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## *Recreational-Sport Trapping and Young People*

The Federal Government and our New Jersey State Division of Fish, Game and Shell Fisheries have long promoted trapping among children as a healthy outdoor sport or recreation. Within the last few years, the Division issued a document entitled, "Fact Sheet—A Statement on Wildlife Issues," subtitled, "The Role of the Steel Trap in Wildlife Conservation." This document praises leghold trapping and comments that curtailing such activity will result in damage to recreational trapping in New Jersey.

Recreation is defined by the dictionary as "play" or "amusement." Yet language is consistently subverted by trapping enthusiasts, and used as a propaganda tool to corrupt youth and to serve the callous economic interests of the fur industry. Thus the child who commits a grossly cruel act is playing and amusing himself.

The following excerpts from a letter to the Branch illustrate typical recreational trapping:

"My husband and I were returning from shopping when a ten year old boy started to shout excitedly that he had caught a squirrel. The boy was jumping up and down and thought he had done something wonderful by catching the squirrel in the steel-jawed trap. 'Look, look what I've caught!' To our horror we saw the squirrel gripped by its neck in the trap, and its body flapping up and down vainly trying to free itself. The half dead

squirrel was taken away by the Animal Rescue League after at least an hour of torture by slow strangulation. The boy had been told that squirrels were rodents, and when he caught the animal, he felt he had performed a public service."

Perhaps parents who permit children to use the barbaric trap are not aware that their children are breaking the law, of the excruciating animal suffering involved, or of the possible psychic damage to the child himself.

We believe that choices children make as they mature will be determined by what they have learned about the sanctity of life and a sense of empathy for others, both human and animal. The enlightened society attempts to teach the importance of compassion, by example and by law.

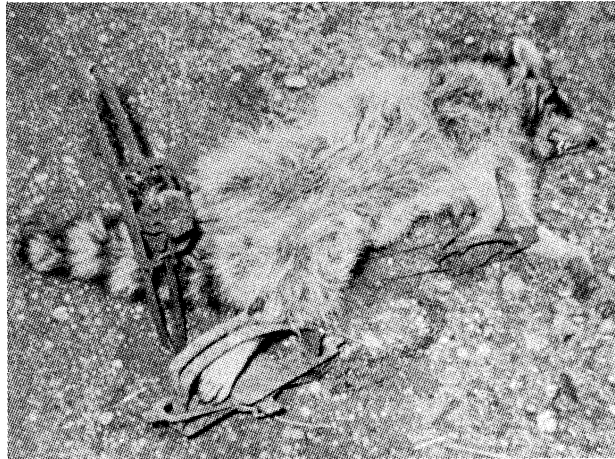


PHOTO BY HSUS N.J. BRANCH

*Raccoon trapped in 3 legholds set by New Jersey teenager*

Yet leghold trapping tends to reinforce a negative view. Since this trap is designed in such a way that any animal caught must be mutilated and cannot be instantly killed, the young trapper is faced with having to dispose of the animal by some means. Clubbing or stoning to death is one method, standing on the animal's chest to suffocate it is another, strangling another.

The New Jersey Branch has documented many cases in which children have been witnessed attempting to kill trapped animals by exceedingly primitive and gruesome  
*(Continued on page 2)*

**Dr. Ashley Montagu, one of the outstanding scientists and anthropologists  
of our age, and Member of the Branch Advisory Board, wrote:**

"What you have written me concerning the trapping of animals in New Jersey is appalling. Man's inhumanity to man is bad enough, but his deliberate cruelty to defenseless animals is even worse, and utterly indefensible. The encouragement of such activities in the name of 'sport' is pathological. Sport is play in which one rejoices in the fun of the game and the victory of the winner whoever he may be, but in no sense can be conceived to involve the infliction of the least harm upon another. To encourage such cruelty in children in the name of sport or for that matter in the name of anything else is to engage in the development of

unfeeling people who will regard this kind of 'sport' and violent conduct as a normal part of life, whereas it is in fact a disorder and a disease of the mind. The personality of children cannot help but be damaged by such activities, and rendered cruel and unfeeling not only toward animals but also toward human beings. It is no wonder that America is the most violent nation in the world. Anyone who harms a defenseless animal or inflicts pain upon an animal is a coward, a bully, a disgrace to life. Anyone who encourages children in such activities ought to be incarcerated in a mental institution for the purposes of rehumanization."



# THE GREAT HUNTERS BAG THEIR BEARS

By GORDON SMITH  
*Chronicle Sports Editor*

By the hundreds they marched into the woods.

The mighty hunter was to have his day—the only day Pennsylvania allows the great, spartan warrior to shoot at the sleepy bear.

He would get one chance, perhaps, if he were lucky. When the moment came, his heart would pound furiously, his face would flush, his throat would throb as adrenalin dashed and darted through his body.

C-R-A-C-K . . . He would shoot — quickly, accurately.

Young boys would stay out of school to make the annual foray with their dads and uncles. Businessmen would close shop to trek into the forests. Laborers would call in sick. Even clergymen would take their shot at the big kill.

It would be one of those momentous days in the life of a hunter. It would be his day to match his mind, knowledge of animal habits and skills against the dumb ole bear foraging for that last tidbit before curling up to sleep away the winter months.

It would be the only day of the year the bear would have to find a place to hide. But the big ole bear wouldn't know that. The sun came up, like any other day. It would set again, too. Nothing appeared to be wrong with the bear's clock.

When nightfall did come, the great hunter would pack his gear, strap his kill to the top of his car and begin his trip home, delighting in explaining his tracking of the bear and his shooting to his comrades.

## TRAPPING (Cont.)

means. A small sampling: axing a raccoon to death, stoning a skunk to death, clubbing a raccoon with boards, kicking a living trapped blue jay, removing an opossum from a trap and hanging him from a tree to die. Are these really the experiences we want

He'd pass through small towns as he'd make his way out of the woods. Children about to go in for supper would see the great hunter and his bear and think of the day they, too, would be bringing home a grizzly.

Others would wonder, as they had before, if shooting a bear was really moralistic, since there just aren't that many in these parts. The age-old question of gun control would spring forth again in some minds as the hunter, car and bear passed by.

In the end, it would be revealed there was an "overkill." Too many female would be taken. But little would it matter to the great hunter who has bagged his bear.

One-hundred bear would be killed in the time it takes the sun to rise in the east and set in the west. One-hundred men would live to tell of their conquests.

Others would come home empty-handed, but with tales to spin forever. Two who killed no bear wouldn't come home. At least not right away. When they arrive, there will be a cold, porcelain table, organ music, flowers, caskets.

They'd be Maynard Bransome of Lafayette Hill and Dan Phillips of Philadelphia. It would be their misfortune to be mistaken for a bear by a 13-year-old Schuylkill County boy, happily hunting with his dad.

It would later be revealed the men were killed at 6:10 a.m., one-half hour before legal starting time for hunting this week. It would be revealed no shots should be fired until 6:34 a.m.

Thirteen-years-old. God.

—Allentown, Pa. Call, Nov. 25, 1975

our children to enjoy? Are we willing to subject our children to the brutalizing effects of witnessing frantic and painful struggles and then battering on a helpless creature or, on the other hand, of relegating animals to the category of "things" to avoid the recognition of their suffering?

## TRAPPING CASUALTIES DOCUMENTED

Two years ago, a member of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council (which sets State trapping regulations) wrote to a local newspaper commending it for an article depicting the trapping activities of school children. Reading the article, he stated, "was like a ray of sunshine . . . The boys are having fun and making a little money and I can't think of a better way for them to employ their time and work off some surplus energy."

Contrast this Fish and Game Councilman's "ray of sunshine" with the cries of anguish from the following selection of trapping cases documented within the past 2 years by the New Jersey Branch. Many of these abuses directly involved juveniles whose present immunity from the law is of increasing concern to citizens throughout the State.

*Pet Cat*—caught in leghold for 18 hours. Dislocated elbow and nerve damage. Unable to retract claws and permanent loss of hair on paw. Morris County.

*Hunting Dog*—beagle caught in 2 legholds which were part of a group of 5 legholds connected together by a heavy chain and concealed with dry grass. Rescued immediately by owner. Middlesex County.

*Pet Cat*—caught in leghold for 2 days. Bone exposed for 2½ inches on paw, wound gangrenous. Died. Middlesex County.

*Skunk*—caught in leghold for approximately 3 to 4 hours. This skunk escaped, leaving a toe and piece of ligament remaining in the trap. Bergen County.

*Pet Dog*—caught in leghold for undetermined period of time. The paw swelled to triple its normal size. Morris County.

*Pet Rabbit*—caught in a muskrat-size conibear trap illegally set on dry land in a housing development. The trap snapped on both sides of the rabbit's head. Middlesex County.

*Red-shouldered Hawk*—observed for 3 days with a muskrat-size conibear trap attached to one of its legs. This beautiful raptor was doomed to a certain death as it could no longer hunt for food, and was unable to be rescued. Cumberland County.

*Hunting Dog*—German short-haired pointer caught by right hind leg in a

## Annual Meeting

### A Special Invitation

Date—May 15, 1976

Place—Town and Campus, 1040 Morris Ave., Union, N. J.

Time—9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Registration and Luncheon—\$6.50 including gratuities

Guest Speakers—Matthew Margolis, author of *Underdog* (see page 4).

Guy R. Hodge, Director, Research and Data Services, HSUS.

Mrs. Harrison A. Williams.

Dr. Ethel Thurston.

Films—The Curiosity that Kills the Cat.

"Last Days of the Dolphin" narrated by Dick Cavett.

Preview of HSUS teaching units "Sharing: You and the Animal World."

## RESERVATIONS LIMITED . . . Send yours in Today

### ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ and will bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$6.50 per person) is enclosed.

I cannot attend but want to be a meeting booster \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1.00); sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00). My check for that amount is enclosed and all donations are deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian

homemade steel cable snare set by children. Rescued immediately by owner. Middlesex County.

*Pet Cat*—missing for 12 days. Returned home dragging leghold trap. Gangrene, amputation by veterinarian of entire paw. Bergen County.

*Raccoon*—found in leghold set in a county park. Left front paw was torn badly to the bone. Union County.

*Cottontail Rabbit*—both hind legs severed except for 1 tendon. Found in area used by children playing. Morris County.

*Screech Owl*—both legs crushed and

broken, bones protruding. Suffering from severe trauma. Destroyed. Middlesex County.

*Pet Cat*—Siamese caught in leghold, sustained severe fractures of right front and hind legs. Required 3 weeks in veterinary hospital. Middlesex County.

*Pet Dog*—caught by paw in leghold set behind a children's skating pond. Bergen County.

*Pet Cat*—caught in leghold for 4 days. Right hind leg injury resulted in amputation of 2 toes by veterinarian. Mercer County.



The Humane Society  
of the United States

New Jersey Branch, Inc.

1140 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, N. J. 07201

**UNDERDOG, Mordecai Siegal and Matthew Margolis (Stein and Day, \$7.95)**

At last someone has written a counterpart to those hundreds of books celebrating purebred dogs. *Underdog* champions the cause of the mixed breed dog, that often neglected animal which bears such undistinguished titles as mutt, mongrel, cur. This book was authored by two men with exceptional expertise in the field of dog study and dog training. Siegal is contributing editor of *Dogs Magazine* and Margolis is director of the National Institute of Dog Training, Inc.

*Underdog* shows rare sensitivity for the plight of a major segment of the dog population, a group that is the undeserved victim of an identity problem. In this book the mixed breed dog is portrayed as an animal that is not inferior but rather disadvantaged. The authors offer some persuasive arguments in favor of the mixed breed dogs' superiority to their more renowned counterparts. The cost of acquisition is minimal, in most cases amounting to only a shelter donation and neutering fee. The longevity study has indicated that mutts are twice

as likely to survive to senior citizen age as are their aristocratic cousins.

Siegal and Margolis also claim that many purebred dog lines have developed hereditary problems such as hip dysplasia, and heart malfunctions are twice as common in purebreds as they are in mutts. Although mutts and purebred dogs suffer from the same illnesses, the mutt has superior resistance to disease and is able to recover more quickly, probably because stress and sickness are no stranger to the mutt that was born in the trunk of an abandoned car. *Underdog* was not written solely to celebrate the nobility of the mixed breed dog. The book is a functional training manual designed specifically for the use of mutt owners. The authors contend that registered dogs have behavioral characteristics that are common to their breed. A mixed breed dog is less predictable, and its training requires a special approach.

*Underdog* is a must for the library of all those who champion the cause of the nation's millions of mutts.

Guy R. Hodge

And now, humanitarians in New Jersey will have the opportunity to

meet author Matthew Margolis who will explain how and why he came to write a book solely about the mixed breed dog. Since *Underdog* is a functional training manual, Mr. Margolis also will show us his highly effective, yet humane, training methods.

Come to the annual meeting, meet Matthew Margolis and learn all about training dogs.

Fanwood, N.J., March 5, 1976

Dear Members of the Humane Society:

Just a note to thank you for your assistance earlier this week in reference to a phone call I made regarding a pigeon with a broken leg. Yours was the only organization able to come up with a solution to my problem and hopefully alleviate its suffering! I was able to contact Mrs. Gisela Karlan and we managed to get our "patient" to her, hopefully for surgery. Even if it did not survive at least with her help it had a better chance than in our inexperienced hands. Enclosed is a check as a thank you for all you've done! If you have any literature available on the society I'd be interested in learning more about it.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathryn Tobitsch

*Support your Humane Society today!*

I want to prevent cruelty and suffering and further the work of The Humane Society of the United States, New Jersey Branch, Inc.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used to make H.S.U.S. work possible.

Contributions of \$10.00 or more entitles you to a voting membership in The Humane Society of the United States and are tax deductible

- |   |         |                                     |          |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership      | \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual Family Membership | 18.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor    | 500.00   |
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Name.....

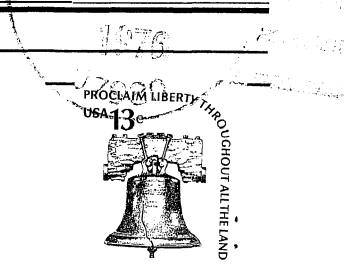
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The Humane Society of the United States  
New Jersey Branch  
1140 East Jersey Street  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201

Address Correction Requested



*Charlene Drennon  
1713 J. Street  
Sacramento, California 95814*