



Update

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BULLFIGHTING

Bullfighting, as you know, is banned in every state and by federal law. Despite this, a New York promoter planned one for January 9, 1977. The spectacle was to take place on three barges off New York City and beyond the three mile limit. The obvious purpose of this was, of course, to circumvent state and federal laws.

Upon receiving word of the planned event we immediately took the following steps: A brief was submitted by our General Counsel, Murdaugh Madden, to Attorney General Lefkowitz of New York, pointing out that even the promotion of this bizarre project violated New York statutes, and that if the event were actually held, it would clearly violate other of the anti-cruelty laws of the State. Our letter demanded that the Attorney General take steps to see to it that the event did not take place. In addition, we prepared a letter and legal citations for the Secretary of Agriculture here in Washington, involving the provisions of the Federal Animal Welfare Act, and asking them to take immediate steps to halt this proposed animal fighting venture which was to take place right off the coast of New York. Finally, we contacted the U.S. Coast Guard and demanded that they not cooperate in these activities which would constitute violations of the State laws and the Federal law, and that they not only grant any assistance or permits to the promoter, but that they make it clear to him that the event must be cancelled immediately.

Tickets to the fight were selling for \$25 with the promise that the fights would feature bulls, matadors and horses imported from Mexico. The spectators would be seated in two large barges tied together and would accommodate about 2,000 persons.

John Hoffman, the promoter, and his so called matador were charged with violating the New York State agricultural and markets law prohibiting the planning or the promotion of fights between animals. The charge can carry a 10-day jail sentence and a \$1,000 fine.

MEETING -- FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

You will be interested to hear that in late September of last year Lynn Greenwalt of the Fish and Wildlife Service called a meeting to inform the conservation community of the planning and budget procedures used by the Service. Ms. Forkan attended on behalf of HSUS. The meetings (another is scheduled for February 22, 1977) is the means by which public participation

can be effectively increased, and additionally, will allow humane and conservation groups to have input into the planning and budgeting in terms of what actions are taken, how objectives are set, how resources are allocated and when this all takes place. Explained, also, for the better understanding of all concerned will be the constraints imposed upon the Fish and Wildlife Service by higher authority.

The value of HSUS participation is obvious and could prevent many acts that could be detrimental to animal welfare.

SYMPOSIUM: IS THE HUNTER A DYING SPECIES?

In December approximately 50 people attended a seminar sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States, New England Region, and the Connecticut Humanities Council. Featured was a debate between Roger Caras, ABC News commentator and Dr. Ward Stone, National Rifle Association representative.

In debate on the merits of hunting, Caras and Stone agreed that pollution is a contributing factor in reduction of some species of animals. While Stone contended no species are currently in danger from the destruction wrought by hunters, Caras said there are good hunters but a lot of "slob" hunters. Caras argued further that whereas it may be all right for a farmer to kill wildlife to feed his children, there are still the trophy hunters who kill solely for pleasure. Caras objected strongly to the use of the word "harvest" which, he said, "reduce animals to the level of a carrot."

To support wildlife programs Caras felt licenses should be required by non-hunters as well as hunters who use wildlife preserves. Dr. Stone, in rebuttal, said hunting is going to be an essential part of America for a long time to come.

The seminar was organized by Mr. John Dommers of the Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center. There were some areas of agreement, specifically the **ideas** of non-hunters as well as hunters being required to purchase a license before entering wildlife areas was looked on very favorably.

RULING BY COURT BACKS SPORTSMEN

Regional staff should be aware that the suit in New Jersey seeking to change the makeup of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council has finally been defeated. The purpose of the suit was to challenge a statute that limited membership to farmers, sportsmen, and commercial fishermen. The HSUS New Jersey Branch and other organizations like the Sierra Club had won in a lower court, but subsequently were defeated in the New Jersey Supreme Court. The higher court, in effect, ruled that conservationists and environmentalists do not have an inherent right to membership in the Fish and Game Council which regulates aspects of hunting and fishing. The New Jersey Branch

is now searching for ways to approach the problem from a different angle.

CAT EXPERIMENTS -- AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

In August of last year there was considerable publicity regarding cat experiments being conducted at the American Museum of Natural History. At the time we were told that the experiments involved the blinding, deafening, and depriving of the sense of smell of cats and kittens. (We found later however that the animals in question were not, in fact, being blinded or deafened.) This museum research on reproductive behavior on cats has been supported continuously since 1935 by government grants. The grants came from a variety of sources including the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The research conforms to the so called humane standards of the National Institutes of Health. It also conforms to the position taken on animal experimentation by the American Humane Association.

The HSUS strongly protested the experiments and called for an immediate end to them. We received a standard reply explaining the purpose of the experiments, a reply that obviously was being mailed out to the many people who had written letters of protest. In an effort to accomplish something other than a mere protest Mr. Hoyt and Dr. Michael Fox met with Dr. Aronson (the experimenter) and other officials of the Museum of Natural History. The object was to persuade them to stop the experimentation. So far, however, the meeting has not produced the desired result. But at least the researchers now know the great public indignation and protest the research has aroused. HSUS will continue, of course, to fight this kind of experimentation until we win. (This information is being passed along to you now in case you get inquiries relating to the matter. We have had quite a few and more complaints continue to come into this office.)

PROGRAM AND POLICY COMMITTEE

The Program and Policy Committee will meet on April 14, 1977 immediately before the Spring meeting of the full Board of Directors. This timing is deliberate, of course, so that recommendations by the Program and Policy Committee can be submitted for approval or rejection by the full Board.

While the Committee usually has a full schedule we think it would be wise to consider any recommendations for action that the regional staff might like to submit for consideration. If there are any policy matters that should be reviewed or reconsidered we would like to hear of them. If there are new areas in which we do not have a definite policy, we want to review it. This is a good opportunity for open exchange. Most recommendations incidentally of the Program and Policy Committee are passed by the Board.

DOG POLLUTION

Increasingly, the pollution caused by dogs is being fought in certain communities with strict laws to control the animals. Recently in New Haven, Connecticut an ordinance was passed to make it illegal for any dog not on its owner's property to be unrestrained by "leash, chain, or cord". These so called "poop and scoop" laws have strong advocates especially in New York City and in some New Jersey towns. During the debate on the New Haven ordinance the point was made, with which HSUS agrees, that people who don't own dogs have the same rights as those who do and the law should uphold the rights of people to proclaim that dogs cannot indiscriminately foul yards, lawns and city streets. From The HSUS point of view, of course, this responsibility is the owner's and should not be blamed on the animal.

AMERICAN LEGION PLAN FOX HUNT

American Legion Post 996 of Royal, Illinois had scheduled a fox hunt for January 15, 1977. The idea was to form a large circle with persons armed only with clubs. Any foxes flushed from their dens would, of course, be clubbed painfully to death.

HSUS immediately became involved through our Great Lakes Regional Office and through the Humane Society of Danville, Illinois. We contacted the Illinois State Conservation Department and local humane officials in an effort to prevent the hunt from taking place. The story was broadcast nationwide by Paul Harvey and the following day the hunt was postponed due to a severe snowstorm. We also put pressure on the National Commander of the American Legion here in Washington to stop the hunt. We were assured by his office that he would do all in his power to prevent the hunt from taken place at a future date. The National Commander and the Legion Post received a huge volume of mail protesting the spectacle. If any attempt is made to stage the hunt at a later time we will be there with plenty of publicity and anti-cruelty charges, if possible, to end the brutality. It is significant to note that in former years the American Legion Post in Harmony, North Carolina was holding rabbit hunts (the killing by club) and this was eventually stopped after years of work by humane societies and by the public indignation and protest aroused through nationwide publicity.

THE CASE OF THE BENGAL TIGER

You probably have heard already about the proposed fight to the death between a Japanese karate expert and a caged Bengal tiger. Stopping this spectacle was almost wholly a HSUS effort which took a great deal of time and effort but which, in addition to saving the tiger, meant a lot of good publicity for the Society.

Upon hearing about the plan The HSUS sent strong letters of protest to the President of Haiti, Monsieur Jean-Claude Duvalier and to the Haitian Ambassador in the United States. We appealed to the Haitian government in the name

of decency, to prevent the fight from taking place.

Our protest was joined by the International Society for the Protection of Animals as well as other humane groups and interested humanitarians.

The Animal Rescue Association in San Juan asked us for help and at this stage we sent Sue Pressman to Haiti to see what could be done. Sue had her problems in convincing Haitian authorities not to let the fight be staged but eventually she got through to Haiti President Duvalier by pointing out to him that the tiger, which had languished for 23 days in a 4 X 6 crate would die unless it received medical attention and was released from confinement. The President agreed to release the tiger to Sue and she had it taken to a nearby veterinary hospital. Subsequently, the tiger was "kidnapped" but all ended well when Sue recovered the animal and had him flown to St. Croix for proper care and treatment. Sue is now arranging its return to the United States. (This is just a brief summary of the case which you will be reading more about in the next Humane Society News.)

THE WOLVES WIN

You may recall that a U.S. District Court Judge, granted, in February, an injunction in favor of The HSUS and other animal welfare groups protesting the killing of wolves in Alaska without an Environmental Impact Statement. The Secretary of the Interior has now ordered an immediate stop to any killing of wolves on federal land. Although this is just the first court test in this case the granting of the injunction is a promising beginning and, hopefully, we will be able to save all or part of the wolf population in the state.

Word comes from John Dommers that it behooves all of us to reflect for a moment on who we are and how we can best serve our organization, The Humane Society of the United States. To make his point John sent along the following poem which we don't mind sharing with you. John's poem does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the establishment (!) but we think you might enjoy reading it:

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified in the room . . .

Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions,
And see how it humbles your soul:

Take a bucket and fill it with water.
Put your hand in it up to your wrist.
Pull it out and the hole that remains
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter.
You may stir up the water galore.
But stop, and you'll find in a minute
That it looks just the same as before.

The moral of this is quite simple. . . .
Always do the best that you can.
Be proud of yourself, but remember
There's no indispensable man.

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