News All Bad For the Seals

This has been a bad spring for seals. Just as it appeared that headway was being made in protecting seals, two major setbacks occurred:

- The Canadian government permitted 150,000 seals to be taken by hunters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the coastal area of Labrador.
- Several nations announced their intention to participate in an agreement that would open the Antarctic to sealing for the first time in history.

Contrary to Announcement

The action by the Canadian government followed an earlier governmental announcement that it was banning the taking of seals in 1972 except by “landsmen.” But humanitarians’ initial elation dissolved when they learned that the government considered fishing vessels under 65 feet to fall under the definition of landsmen.

The Canadian government is now promising to phase out the St. Lawrence hunt by 1974, to be followed by a six-year moratorium on seal killing. The 150,000 seals permitted to be taken this year by landsmen is a decrease of 75,000 from last year’s hunt.

Phase-out Considered

The phase-out is now being considered by the Standing Committee on Fisheries of the Canadian Parliament. Concerned individuals are encouraged to make their views known to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at Government House, Ottawa, Ontario 1.

The prospect of opening the Antarctic to sealing developed during an international convention in London earlier this year, at which participating nations, including the United States, agreed to permit the taking of 192,000 seals a year.

Although the U.S. Congress must

(Continued on page 5.)

WFPA Head to Open HSUS Conference

The 1972 HSUS Annual Conference will feature presentations by the director of the World Federation for the Protection of Animals, the administrator of the Rocky Mountain-Prairie Region of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an authority on humane education, and a veterinarian concerned with humane problems.

The conference will be held in Salt Lake City from Oct. 20 through 22. Sessions are open to all interested persons.

Opening the conference on Friday morning, Oct. 20, will be Tony Carding, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., director of the World Federation for the Protection of Animals, of which HSUS is a member. Carding, who is a veterinarian, will talk about the variety of WFPA’s animal concerns throughout the world.

(Continued on next page.)
The concerns of national organizations that have been monitoring the predator control program center on two possibilities:

- That the states will drastically step up their killing of coyotes by trapping, hunting, and killing pups in their dens; and
- That the Secretary of the Interior will use the broadest interpretation of the term “emergency” to justify the reintroduction of poisons.

The Humane Society of the United States is fearful that states will also call upon two particularly inhumane methods, hunting by greyhounds and shooting from aircraft. HSUS has learned that Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Idaho have already begun issuing permits to private landowners to kill predators from planes.

Furthermore, governmental spokesmen have indicated they are planning to return to the use of poisons.

Your Zoo Needs You

If you’re unhappy with the conditions at your municipal zoo, help change them. HSUS urges you to:

Join the Zoological Society or Friends of the Zoo. You’ll learn what is already being done and have a voice in hastening changes.

If there isn’t such a group, perhaps there should be one. Talk with the zoo director or city officials to learn if they would be amenable to your forming a supportive organization.

Find out what governmental body holds the purse strings for the zoo. How are its members chosen? If citizens are represented, express your interest in being appointed, or recommend someone earlier in the process to the mayor and city council.

You may find that all decisions concerning your zoo are made behind closed doors. Undertake a project to make these meetings public and to give citizens an opportunity to participate in decision making.

Fund Raising Aid

HSUS has published a new edition of Fund Raising Ideas for Humane Societies. It is printed a new edition of Fund Raising Ideas for Humane Societies. It is available at $2.50 per copy from the HSUS Washington office.

The Presidential order was followed on March 10 by an order from the Environmental Protection Agency to halt the interstate shipment and recall pesticides being used for predator control.

The action had been requested last August by a coalition of seven groups: the Natural Resources Defense Council, HSUS, the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, the World Wildlife Fund, and the New York Zoological Society.

Seals

The bill as passed not only protects some marine mammals but protects the tuna industry as well, by exempting it from compliance with the measure. dolphins. The most intelligent of all marine mammals, travel with schools of yellow fin tuna and are being killed in large numbers during purse seine tuna fishing operations.

HSUS objects to a provision in the bill that gives the Department of Commerce partial jurisdiction over the taking of marine mammals, because Commerce has traditionally defended commercial interests. The Senate Committee on Commerce has revised the House bill in such a way that appears to protect marine mammals but in reality poses an even more serious threat to them than the House bill.

Seals Continued

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label the steel jaw (or leghold) trap "humane," although there is an abundance of evidence to the contrary. The Humane Society feels widespread use of the steel jaw trap will be no better than use of poisons.

HSUS sees the state fish and game commissions, which would have control of the proposed state programs, as being primarily representative of sheep ranchers. No improvement in control methods can be expected from those commissions as they are now constituted, the society contends.

The Humane Society and other groups are calling on the Congress to restrict control methods to non-lethal ones, such as tranquilizers, repellants, reproductive inhibitors, sound and light, and aversive agents.

In recent testimony before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, HSUS General Counsel Murdough Stuart Marden urged the ban on poisoning broadened to prohibit the Cain Committee as a substitute for killing predators.

However, the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, which is holding the hearings, has shown little interest in the Uddal bill. On the contrary, subcommittee members have talked of beefing up the appropriation for the states from $6 million to $10 million.

The fact that 11 of the 20 subcommittee members are from five states that have traditionally backed predator control activities gives little encouragement to individual states and groups working to save American wildlife from needless and agonizing destruction.

The Humane Society endorses a recent recommendation of the Cain Committee to establish an insurance program providing financial reimbursement to sheep ranchers for proved losses to coyotes as an alternative to major killing programs.

Seals Continued

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While establishing a 15-year moratorium on the taking of marine mammals, the bill has so many exemptions that it is meaningless. Among the exemptions are the Pribilof Island seal hunt and “persons who are members of a class found by the Secretary of the Commerce) to have common needs requiring them to take marine mammals.”
Loophole Discovered In Aerial Klling Ban

The cruelty that steel jaw traps inflict on their victims was dramatically demonstrated in suburban Washington, D.C., recently when a pet German Shepherd was severely maimed after being trapped in one.

Hobo, a 65-lb. male German Shepherd, had been trapped for two to three days when discovered in a remote area of Reston, Va. He had apparently caught one foot in a trap that was secured under water with a cinderblock and caught a second foot in another trap as he was fighting to get free.

As a result, one hind leg had to be amputated at the joint, and the paw of the other hind leg had to be amputated, as well.

An area resident admitted setting the traps two months before to catch muskrats. The Humane Society of the United States and the Fairfax County (Va.) Animal Welfare League have charged him with cruelty, failure to check his traps every 24 hours, setting traps where injurious to children and pets, and other violations of state or county laws.

HSUS Investigator Guy Hodge is assisting Fairfax County officials in the prosecution of the case in hopes of creating a national precedent to restrict the use of the steel jaw (or leghold) trap.

Meanwhile, Hobo was fighting infection that resulted from his injuries. His veterinarian said he was doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances and hoped the care being given him by his owners would prevent the need for further surgery.

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Pet Dog Learns Cruelty Of Steel Jaw Traps

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A loophole as large as the sky has emerged in the recently enacted legislation to ban the shooting of wildlife from aircraft.

President Nixon had barely signed P.L. 92-159 last December before taking advantage of a provision that aerial shooting could be conducted if authorized by a permit either by the U.S. or a state government.

The original intent of the provision was to permit the use of aerial shooting when necessary as part of legitimate wildlife control. But HSUS has learned that Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Idaho are using the provision as blanket authorization for continuing the aerial killing of any animal that can be labeled a predator.

In South Dakota, for instance, some 20,000 red foxes were killed this winter by pilots who sold the pelts to furriers. There was no indication that the foxes fell in an effort to control damage to wild life.

Government officials point out that the legislation does not provide authority for any branch of the government to initiate judicial action against either states or individuals. To close the loophole, the Senate attached an amendment to the Bald Eagle Protection Act (H.R. 12181) providing enforcement authority.

The House passed the act and sent it to the Senate, where it has lain dormant in the Senate Committee on Commerce, of which Sen. Ernest Hollings (D.S.C.) is chairman.

HSUS is very concerned about this situation and is eager to see legislation passed to close the loophole.

Animal Bibliography

HSUS has published a bibliographic study of animal rights, their protection and defense, for teachers, librarians, and humane workers. Books, pamphlets, periodicals, and films have been graded for acceptability according to their recognition of each living creature as a unique representative of life with the right to live undisturbed.

Copies are available at $2 each, postpaid, from HSUS, 1604 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

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Council

Working Toward Humane Slaughter
By John A. Hoyt

Several months ago, representatives of The HSUS met with a group of other persons in an attempt to formulate a concerted handling of animals prior to slaughter. Even though the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958 greatly reduced this kind of cruelty, approximately 50 million cattle, calves, sheep, and swine annually are not covered by this act. It was for the purposes of attempting to improve humane handling and treatment of these 50 million animals that this concerted effort was engaged.

After several meetings and much spirited debate, the Council for Livestock Protection was born. Though this Council is not the official arm or voice of any humane society, its governing board includes several persons personally associated with the major humane groups in America. It is through the work and efforts of this Council that your Society is seeking to meet the problems surrounding the care, handling, and slaughtering of live-stock animals.

Under the capable leadership of Mr. John Maccharles, formerly of the Massachusetts SPCA, the Council has now officially launched its program and activities. While the Council is primarily concerned with researching a better method of handling livestock immediately prior to slaughter (to obviate the present system of shackling and hoisting them off the floor while they are fully conscious), it is also determined to search out better methods of loading and unloading livestock and better methods of transporting them from farm to market.

The programs of the Council will provoke both research and education. It will take research to develop handling or restraining equipment or methods that can replace present cruel methods. It will take education to bring to our citizens to this realization that not only is it cruel and wrong to permit livestock to be subjected to pre-slaughter barbarities, but we are closing our eyes to many other cruelties to which they are being subjected from birth to death.

The first major project launched by the Council is a study to be conducted by the University of New York to establish criteria for humane handling of small animals prior to and at slaughter, as well as to determine methods and techniques for conveying, positioning, and dispatching small animals at slaughter. It is hoped that this study will result in the development of equipment that will be readily adopted by slaughtering houses throughout the United States and provide an answer to those who are by shackling and hoisting, which will be acceptable for ritual slaughter. If these objectives are realized, over $35,000 will have been achieved in preventing unendurable suffering to millions of animals.

The Board of Directors of The HSUS and your president enthusiastically endorse and support the program of this Council. To date, we have contributed over $35,000 toward its work and program, and are pledged to contribute additional funds. I personally urge you to help support this effort, either through your contributions to The HSUS or through contributions sent directly to the Council. Either way, your gift is tax deductible.


Purdue Vet Students Hear About Surplus
Miss Phyllis Wright, executive director of the National Humane Education Center, recently spoke to 130 junior and senior veterinary medical students at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., about the problem of surplus cats and dogs.

Miss Wright reported the majority of the students were not aware of the immensity of the problem and expressed considerable interest in helping to solve the problem.

"It was so encouraged by the students," she said, "that she is planning to get in touch with other veterinary schools in an attempt to talk to their students as well.

One aspect of the surplus breeding problem is that the 25,000 practicing veterinarians have little time to assist local humane groups in low-cost spaying and neutering programs.

USDA Enforces Law For Walking Horses
HSUS officials were pleased with the strict enforcement of federal regulations for the protection of the Tennessee Walking Horse at the first Tennessee Walking Horse show since the regulations were published.

HSUS Chief Investigator Frank J. McSwain and HSUS Field Investigator Hal Perry attended the show in Phoenix earlier this year and reported that only 3 of the 12 walks entered were allowed to be shown by U.S. Department of Agriculture officials.

The Horse Protection Act of 1970 outlawed the use of blistering agents, burns, cuts, chemical agents, chains, tacks, and other cruel or inhumane agents used in the handling and training of horses.

Both McSwain and Mrs. Pearl Twiney, president of the American Horse Protection Association, praised Agriculture officials for their close adherence to the regulations.

HSUS and the American Horse Protection Association, both of which worked for passing the law, hope to observe future horse shows to see that Agriculture continues to enforce the regulations.

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Disappearing Wildlife
Field Representative Guy Hodge testified in behalf of HSUS recently at hearings on proposals for protecting endangered species, held by the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. To emphasize the need for strong measures to protect species from extinction, Hodge gave the following examples:

Predatory mammals have made themselves a popular target for eradication by occasionally attacking domestic stock and game animals. The red wolf was once common in the southwestern United States, its range extended north to Illinois and East to the Atlantic Coast. Now the bulk of the population, approximately 200 animals, are found in the southern part of the state and a few isolated packs are scattered throughout Louisiana.

The puma, or mountain lion as it is more commonly known, was once the most widespread and successful of North American carnivores. These cats were so successful they caused a scarcity in the form of bounty for puma sarsasses. Pursued with vigor this animal was removed from most of its natural range. The last remaining stronghold of pumas is the Everglades National Park where 400 of these creatures reside protected by law.

The mountain lion has not been so fortunate. Since the 1920s, this animal was thought extinct in 1911; however, a small population was later rediscovered. Today, a colony of 900 exists near Monterey, Calif.

The 19th century saw the demise of many valuable species, among them the Southern Sea Otter. This animal was thought extinct in 1911; however, a small population was later rediscovered. Today, a colony of 900 exists near Monterey, Calif.

“Meetling Animal Friends,” HSUS’s new teaching unit for kindergarten through third grade, is now available.

The unit features a teacher’s lesson manual, “Meetling Animal Friends,” by Baker Montgomeri, and individual coloring sheets drawn by Hope Sawyer Bayukmohi. The lesson unit is now available for $1.50 per unit, postpaid.

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**CONFERENCE Continued**

John A. Green was physical science administrator for the Federal Water Quality Administration Office of Management before becoming a regional director for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Stuart Westerlund, Ph.D., is head of the Department of Graduate Studies in Education at the University of Tulsa. He has just been appointed HSUS educational director to develop a long-range plan for a national humane education program for HSUS.

Robert C. Bay, D.V.M., is a member of the Department of Anatomy at Colorado State University, Ft. Collins. He will talk about some of the concerns and projects that are being undertaken by the HSUS Veterinary Advisory Committee, of which he is chairman.

Further details of the conference, including registration fee and procedures, will be announced in the July News.

**Joe the Bear Still Caged**

Joe the Bear is still the key attraction at Ray Alexander's bar and grill outside Clover, S.C., in spite of HSUS's attempts to get him removed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has enforcement responsibility for the new federal regulations governing animal exhibitions, has declared Joe's recently enlarged quarters satisfactory. HSUS disagrees and is attempting to persuade Dr. C. O. Finch, senior staff veterinarian, Animal Care Staff, Animal and Plant Health Service, USDA, to order a removal of Joe to a more suitable environment. Dr. Finch's address is Federal Center Bldg., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Have you provided for the animals in your will? HSUS would be happy to send information on why everyone should have a will and how to write one.

**ANIMAL KINDNESS COLORING BOOK**

Children will love the full-page drawings of domestic and wild animals with accompanying comments on each animal's needs and traits.

64 pages for $1, postpaid

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