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# Update

Vol. 1, No. 10  
NOVEMBER, 1973

## USDA PRODDED INTO ACTION

Forgive the pun, but it was intentional. After almost three years USDA is crowing loudly about obtaining recent convictions under the Horse Protection Act of 1970.

On September 7, 1973 a Doug Wolaver and Don Bell were fined \$1,000 each in U.S. District Court in Birmingham, Alabama for exhibiting "sored" horses. The two men entered pleas of "nolo contendere" to criminal charges. The court accepted the plea, found both men guilty, and imposed the charges.

An even more important victory took place on October 23 in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee at Nashville. One of the most prominent trainers in the Walking Horse industry, Vic Thompson, and two of his employees Boyd Melton and Larry Webb were convicted of criminal charges after entering guilty pleas to violating the Horse Protection Act. Thompson was fined \$1,000 and his employees \$500 each. What makes this particular case so important is that Thompson is one of the spokesmen for the industry and all of the men are from Shelbyville, Tennessee, long the home of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, granddaddy of all Walking Horse Shows.

Action appears to be coming after heated "oversight" hearings held before a sub-committee of the Senate Commerce Committee chaired by Senator John V. Tunney. Members of several animal welfare groups testified or submitted testimony.

Particularly cutting to USDA was testimony by Frank J. McMahon in which he stated, "I have been to horse shows where some of the most notorious "soring" trainers were allowed into the inspection area while humane officials were not. I have seen Vic Thompson, Wink Groover, C.A. Bobo, and others throw their arms about USDA officials and laugh and joke with them while horses were literally stumbling and falling out of the show rings."

Let us hope USDA, having finally started, will keep up the momentum.

## HOW WILL THE ENERGY CRISIS AFFECT CLASSROOM ANIMALS

The following is a good press release sent out by John Dommers. We thought we would share it with you, and perhaps you can get some mileage out of it with a few changes to suit your local areas.

Lower Thermostats Creating Crisis For Classroom Animals.

Lower thermostats may ease the energy crisis this winter, but will create a crisis for many animals in schools, according to John J. Dommers, Director of Education for the Humane Society of the United States.

Common classroom pets such as guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, mice, and tropical fish have narrow range, optimum living temperatures. Dropping room temperatures as much as 4 degrees could mean sickness and death for thousands of these animals.

"I'm especially concerned about the heat being turned way down at the end of the school day or over weekends without the teacher's knowledge," said Dommers. "Guinea pigs, for example, have a recommended temperature of 68-72 degrees F. If the temperatures were to suddenly change at night to 60 degrees F., it would mean an untimely death for the animals. Not only would the animals suffer, but the school children would experience great disappointments in losing their pets. It, too, does not exemplify proper responsibility for the care and management of animals."

There are several ways to ease the temperature crisis for classroom animals. One way is to make arrangements to keep animals in one room which remains heated at a constant temperature during evenings and weekends. A second way is to provide a shrouded, 40 watt light bulb in exhibit cages to keep temperatures up. A third solution is to take the animals home on weekends, especially if it is impossible to provide for their daily care.

CONTROVERSIAL HORSES BACK IN IDAHO

The nineteen horses still alive after being rounded up on Bureau of Land Management land and Forest Service land have been trucked back to Idaho. The horses are currently being held in a stockyard in Idaho Falls, Idaho pending a decision as to whether they are actually wild and free roaming horses.

The HSUS and the American Horse Protection Association are suing two government agencies and several individuals including the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior for neglect in enforcing the Wild Horses and Free Roaming Burros Act. HSUS and AHPA claim that the horses were never shod, had not been branded, and their ancestors have been free roaming in Idaho for over 50 years.

A recent attempt by government attorneys to have the venue of the case changed from Washington to Idaho was denied by U.S. District Judge Thomas A. Flannery. The case was successfully argued in our favor by Robert McCandless, attorney for the AHPA. He was assisted in court by Murdaugh S. Madden. If Judge Flannery had granted the governments motion for change of venue, it would have been prohibitively expensive for us to continue the suit.

Frantz Dantzler for HSUS and Mrs. William L. Blue of the AHPA were present when the horses were loaded in North Platte, Nebraska. They followed the truck from Nebraska to Idaho with an overnight stop in Wyoming.

We will keep you informed.

"WHY PROTECT ANIMALS?" RECEIVES AWARD

We are proud to announce that we have been notified by the Walter J. Klein Company, Ltd. that the film "Why Protect Animals?" has received a Special Jury Award from the Film-As-Communication Competition of the San Francisco International Film Festival.

Our congratulations and thanks to the Kleins for their excellent work.

HSUS RODEO REPORT STINGS RCA

Our recent "Special Report on Rodeos" is still drawing fire from cowboys and their self-appointed Indians of the American Humane Association.

In the November issue of The Western Horseman RCA with the help and assistance of the AHA calls our report "biased and ridiculous." Milton Searle, with the dubious title of director of animal protections services for AHA states, "The HSUS study was not very valid. HSUS has very little knowledge of rodeos. Our statistics over the past 15 years disagree almost completely with everything the HSUS is saying." Searle also makes note of the fact that HSUS is a "radical offshoot of our group."

AHA is right on one point. One definition of radical is "A person who advocates thoroughgoing changes in laws."

The HSUS will continue to expose rodeo cruelty through publications and education of the public. We can only hope that one of these days the AHA will see the light.

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## 1971 DEER HARVEST STATISTICS

Prepared By  
The Department of Information and Legislation

STATE	SPECIES*	ESTIMATED PREHUNT POPULATION	HARVEST BY SPECIES	BOW- HUNTERS	FIREARMS HUNTERS	ACCIDENTAL FIREARMS DEATHS
Alabama	W	500,000	71,000	15,000	151,000	4
Alaska	B	80,000	8,000	--	6,000	-
Arkansas	W	225,000	25,000	10,000	100,000	-
Arizona	M	128,500	9,822	7,261	66,625	-
	W	25,400	1,636			
California	M	---	15,716	31,000	395,000	-
	B	---	25,832			
Colorado	M	320,000	40,749	7,000	93,126	2
Connecticut	W	9,000	1,200	3,278	5,517	-
Delaware	W	6,000	1,077	3,000	11,600	1
Florida	W	500,000	49,000	10,000	220,000	-
Georgia	W	140,000	33,000	17,000	156,000	-
Hawaii	B	500	17	--	3,404	-
	A	5,000	1,104			
Idaho	M	---	52,530	--	142,474	3
	W	---	9,270			
Illinois	W	---	10,947	13,000	55,614	-
Indiana	W	50,000	6,000	17,748	43,117	-
Iowa	W	29,966	11,691	6,431	25,885	-
Kansas	M	3,000	809	4,173	8,022	
	W	15,000	2,336			
Kentucky	W	60,000	7,860	11,709	41,782	3
Louisiana	W	275,000	60,923	11,921	144,449	-
Maine	W	110,000	18,903	1,391	190,000	3
Maryland	W	60,000	10,734	10,000	75,000	2

## 1971 Deer Harvest Statistics

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STATE	SPECIES*	ESTIMATED PREHUNT POPULATION	HARVEST BY SPECIES	BOW- HUNTERS	FIREARMS HUNTERS	ACCIDENTAL FIREARMS DEATHS
Massachusetts	W	13,000	2,284	4,500	50,000	-
Michigan	W	500,000	63,000	60,000	559,000	11
Minnesota	W	450,000	1,270	17,471	NONE	-
Mississippi	W	375,000	37,000	8,400	163,237	3
Missouri	W	---	32,684	17,840	169,504	3
Montana	M	---	77,196	4,066	126,833	1
	W	---	27,169			
Nebraska	M	39,000	7,288	5,258	30,495	2
	W	46,000	7,125			
Nevada	M	150,000	22,811	1,192	44,540	2
New Hampshire	W	45,000	7,256	2,033	90,000	2
New Jersey	W	65,000	7,545	30,000	90,000	2
New Mexico	M	300,000	31,013	6,000	92,308	2
New York	W	325,000	47,784	51,757	625,599	3
North Carolina	W	300,000	40,000	21,476	140,013	3
North Dakota	M	20,000	4,399	4,022	52,106	-
	W	80,000	28,354			
Ohio	W	30,000	3,839	16,000	60,000	-
Oklahoma	M	1,000	16	14,700	77,159	-
	W	75,000	7,036			
Oregon	M	400,000	47,240	14,694	279,220	4
	B	500,000	40,560			
Pennsylvania	W	500,000	104,227	150,000	750,000	21
Rhode Island	W	1,500	92	424	1,611	-
South Carolina	W	205,000	46,500	5,500	76,000	-
South Dakota	M	70,000	7,509	4,163	43,903	-
	W	130,000	17,763			

1971 Deer Harvest Statistics  
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STATE	SPECIES*	ESTIMATED PREHUNT POPULATION	HARVEST BY SPECIES	BOW- HUNTERS	FIREARMS HUNTERS	ACCIDENTAL FIREARMS DEATHS
Tennessee	W	60,000	7,747	13,136	79,823	6
Texas	M	163,405	12,116	--	527,160	8
	W	3,000,000	280,000			
Utah	M	---	98,775	18,276	185,105	-
Vermont	W	150,000	8,364	18,815	122,845	2
Virginia	W	240,538	42,369	--	---	6
Washington	M	120,000	15,050	8,200	202,700	2
	W	55,000	6,930			
	B	230,000	30,860			
West Virginia	W	160,000	16,619	25,000	175,000	2
Wisconsin	W	550,000	77,357	100,206	509,447	10
Wyoming	M	378,400	68,809	3,116	99,839	3
	W	31,224	7,806			
1971 TOTAL	M	2,093,305	511,848	806,137	7,358,062	116
	W	9,392,628	1,248,697			
	B	810,500	105,269			
	A	5,000	1,104			
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>		<u>13,842,931</u>	<u>2,038,538</u>			

\*M = Mule; W = Whitetail; B = Blacktail; A = Axis

Spaces left blank means no statistics available.