NOTES ON THE FEBRUARY "SPECIAL REPORT ON ABUSES IN THE PET INDUSTRY"

HSUS President, John A. Hoyt, wrote to the President of the American Kennel Club urging that the AKC deny applications for papers for all dogs bred and whelped at "puppy mills."

Mr. Lafore replied graciously but in a negative manner. He states, "I asked the American Kennel Club's counsel to render an opinion based on the suggestions outlined in your letter that the AKC deny registration service to so-called puppy mills. Our counsel has now advised me that denial of our registrations facilities to any segment of the public would involve serious problems of possible violation of the Anti-Trust Law."

Mr. Lafore also stated AKC is concerned about the matter and on a more hopeful note said, "The enforcement of our rules will not in itself eliminate the problems associated with the overpopulation of dogs, but with the exchange of information between our organizations, and such joint educational ventures as the National Conference on the Ecology of Surplus Dogs and Cats, to be held in May, we should be able to make positive inroads."

MORE ON THE SPECIAL REPORT

Our special report on the pet industry has caused some shaking of heads in very high places. A member of a public relations firm representing Puppy Palace paid an unannounced call on Frank McMahon to discuss improving the image of Puppy Palace.

Even more important, the largest pet chain, Docktor's, has contacted John Hoyt to arrange a meeting between their representatives and HSUS staff personnel on April 25, 1974.

Don't think we're approving of petshops -- we're not. Hopefully, however, with cooperation some of the major cruelties and abuses may be corrected.
SACRAMENTO SURVEY

Mike Smith of the West Coast Regional Office has completed an extensive study of the Sacramento SPCA and the municipal animal control program in that city. Mike presented his completed report to the President of the SPCA with detailed recommendations. The recommendations, too lengthy to go into here, included identification of animals, housing conditions, sanitation, preventive disease control and many others.

One paragraph of Mike's report is well worth quoting. It reads, "I feel that it is time for the SPCA to decide just what its operating philosophy will be in the coming months and years. Is its prime function to protect animals from cruelty and suffering, or is it to protect animals from death, even if that death is by means of the society's self-chosen method of humane animal euthanasia? Present policy of keeping a full house, is very effective in that it offers potential customers a wide selection of merchandise. However, it is my opinion that a humane society should not cater to potential customers or a seasonal market for one type or another of dog, but should operate always with the best interest of the animals in mind. Inasmuch as the SPCA has assumed the obligation of being responsible for homeless and unwanted pets, the Society must make a decision as to what is best for each and every animal that enters its shelter."

Right on, Mike!

EUTHANASIA

In February HSUS published a mimeographed report entitled A REPORT ON THE RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY OF SODIUM PENTOBARBITAL, and copies were sent to the regional offices.

We have had some requests for information concerning a euthanasia solution marketed as T-61. This substance was marketed in the early 1960's but distribution was terminated because T-61 was financially non-competitive with barbituate acid solutions which, at that time, were unrestricted.

At the urging of The HSUS, in the summer of 1973, National Laboratories Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri, initiated a marketing review of T-61 Euthanasia Solution. We have been informed that it is to be marketed but not until June 1974. The solution will qualify as an unregulated compound.

HSUS veterinary advisors have been unable to obtain T-61 in sufficient quantities to conduct conclusive evaluations of the humane effects of T-61. Therefore, its use should not be recommended at this time. Testing is being conducted at the University of Ottawa Medical School and we will advise you fully when the final results are in.
HSUS PARTICIPATES IN CONFERENCE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL PROFESSIONALS

A national Conference for Animal Control Professionals was held March 1 and 2, 1974, at Wayne State University in Detroit. Dr. Robert Bay of The HSUS Veterinary Advisory Board took an active part in the conference as a member of the faculty. Dr. Bay, Dr. Edward and Dr. Hummer presided over the opening general session and with other veterinarians conducted the open discussion and "Wrap up and Evaluation" of the conference. He also conducted a workshop on kennel management.

Other subjects discussed were surgical and chemical population control, preventive medicine, public education, facility information, handling and capture of animals, and euthanasia.

We are sure Bob will have useful information to present at our next conference.

ON RITUAL SLAUGHTER

In a recent letter John C. Macfarlane, Executive Director of the Council For Livestock Protection, Inc., explained some of the objections to ritual slaughter. A portion of his letter reads:

"It is only the pre-slaughter handling to which this Council objects.

"When cattle are slaughtered, the Shohet, who is a highly skilled worker, generally uses a 16" knife which is called a Chalaf. The knives he uses must meet definite and very rigid specifications as to their sharpness and the quality of their steel. A 12" knife is used for calves, sheep, and lambs; and a 10" blade is usually used for poultry.

"At the moment that the Shohet cuts the throat, the knife goes half way through the neck. This stroke severs the jugular vein and other large blood vessels along with the gullet and the windpipe and assures the very quickest and most complete bleeding.

"From the instant that the throat cut is made, it takes less than 4 seconds before there is a complete ischemia of the brain so that there is no possibility of that animal sensing pain.

"It is because those who follow the dietary laws of the Jewish faith are being forced to slaughter animals after they have been consciously shackled and hoisted that this Council is deeply involved in a research project which, when successfully concluded, will obviate the need to hoist animals while they are fully conscious. It is this pre-slaughter handling practice that we find extremely objectionable." (emphasis added)
FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING

Char Drennon of the West Coast Regional Office reports that Santa Barbara received 6.6 million as their share of the Federal Revenue Sharing plan. The Santa Barbara Humane Society and the county animal control agency put together a plan of how much a new animal control facility would cost. Approximately $350,000, they estimated. Together they managed to convince county officials to appropriate $280,000 from their 6.6 million toward the new animal facility.

The Federal Revenue Sharing program is a complex system of distributing money but, once allocated, there are no strings attached; the money can be used for any program. Again in California, the City of Sacramento has allocated $40,000 of its funds for pound control.

Let's keep this in mind when talking to city and state officials who claim they just don't have the money to spend on the old dog pound.

NEW FILM AVAILABLE

Although we have not viewed it yet, John Dommers tells us there is an 18 minute motion picture dramatizing the plight of endangered animals available.

The film "We Call Them Brother" is produced by the Eastman Kodak Company and can be obtained free by writing to Department 396, Audio-Visual Library, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York 14650.

The film supposedly can be used by schools, libraries, civic organizations and other groups. It tells how birds, mammals, reptiles and others stage a constant fight for survival. The film shows "islands of survival" which have been created in zoological gardens, wild animal parks, game reserves, and in national parks around the world. It is narrated by James Stewart.

It sounds good but, as I stated, we have not reviewed the film and, if you order it, be certain to observe the references to "game reserves" to be sure the sequences are those we would approve of.

JOHN HOYT BLASTS WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADVISORY BOARD

The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recently met here in Washington, D.C. In addressing the Committee, John Hoyt reviewed the Howe, Idaho wild-horse round-up and the lack of action taken by the Board. As just a few points he listed the following:

1. Apparently, only oral permission was given by federal officials to the ranchers to conduct the round-up even though written permission is required by the Department of the Interior's own directive.

2. No grazing permits had ever been issued for these animals.
3. No valid proof of ownership was ever submitted.

4. Snowmobiles and helicopters were apparently used in the round-up.

He also informed the Board that Frantz Dantzler had been approached "to supervise" another scheduled round-up which has now been cancelled, not because of government intervention or action by the Wild Horse Board, but because the horses have moved to high ground and the round-up is now impossible.

The real shocker to the Wild Horse Board came when John Hoyt stated, "If this appalling situation cannot be brought under control, I would strongly suggest that this Board cease to exist. As currently operating, it appears to be little more than a front for bureaucratic deception and maneuvering."

A ROUND LOST IN THE PREDATOR FIGHT

As you already know from our March News, HSUS filed suit in federal district court to halt a coyote poisoning program authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. HSUS's main target was the EPA decision to permit ranchers in 44 Texas counties to use the M-44, a mechanical "coyote getter" filled with sodium cyanide for coyote control. In the course of investigation we discovered (with good help from Gulf States' Doug Scott and Bernie Weller) that the State of Texas had instituted, without knowledge of the federal government, a statewide poisoning program covering 210 counties.

HSUS's original complaint was filed for a declaratory judgement and injunction. After obtaining a temporary restraining order that was to expire on March 29, the Society filed motion for a preliminary injunction. We are sorry to report that the court ruled against this motion and the Texas counties in question are free, therefore, to continue use of the M-44.

This, of course, is just one round in a fight to protect predators that began about three years ago. The court in this case did not rule on the merits of the case but simply rendered a verdict to balance the equitable interests of the parties involved. Without a ruling on its merits, the case may be considered still pending and could, therefore, come to full trial sometime in the distant future.

EARTH WEEK--1974

Please be advised that Earth Week 1974 will be the week of April 21-27. If you are questioned about Earth Week 1974, we have compiled a packet of materials which will be mailed from here.
You can also direct inquiries to John J. Dommers, Director of Education, Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center, Post Office Box 98, East Haddam, Connecticut 06423.

John has also prepared a package of educational materials on ecology, wildlife, and other subjects pertaining to Earth Week 1974 which he will mail from the Norma Terris Humane Education.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Pat Parkes consistently states that what we need in our work and efforts is more imagination. Dixie disagrees -- she says enough imagination already goes into the expense accounts.

See you next month.

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