Last November, The HSUS helped to pass a ballot initiative in Colorado which banned the use of dogs and bait in the hunting of bears, and ended the spring bear hunt. The measure passed by an inspiring 70 percent margin. Many Colorado hunters supported the initiative, saying it was unsporting to hunt bears with hounds outfitted with radio telemetry collars. Incredibly, this method of hunting is still allowed in California!

For those unfamiliar with how this “sport” is conducted, consider the following. A bunch of bear-hunting buddies releases a pack of hounds wearing telemetry collars to locate and chase a black bear through the woods, sometimes for hours. The collar emits a “beep” sent to a receiver that allows the hunters to sit in their truck and follow the chase. The exhausted bear eventually climbs a tree to escape the dogs. Hiding in the refuge, it is shot and killed by the “sportsmen” once they arrive on the scene.

Frequently, a bear will turn to fight the pursuing dogs—resulting in severe injuries or death to the dogs.

Earlier this year, Senator Nick Petris introduced SB 67, which would outlaw the use of dogs in hunting bears. The HSUS and other groups strongly support this bill. Even California Department of Fish and Game Director Boyd Gibbon has stated publicly that while he is a hunter, he opposes such unsportsmanlike events. SB 67 has come up against intense pressure from the NRA and other pro-hunting groups. After two attempts to pass the Senate Natural Resources Committee, SB 67 was made into a two-year bill. It could be heard as soon as January, but there are no plans to bring it back at this time.

HSUS members who are interested in banning the use of dogs to hunt bears should send a card (with their address) to the WCRO asking to receive special legislative updates on this issue. To receive a fact sheet on bear hunting in California, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: BEAR FACT SHEET, HSUS/WCRO, P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220.

Photograph by Craig M. Eberhardt

- EGG-stra Good News For Laying Hens and Consumers
- Animal Sacrifice Ordinance Cut Down by U.S. Supreme Court
- Fast Pace For WCRO Staff
- Year of the Cat Seminar
- San Diego is Site for Animal Care EXPO ‘94

Another Chance For Yogi

In August 1992, The HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office (GLRO) and the Wood County Sheriff’s Office in Bowling Green, Ohio, rescued a one-and-a-half-year-old, two-hundred-pound American black bear from a miserable existence. The bear, named Yogi, had been purchased as a pet from one of the many exotic animal auctions in the midwest. He had spent that summer chained to a junked automobile without protection from the sun. Yogi’s diet consisted of mostly surplus baked goods, and it was reported that he was frequently given whiskey and beer.

After receiving complaints from witnesses, the GLRO worked with local law enforcement officers and succeeded in getting Yogi confiscated. Yogi’s owner, who was charged with three counts of animal cruelty, accepted a conviction on one count in a pretrial settlement ensuring Yogi would never be returned to him. A ninety-day jail sentence and $500 fine were suspended, subject to the terms of a strict four-year probationary period.

The next difficult task facing GLRO staff was where to place Yogi. Their search continued on page 2.
Yogi
continued from page 1

DIRECTOR’S COMMENT
by Charlene Drennon

Year of the Cat Seminar
On June 18, 1993, 200 people attended our Year of the Cat Seminar in Sacramento, California. According to audience written evaluations, it was a great success. The meeting was kicked off with a rousing keynote, “A Cat Is Not A Dog!” by Dr. Randy Lockwood HSUS Vice President of Educational Initiatives. The main thrust of the day was to address three major cat issues. Becky Robinson of Alley Cat Allies debated the value of maintaining feral cat colonies. Opposing her was Dr. Dale Brooks of UC Davis. The early spay/neuter segment by Dr. John Hamil, President of the California Veterinary Medical Association was the hit of the meeting. Dan Morrison, California Animal Control Directors Association and Ed Cubela, Los Angeles SPCA, described how their agencies have been spaying and neutering dogs and cats as young as 8 weeks. With the use of early spay/neuter operations agencies need not allow puppies and kittens to leave their agency unneutered, thereby preventing many unwanted litters.

Before he was rescued by The HSUS, Yogi lived a miserable existence chained to a junked car. was answered by the WCRO and Dave Stidson’s Wildlife Images, a wildlife rehabilitation facility in Grants Pass, Oregon. The non-profit Wildlife Images also serves as a sanctuary for some wild animals that, like Yogi, can never be released back to the wild. Yogi had been declared by his earlier owners so his fate was either euthanasia or a place where there was no chance of his being resold to someone with less than humane motives. Cases involving seized wildlife that have been kept as pets usually do not have happy endings.

In May, WCRO investigators Kurt Lapham and Eric Sakach took delivery of Yogi at San Francisco International Airport. Peninsula Humane Society’s wildlife director Saadi Sadler examined Yogi before declaring him fit to take the trip by truck to his new home in Oregon, where he now resides with several other black bears under Stidson’s watchful eye.

Animal Sacrifice Ordinance Cut Down by Supreme Court

The United States Supreme Court came down with a decision in the “Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc., et al. v. City of Hialeah, Florida” which we found astounding. Although the collection, display and sacrifice is a protected religious practice.

The HSUS has long been involved in the fight against animal sacrifice. The HSUS testified and provided supporting briefs in the original case as well as in the appellate case. Currently, a religious sect of Catholicism and ancient tribal religious ceremonies, involving sacrificing animals during religious ceremonies.

Following passage of the Florida ordinance, the WCRO was involved in similar ordinances still in effect in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Since the Supreme Court opinion was narrowly drawn, it is not clear whether these two ordinances would be affected.

Meanwhile, The HSUS has offered its help in writing a new ordinance in Florida, which could be found constitutionally sound.

According to Justice Blackman’s opinion, this ruling should not stop the State of Florida from moving forward. The HSUS, Hialeah General Counsel for The HSUS said, “The ruling invites regulation. There are a number of ways to approach regulation of this practice with general state and federal legislation.”

This procedure has been in use several places for up to 18 years. However, it wasn’t until the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) addressed this issue in 1992 and early 1993, that the practice of cutting down animals to flourish. The CVMA and The HSUS have endorsed early spay/neuter as another way to keep animals from unnecessarily breeding and being killed when there are no homes.

Cat rabies inoculation and licensing were explained by Dr. Larry Barrett of the California State Health Department and Dr. Bruno Chomel, UC Davis. Most animal control and humane society shelters handle more cats than dogs. A recent California survey on animal control reported that, due to lack of identification, only 1% of cats were redeemed by their owners, whereas, 50-60% of dogs were redeemed.

Our office has been receiving calls from animal control agencies in California that indicate some may stop handling cats since their budgets have been slashed. State law doesn’t mandate impoundment or licensing, therefore cats fall through the cracks.

All of us who want to see cats given the care and respect they deserve will continue to address these issues.

EGG-stra Good News For Laying Hens and Consumers

Until recently, approximately 98 percent of all eggs produced in the U.S. and virtually all eggs sold in supermarkets came from hens crowded together in wire “battery” cages. These hens spend their entire adult lives of up to two years con­ fined in cages so small they cannot even spread their wings, scratch for food, preen, or escape from more aggressive cage­ mates. Hens confined in this manner also suffer from bone problems due to a complete lack of exercise, and damage to their feet and feathers from the wire cages. There is nothing natural about confining hens in such a manner. It is done strictly to obtain the greatest number of eggs from the smallest number of birds with all the convenience for the producer and little or no consideration for the hens’ social and behavioral requirements.

Getting the most for the least may be a bad deal. Hens that are able to scratch, dust bathe, lay their eggs in nests, exercise, and even fly. And these eggs cost only pennies more than eggs from battery-caged hens. Safeway Stores already stock these eggs in its San Francisco locations and in 70 stores along the front range of Colorado. More farmers would like to be able to raise birds this way, but they need help letting supermarkets know that consumers care. This will give consumers a voice in how laying hens are treated and will allow other farmers to begin producing eggs more humanely.

Whether you live in the San Francisco Bay area or not, you can help by letting your grocer know that you want eggs from uncaged hens carried in your local supermarket, and by thanking them if they already do. Do the same with your local bakery and favorite restaurants. And please let us know if your local grocer or other food establishments stock or use eggs from uncaged hens. To receive our special action packet which describes how you can start an egg effort in your community, write to: EGGs, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Most hens spend their entire lives crowded in “battery” cages so small they can’t spread their wings. Consumers can help spread the message that it doesn’t have to be this way.

In response to the increasing demand, a growing list of supermarkets are now selling eggs that come from uncaged hens. Hens that are able to scratch, dust bathe, lay their eggs in nests, exercise, and even fly. And these eggs cost only pennies more than eggs from battery-caged hens. Safeway Stores already stock these eggs in its San Francisco locations and in 70 stores along the front range of Colorado. More farmers would like to be able to raise birds this way, but they need help letting supermarkets know that consumers care. This will give consumers a voice in how laying hens are treated and will allow other farmers to begin producing eggs more humanely.

Whether you live in the San Francisco Bay area or not, you can help by letting your grocer know that you want eggs from uncaged hens carried in your local supermarket, and by thanking them if they already do. Do the same with your local bakery and favorite restaurants. And please let us know if your local grocer or other food establishments stock or use eggs from uncaged hens. To receive our special action packet which describes how you can start an egg effort in your community, write to: EGGs, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Before he was rescued by The HSUS, Yogi lived a miserable existence chained to a junked car.
San Diego is Site for Animal Care EXPO ’94

If the attendance records set by past Expos are any indication, then Animal Care EXPO ’94, to be held March 16-19, 1994, in beautiful San Diego, California, promises to be the biggest, most exciting, valuable, and talked-about event of the year for animal care and protection professionals everywhere.

EXPO ’94 will offer a world class showcase of products and services for humane animal sheltering and control agencies, featuring over 100 exhibitors, more than 25 workshops, a choice of six day-long certificate courses, and an opportunity to enroll for further training credit in The HSUS Learning Track System (LTS).

The LTS consists of four categories of workshops from beginning to advanced levels with the opportunity to gain professional credits and materials in the areas of: 1) Animal Handling and Control; 2) Animal Care and Placement; 3) Community Relations; and 4) Supervision/Management and Board Development.

Day-long Pre-EXPO certificate courses will be offered on March 16 in such areas as shelter design, animal behavior problems, chemical capture, euthanasia, disaster planning/management, and board development.

There will also be a number of special events including a luncheon sponsored by ALPO and the second “Animal Control Olympic Games,” sponsored by Animal Care Equipment and Services. Two important organizations are holding their annual meetings in conjunction with EXPO ’94, the California Animal Control Directors Association (CACDA) and the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA). In addition, the Western Humane Education and Environment Association (WHEEA) will hold a one-day seminar on March 15 to help humane society and animal control personnel reach out to their communities and into local schools. Char Drennon, WCRO director, was a founding member of WHEEA.

Animal Care EXPO ’94 will be held at the Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center, which is convenient to all San Diego area attractions. EXPO-goers will be especially pleased by the reasonable room rates. For more information and details, call 1-800-248-EXPO (3976).

Reflect for a moment...

How Can I Help Animals Even When I No Longer Share Their World?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you’re gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name
Address
City
State Zip Code

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.