HSUS Investigates 64 Zoos

The Humane Society has completed an investigation of 64 municipal zoos throughout the United States and concluded that many of the smaller zoos are nothing more than ghettos for animals.

The investigation was the first phase of The Humane Society's expanded activities in the area of captivated animal problems.

Mrs. Sue Pressman, newly appointed exotic animal specialist for HSUS (see page 2), who conducted the investigation, has recommended that some of the zoos she investigated be closed unless they make major improvements.

"Instant money wouldn't solve the problems of these zoos," Mrs. Pressman declared. "They have no support from the politicians or the residents of the community. It will take major improvements to justify their existence."

Mrs. Pressman conducted the investigation by observing the physical condition of the zoos, talking with zoo managers and employees, inspecting animals, and finding out the practices for acquiring new animals and disposing of surplus ones.

She concluded that all municipal zoos, regardless of size or type of community, have one problem in common: they are hampered by local politics.

To become meaningful institutions, they need an outside spokesman to state their problems and fight for improvements, she said.

In addition, she discovered that almost all the zoos she visited were started by accident and have never developed adequate objectives, funding, or policies.

The Humane Society has written to each of the third class zoos investigated by Mrs. Pressman to notify them that HSUS believes drastic and immediate changes must be made and that HSUS will conduct another investigation within 6 months.

"We are very much concerned by the conditions in these zoos," said HSUS President John A. Hoyt. "We are willing to work with the governments and staffs responsible to make any improvements necessary. But we are convinced that they should not continue in operation in their present conditions."

Crammed, improvised quarters characterized a Rhode Island zoo in which Mrs. Pressman found glaring problems. She reported seeing a 500-pound tiger in a cage he could barely turn around in (see adjacent photo), a black bear sitting on a large wood box that was his only shelter to get away from the filth on the floor of the cage, and a timber wolf

(Continued on next page.)
“INSTANT MONEY WOULDN’T SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THESE ZOOS,” Mrs. Pressman declared. “They have no support from the politicians or the residents of the community. It will take major improvements to justify their existence.” A zoo 20 miles from Philadelphia illustrates her point.

ZOOS Continued

showing unnatural behavior in his cramped quarters.

“The conditions at that zoo are insult-
ing to all the people of Rhode Island,” she said.

Another problem zoo is located in a small community 20 miles from the excellent Philadelphia zoo.

“It has been many zoos and several weeks since I visited that zoo, but I am still haunted by the sight of a tiger I saw there,” Mrs. Pressman said in a recent interview. “There were cataracts on both eyes, and the eyes bulged in a way I have never seen before.”

“I believe very strongly that a zoo is only as good as its worst exhibit,” she said. “As long as any single animal is inadequately cared for, the zoo has a major problem.”

At the same zoo, she observed a bison bull living in what appeared to be a discarded shipping crate. Outdoor runs for the animals were no larger than a double bed, she reported.

Mrs. Pressman classified the majority of the zoos she visited as second class. They differ from the third class zoos primarily in that they have qualified directors and staff, including veterinarians. They are serving the community to an extent, but they are hampered by political policies and need outside assistance, she said.

Mrs. Pressman found the first class zoos in the larger cities. Most cater to civic pride, private educational programs, take good care of their animals, and are efficiently operated, she concluded.

The Humane Society does not believe in caging animals, but until a practical alternative is put into effect, it intends to work toward improving the condition of all caged animals, Hoyt said.

HSUS considers education and preservation the primary objectives of zoos, but Mrs. Pressman’s investigation revealed that entertainment is actually the primary objective of most zoos, with education a secondary aim.

“The day should be long gone when you go to a zoo and see an armadillo and laugh,” Mrs. Pressman said. “We should see the armadillo and every other creature for his value to our entire system of life.”

Sue Pressman Named To Exotic Animal Post

Mrs. Sue Pressman has been appointed a member of the HSUS Field Service Department, with special responsibility in the area of exotic and wild animals in captivity.

Mrs. Pressman has been administrator of the Wild Animal Hospital at the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston for the past six years. She had previously worked for the San Diego Zoo, where she was responsible for baby great apes and the animal nursery.

She received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Cornell University and a master’s degree in biology from the University of California.

She is a member of the American Association of Zoological Veterinarians.

Mrs. Pressman is well known in zoological circles and is a member of the advisory boards of the New England Aquarium and the Sea Mammal Motiva-
tional Institute of Florida.

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The Humane Society would like everyone who goes to a zoo to be able to go for an entirely different reason than they are accustomed to. At a good zoo, visitors should learn what role each animal plays in the cycle of nature—why it is necessary to other animals, to the environment, and to man.

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.

Counselor Burke, Chairman of the Board

John A. Hoyt, President

Karl Nordling, Editor

The Rodeo Controversy

Public controversy over treatment of rodeo animals has swelled in recent weeks as a result of The Humane Society’s campaign to stop current practices of tormenting rodeo stock.

The latest development is the introduction of a bill in the House of Representa-
tives to prohibit the interstate shipment of any animal for use in steer busting, calf roping, or steer wrestling at public rodeos.

Ryan Proposes Legislation

The legislation (H.R. 9027) was sponsored by Rep. William F. Ryan (D-N.Y.). It would also ban the buying, selling, and shipment of any bucking strap, electric prod, steer bell, or any other device used to make rodeo animals appear wild.

In introducing the bill, Congressman Ryan said, “The shocking fact is that in some rodeos animals are victimized by devices specifically used to inflict pain in order to give the public its money’s worth.

“Grueling cannot be condoned,” he said. “It is peculiarly unconscionable when it is inflicted upon animals solely for the purpose of providing entertainment for people.”

The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

FCC Considers Action

Meanwhile, the Federal Trade Commission declined to assume jurisdiction on the question of whether or not rodeos should be ordered to stop false and misleading advertising. HSUS is presently considering the feasibility of asking the Court of Appeals in Washington to require the FTC to act.

The Federal Communications Commission is still considering The Humane Society’s request that rodeo telecasts be prohibited unless the promoters inform the public of the devices and procedures used to make the animals appear wild.

Earlier in the summer, two members of the HSUS staff attended rodeos and found a broad difference in animal handling practices and information given to the audience.
Center’s Spay Clinic Competes
With the Euthanasia Room

The National Humane Education Center has spayed and neutered 2,467 cats and dogs in its animal shelter clinic in two years of operation.

The clinic was established to provide spaying and neutering at a subsidized rate for Washington area residents who could not afford standard veterinary rates. It also serves as a demonstration program for animal shelters throughout the nation.

“We are in competition with the euthanasia room, not the veterinarians,” emphasized Miss Phyllis Wright, director of the HSUS-sponsored center in Waterford, Va.

One-hour Vet Clinic Spaying fees are $15 for a cat and $20-$35 for a dog, depending on size and whether one or both sexes are to be neutered. Neutering charges are $5 for a cat and $15-$20 for a dog. No one is refused because of inability to pay.

The Center, which is about one-third the average standard veterinary fee in the Washington area, includes postoperative care.

The center’s cost is about 6½ above the fee for each operation, or approximately $12,000 a year. Miss Donna Truslow, assistant director of the center, points out that the $12,000 for prevention is far cheaper than the $60,000 it costs to feed, treat, and dispose of litter; dogs in its animal shelter offspring in the following year.

The HSUS has also engaged the services of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), by telecasting the bullfight via satellite from Spain, stating that the telecast was contrary to both public interest and federal statutes under its jurisdiction.

Along with your newsletter for May, you enclosed a list of bills in the New York State Assembly which you suggest New Yorkers write to support.

We most certainly hope that these bills are passed into law. However, we are disappointed that no mention was made of the bills in the New York State Legislative Council’s report in its housing (which would prohibit refusing housing to anyone because he has a pet).

I am sure you will agree that if the no-pet clause were abolished it would save much suffering to both people and pets.

Max Schnapp,
Director, Pet Owners Protective Assoc., Inc.
New York, N.Y.

President’s Perspective

New Occasions Teach New Duties

By John A. Hoyt

In 1866, the American poet James Russell Lowell wrote a poem entitled “The Present Crisis,” which contains a line that might well be adopted as the HSUS motto: “New occasions teach new duties; time makes ancient good uncouth.”

It is impossible to read the history of the HSUS or, indeed, the history of the entire humane movement, without immediately perceiving the relevance of this dictum. Many of you will remember that our society was born as a result of the insistence of a few concerned persons that the humane movement at that time was not adequately responding to the crisis of the day. With much courage and dedication, they insisted that there were numerous crises affecting the welfare of animals that were either disregarded or left unchallenged.

Thus, it was from its very inception in 1954 that The HSUS has attempted to be alert and responsive to these multitudinous crises, both old and new, which have subjected countless millions of animals to cruelty and suffering. Today, more than ever, the imperative to respond to those crises remains.

While it is clear that many of the old crises still exist—and are becoming yet more prevalent with renewed vigor and responsiveness, we have also engaged many new fronts in our determination to eradicate all forms of animal cruelty and abuse.

In the May issue of The News you read of the recent appointment of Mr. Hal Perry as wildlife representative to direct our wildlife policy projects being inflicted on the native wildlife of our country, particularly through the predacious activity of the federal government. Within this new dimension of activity we are also working to preserve all species still in existence and to help restore the balance of nature that man has so ignominiously violated.

In this issue of the News you will learn of our efforts to improve the deplorable conditions existing in many of the zoos across our land and to oppose the exploitation of exotic animals, under the leadership of Miss Sue Pomerance, and to be an effective force in the cause of relieving animal suffering and abuse.

We have also engaged the services of Dr. Lee Ford, a law student at the University of Notre Dame, as a legislative consultant. Dr. Ford is currently preparing two volumes for distribution by The HSUS codifying all animal welfare legislation existing in the 50 states. In addition, she is drafting model legislation covering a broad field of animal welfare topics.

On the educational front, staff of The HSUS and The National Humane Education Center have increased the frequency and attendance at seminars at Waterford, Va., and in other parts of the nation.

All these activities underscore the fact that your Society accepts the premise that new occasions do, indeed, teach new duties, and that it is impossible to accept the presumptions and conclusions of another age as sufficient to meet the challenges of today. There are new problems, new insights, and new commitments that cannot be ignored if we continue to envision the growth of our society and as an effective force in the cause of relieving animal suffering and abuse.

Toward this end, we are attempting an every level to upgrade the quality, effectiveness, and manner in which we fulfill this challenge. The newness of our expanded program and activities is but one aspect of that effort. The other lies in our image—our image, the new look of The News is symbolic of this effort.

Under the very able and creative leadership of Mr. Karl Nordling, director of publications and publicity, we have developed a new logo and format for our publications. It is hoped that our. new and renewed efforts on every front be signaled with this freshness of design and style.

For many years the HSUS have been the proud owners of a new home. For many years The HSUS has rented office space on the seventh floor of the Associations Building in Washington. Lacking visibility, and increasingly cramped by the addition of new staff and equipment, the necessity to seek expanded space became apparent. An unexpected and undeclared offer permitted us to purchase a particularly well-situated building. Situated at 1604 K St., N.W., three blocks from the White House, our new home will provide larger and more efficient office space, as well as visibility to thousands of residents and visitors to Washington. It will be possible to match the stature of The HSUS as the foremost national humane organization in the United States.

The building was just two years ago completely reconstructed and rechristened as offices and a club for business executives. A few months after it opened, the club was folded and the building, plus all equipment and furnishings, was offered for sale at a cost of under 50% of the original investment. We considered it an offer of the best good bargain, and the property represents a superb investment.

With a spirit of new determination and commitment, we invite each of you to join with us, the staff and directors of The HSUS, to undergird our commitment to the many new duties and challenges which have resulted from the many new occasions characterizing the world in which we live.
Legislative Roundup

Zoo Standards

Rep. G. William Whitehurst (R-Va.) has introduced legislation (H.R. 6080) to establish a National Zoological and Aquarium Corporation that would set standards for the voluntary accreditation of zoos, roadside aquariums, and aquariums.

The corporation would have the authority to provide technical assistance to zoos to bring them up to standards and to make grants and loans for modernization or construction of new facilities. It would also have the power to finance research and the training of professional staff.

The corporation would be managed by a board of 14 directors appointed by the President, including three representatives of national humane associations. Referred to Committee on Housing Administration.

Ban on Sealing Cliffs

H.R. 7240, Rep. Whitehurst—would prohibit killing seals by clubbing and other inhumane methods and ban importation of any skins obtained by inhumane methods or of species threatened by worldwide extinction.

The Humane Society believes the legislation would have the effect of forcing the U.S. government to quickly develop a humane method for killing seals in the Pribilof Islands and elsewhere.

House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Predator Control

H.R. 5673, Rep. Morris K. Udall (R-Ariz.)—to prohibit federal government from killing any predatory animals, substituting a program to compensate owners of domestic animals for any losses caused by predators.

House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

A companion bill, S. 2083, Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), Committee on Commerce.

Steel Jaw Traps

S. 2084, H.R. 8784, Sen. Bayh and Rep. William S. Broomfield (R-Mich.)—to ban the interstate shipment and importation of any fur or leather from animals trapped in a state or country in which manufacture, sale, or use of the steel jaw, or leghold, trap is not prohibited.

Senate Committee on Commerce, House Committee on Interior and Foreign Commerce.

Classroom Experiments

H.R. 9075, Rep. Jerome R. Walde (D-Calif.)—to require the National Science Foundation to withhold funds from any school district that permits live animals to be used for classroom surgery or other scientific experiments that involve cruelty or needless suffering.

Committee on Science and Astronautics.

Livestock Transportation

H.R. 9086, Rep. William L. Dickinson (R-Ala.)—to amend Livestock Transportation Act to require humane treatment of livestock being transported by trucks, as well as by trains.

Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Health Spa Keeps Tiger in Tank

HSUS Has Moved!

After 17 years of operation, The Humane Society has purchased a headquarters building, where its national office is now located. Please change your address and telephone records to:

1604 K St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 638-7330

HSUS Recommends

INNOCENT KILLERS, Hugo and Jane Van Lawick-Goodall (Houghton Mifflin, 1971, $10)

"More and more, field biologists who are willing to go and stay where the animals are, are giving us a new insight into animal behavior. They are learning things and imparting information to us that could never have been had through the study of captive animals.

A few years ago Jane Goodall provided us with a revealing in-depth portrait of the chimpanzee in his natural setting. She has now taken on less popular animals in a new study—she has also since married the photographer of her earlier exploits and is Mrs. Van Lawick-Goodall. Together with Hugo, who has given us a book called "Innocent Killers,"

It is a study of the African wild dog, the golden jackal and the spotted hyena.

Not one of these animals would be likely to win a popularity contest among average animal enthusiasts. They kill hardly, for they are not equipped to deliver the sudden death of a lion or a leopard. When they cannot find or steal carrion they must kill for themselves, and they do not do it the job neatly. They have thus earned a very bad reputation.

But, the hyena, the jackal and the hunting dog are legitimate members of the wild kingdom. They belong to an ecosystem, they are important to it, and they must be judged in that light and in no other. In word and most excellent pictures, Hugo and Jane Van Lawick-Goodall give us a new insight into these wild creatures and into the incredible world of African wildlife to which they belong. It is not only a book worth reading but a book worth owning. It does that most important of jobs—it enlightens us to entertain.

If you agree that it is not enough to love animals, that we must understand them, too, then "Innocent Killers," however harsh, is the book for you.

Roger Caras

WILDLIFE CRISIS, Prince Philip and James Fisher (Cowlitz, 1970, $14.95)

Excellent, enjoyable account of the trouble wildlife are in, with many excellent photographs.

MAN AND WILDLIFE, C.A.W. Guggisberg (Artos, $12.50)

A history of man’s involvement with animals, from earliest times to present day.


A chapter devoted to each of 40 animals, teetering on the brink of extinction, with drawings of each. A superb handbook for all conservationists and animal lovers.

Hoyt Attends Meeting Of World Federation

HSUS President John A. Hoyt participated in a meeting of the governing council of the World Federation for the Protection of Animals in Munich, Germany, in May.

Hoyt is a member of the council, as are HSUS Vice President Mel L. Morse and HSUS Director Oliver M. Erans, who were unable to attend.

During the meeting, it was announced that the first international agreement to protect the welfare of animals had been made last February. The historic action resulted in the European Convention for the Protection of Animals, prepared by the Council of Europe.

THE BEST NATURE WRITING OF JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH (Wm. Morrow & Co., $8.50)

An inspirational collection and a fitting tribute to the late naturalist writer.

ORDEAL OF THE ANIMALS, Mel Morse (Prentice-Hall, 1968, $5.95)

The best guide to animal cruelty problems in the United States by HSUS’s vice president. A must for all humanitarians.

HSUS Aids Arizona Wild Horses

HSUS’s Wildlife Representative Hal Perry photographed one of the eight herds of wild horses living on the Gila River Indian Reservation southeast of Phoenix while exploring means of providing water for the 66 horses living there. Lack of water causes the horses to seek irrigated water, where they are in danger of being shot or hit by cars. The tribal council has given HSUS permission to develop a refuge for the horses on the reservation.
Be a Zoo Investigator This Summer

Here's a special summer project for you and your family: help The Humane Society evaluate zoos.

Take the survey form below with you on your vacation trip, or use it at your own hometown zoo. Consider each of the questions carefully before answering it, because the answers will determine the type of help HSUS will offer to the zoos.

Children, especially, will enjoy participating in this project.

When you're finished with the survey, send it to HSUS.

1. Are all the animals clean?

2. Are all their cages clean?

3. Do all the animals have enough room to exercise?

4. Do they have a good place to sleep?

5. Do they have things to do (such as things to play with, something to scratch on)?

6. When two or more animals are housed together, is there someplace where one animal can hide from the others for a while?

7. Are there educational programs at the zoo, such as information about the animals' habits or films or lectures?

8. Find the oldest and least interesting exhibit. How bad is it?

Ask someone at the zoo how they plan to improve it. Do the plans satisfy you?

9. Are the keepers well informed about the animals?

10. Do the keepers seem to be friends with the animals?

Name and address:

Name and Location of Zoo:

The Humane Society of the United States
1604 K St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

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