing, dipping, or spraying of pet animals living in flea infested areas."

**Animal Control Found Poor in Sacramento**

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office has found the Sacramento, Calif., animal control center to be substandard in violation of city state statutes.

Regional Director Herbert N. Martin and Regional Field Representative Michael D. Smith studied the city's animal control program at the request of the city council. Their findings included:

- Poorly trained animal control officers.
- No attempt to segregate sick or diseased animals from healthy ones.
- Inadequate medical care for injured animals.

In response to the HSUS report, the city engineer has issued a 12-month plan for immediate improvements in the program and facility, as well as a number of long-range recommendations for major policy changes.
Puerto Rico Shelter Overcomes Odds

HSUS Animal Control Specialist Phyllis Wright visited the Humane Society of Ponce, Puerto Rico, last month and was impressed with the society’s dedication and determination to overcome insurmountable odds for the betterment of animals.

Miss Wright praised the work of Mrs. Cameron McKenzie, president of the society, and Mrs. Dorothy Rodriguez, shelter director, who was responsible for the building and organization of the animal shelter.

Miss Wright emphasized that the shelter, which opened last July, operates under the most adverse conditions. “The community of Ponce, with approximately 75,000 inhabitants, is literally saturated with unowned animals, especially dogs and horses,” she explained. “Because no licensing system is enforced, gangs of dogs swarm the streets, while starvation and disease are rampant.”

“The only kindness ever known to these animals was a humane death,” she added.

The City of Ponce only partially supports the society with $2,000 a month. Additional funds must come from membership and donations, which amount to very little considering the tremendous task they are faced with. The shelter has handled approximately 2,600 dogs since it opened.

Miss Wright recommended the purchase of new equipment, such as portable cages. She assisted in hiring a new shelter manager and trained him on euthanasia and the proper methods of animal care.

The Humane Society of the United States

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