Welcome to Alaska and Idaho!

Effective September 1, 2003, three western regional offices of The HSUS experienced a major realignment of states. This shift balances the regions more evenly and carefully groups together states with similar needs and issues.

HSUS’s Northern Rockies Regional Office (NRRO) transfers its responsibility for Alaska and Idaho to PNRO (PNRO will include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). NRRO accepts Colorado and Utah from the Southwest Regional Office.

These changes are difficult because each regional office develops strong personal relationships with local agencies as well as many individual members in their states. But because these changes will help The HSUS to better serve the individual states, we hope that the transition will be a smooth and productive one.

On a personal note to Alaska and Idaho members, NRRO staff want you to know that you will always be part of our regional history and lore. From the Ligertown, Idaho, escaped lions case to the floating spay clinic down Alaska’s Yukon River, Idaho and Alaska have been an important part of the Northern Rockies Region. We are saddened to lose you as part of our animal protection team, but we know that you will quickly become an important component of the Pacific Northwest team.

PNRO wishes to extend a warm welcome to our new Idaho and Alaska members. We look forward to working with you to improve the lives of our animal friends. If you have questions or concerns in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us.

One More Surgery at Inchelium

As the procedure began, the gentleman in the wheelchair moved to his dog Joanie’s side and watched anxiously. He’d arrived at the HSUS Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) clinic on the Colville Reservation in rural northern Washington just as the veterinarians were about to pack up to move to another community. The Australian shepherd wasn’t just his friend, he explained, she also helped him with chores that were difficult because of his disability. The problem was that he found it hard to keep male dogs away during her heat cycles. He wanted to do the responsible thing for his pet, but he couldn’t afford veterinary care, and had no way of traveling the long distance to a vet’s office.

The vets had already completed eight days of clinics, covering four communities on this large reservation. It was common for them to perform 50 or 60 surgeries a day. But at the end of the last day of the clinic at the village of Inchelium, Dr. Susan Monger, the lead HSUS veterinarian on the trip, asked her team to do just one more surgery.

Yet as they prepared to operate on Joanie, the man admitted that he was concerned about the risks of surgery and anesthesia for his beloved companion. The RAVS team assured him that Joanie would receive the absolute best care and attention, including careful anesthetic monitoring and post-operative pain relief. Still, the man stayed by his dog’s side during the entire operation, until she began to wake up in recovery an hour later. He started to cry when he realized his dog would be all right, and that she’d never have to cope with heat cycles, mammary cancer, or unwanted litters.

Joanie and her owner stayed with the RAVS team for a few more hours, until she had completely recovered. She left with her owner, who repeatedly thanked the volunteers for the kind handling and professionalism he and his dog received. Ken Miller, the Colville Reservation’s animal control officer, agreed to follow up on Joanie’s recovery.

And that’s what RAVS is all about. Caring for people and animals in need, one community, one animal at a time.

Get the RAVS E-newsletter

Whether it’s a spay/neuter clinic on the Colville Reservation in Washington or an equine wellness clinic in Peru, readers can get a glimpse into the activities of these hard-working volunteer veterinary students and the professional vets who oversee them.

Go to www.hsus.org/ravsnewsletter to sign up for this free, monthly newsletter.
Oregon's New Animal Fighting Law

Oregon's cockfighting law has been significantly strengthened after passage of H.B. 2006. The law came to fruition after a great effort on the part of Rep. Max Williams, who was instrumental in advancing the bill through the Legislature. The law closes loopholes in the state's anti-cockfighting law, banning possession, breeding, and sale of birds for fighting purposes. It also bans the sale of cockfighting implements and makes most cockfighting activities felony offenses. Oregon has long had one of the weakest anti-cockfighting laws in the nation, making it difficult for law enforcement agents to root out the blood sport. The industry has maintained major, illegal operations in the state, due in large part to the porous state, due in large part to the porous nature of illegal firearms, and sale of narcotics.

This past winter, a federal court halted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) from proceeding with the controversial elk population study that involved killing 90 percent or more of the cougars in two regions of Oregon. The purpose of the study was to determine the effects of cougar predation on elk and mule deer populations. However, the study was based on simplistic and scientifically unsupported notions of predator-prey relationships.

The HSUS, along with nine other conservation groups, filed a lawsuit against USFWS in federal district court. The judge ordered that ODFW could not use federal money to kill any cougars until the agency analyzes the full effects of this study in an environmental impact statement, a very costly and lengthy process.

This proposed study was just one more effort to thwart the will of Oregonians, who have twice voted, via ballot initiatives in 1994 and 1996, for greater protection for the state's cougars. This killing plan was politically motivated to ensure that a greater number of cougars be killed for the benefit of elk and deer hunters in northeast Oregon—this in spite of the fact that neither the public nor the state Legislature supported it.

More OR Legislative Wins

Farm Animals Afforded New Protection

PNR0 commends the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Ted Kulongoski for passing and signing into law two bills aimed at protecting farm animals. H.B. 2811 requires that a person in possession of a "downed animal" (one too sick or injured to walk or stand) must either take immediate and ongoing steps to restore the downed animal to a healthy state or humanely euthanize the animal. H.B. 3339 further prohibits a person from delivering or accepting a downed animal at an auction market.

Often times, downed farm animals are very sick, diseased, or injured, and it's virtually impossible to move them humanely. They are often dragged with chains or pushed with bulldozers or fork lifts. This new law will set a humane standard of care for downed animals, reducing the suffering of these animals and ending this terrible abuse. H.B. 2811 and H.B. 3339 are first steps in making our food both safe and sustainable.

Thanks to a new law, animals such as this downed cow will no longer suffer in Oregon.

Cougars Win: State Cougar-Killing Study Stopped!

Washingtonians overwhelmingly supported the measure, but the Legislature has repeatedly attempted to undermine it. Taxi drivers and other fur bearers are protected from cruel traps and poisons under I-713. Washingtonians overwhelmingly supported this legal challenge to the constitutionality of I-713, dealing yet another blow to the commercial trapping lobby. Without a doubt, I-713 will also face a legislative attack next year. You can help by contacting your state legislators now and asking them to oppose any efforts to undermine or repeal I-713. If you need help identifying your legislators contact our office.

In January 2000, voters filed a critically important ballot initiative with the Washington Secretary of State. Initiative 713 (I-713) proposed to restrict the use of cruel and indiscriminate steel-jawed leghold traps and other body-gripping traps commonly used to kill animals for recreation or commerce in fur, as well as the use of two poisons used to kill predators.

For five months, thousands of volunteers gathered signatures to qualify I-713 for the ballot, and in November 2000, voters approved I-713 with a 55 percent majority vote. More than 1.3 million people made it clear that they did not want wildlife and pets victimized by cruel traps and poisons. It was a simple, sincere, and compassionate statement.

Yet immediately upon I-713’s passage, trappers took their opposition campaign to the state Legislature and, unbelievably, just one year after I-713 had passed, the state Senate voted to repeal the initiative in its entirety. An uproar from out of state and citizens helped to prevent the bill from being acted upon by the House of Representatives.

This year’s legislative session saw the same blatant disregard for the will of the voters when both the Senate and the House passed a bill that effectively repealed I-713. Fortunately, Gov. Gary Locke exhibited respect for the will of the people and vetoed the bill, leaving I-713 intact.

Soon after Locke vetoed the bill, the Washington Supreme Court rejected a legal challenge to the law and upheld the constitutionality of I-713, dealing yet another blow to the commercial trapping lobby. Without a doubt, I-713 will also face a legislative attack next year. You can help by contacting your state legislators now and asking them to oppose any efforts to undermine or repeal I-713. If you need help identifying your legislators contact our office.

I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative. Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency. Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS. Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

Promoting the protection of all animals
Making the Connection: Zero Tolerance for Animal Abuse

Last December, a 14-year-old Washington boy was sentenced to 42 weeks in a state juvenile prison for bludgeoning 15 young dairy calves as they slept in their pens. PNRO was pleased when the judge found "exceptional circumstances" to go beyond a normal sentence of approximately six months in jail. For neglecting 129 horses in their care, Wayne and Rebecca Nichols, from Central Oregon, were sentenced in June to six months in jail, fined $1,000 each, received five years probation, and will be prohibited from owning animals during that time. The horses suffered from malnutrition, worms, eye infections, and crippling overgrown hooves. They were found in small pens, some packed with 12 to 18 inches of manure.

PNRO tracks egregious animal cruelty cases in Washington and Oregon in an effort to ensure full prosecution of those who perpetrate violent crimes against animals. One of the key factors in any successful prosecution is the full cooperation of animal control and law enforcement agencies. PNRO is heartened by the increased dedication of such agencies in our region and many successful prosecutions.

In spite of increased success with prosecutions, we still have a long way to go in ensuring that animal abuse everywhere receives the attention and thorough response it deserves. It’s a sad fact that too often animal abuse cases go unreported and virtually ignored—especially in rural counties where animal control services are minimal or nonexistent.

Owners of this and 128 other neglected Oregon horses received jail time, fines, and probation for the crime.

This past winter, PNRO and Humane Society University presented a First Strike workshop in Portland, Oregon. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and Multnomah County Commissioner Lisa Naito. The HSUS First Strike campaign raises public awareness of the correlation between animal cruelty and violence toward people while providing resources to law enforcement agencies, social workers, educators, legislators, and families. The workshop covered cross-training and intervention strategies among multiple agencies, including animal control, law enforcement, district attorneys, and health and human services.

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Animal Care Expo 2004
March 10–13, 2004, Dallas, TX

Go to www.hsus2.org/sheltering/general/expo_information.html to learn more.

Measure 18 Prevails
Thanks to a massive grassroots effort, the latest in a long line of bills to repeal Measure 18—a voter approved initiative that banned bear baiting and hound hunting of bears and cougars—died in the Oregon Senate. Oregonians voted against allowing these unfair and unsporting practices in 1994 and again in 1996, when Measure 34 was defeated. However, since 1994, a handful of legislators have introduced nearly two dozen bills designed to weaken or repeal Measure 18. This session was no different. H.B. 2436—the latest attempt to repeal Measure 18—passed the House floor by a vote of 35 to 23, after a lengthy and heated debate.

Thankfully, the Oregon Senate has decided not to take action on H.B. 2436. At the end of the session, this bill was safely buried in the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Our tremendous gratitude is extended to Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Sen. Frank Shields for their steadfast, vocal opposition to this bill, which, in the end, slammed the door shut on the trophy hunters’ efforts.

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PNRO wishes to extend its appreciation to Rep. Lane Shetterly (R-23 Dallas) for his active involvement and support of both bills.