The Best—and Worst—of Times
We must “live softly” if we are to have a future

Dickens’s hundred-year-old observation about the best of times and the worst of times is especially descriptive of this moment in history. Careful thinkers and casual thinkers know these are perilous days and watershed times. Living softly and with sensitivity is no longer a behavioral option; it is, rather, a mandate if we perceive it is going to have a future.

There really is no need for my cataloging the plethora of reasons why these are perilous days. Newspapers, television, and radio confront us with the issues of global warming, habitat destruction, and natural-resource depletion, as well as the burgeoning problems of pollution. Even the planet’s atmospheric envelope is threatened by the dissipation of the ozone layer. These are the worst of times in so many ways—and we know it.

These are also the best of times. Maybe it takes a supreme optimist to have the audacity to put such an optimistic impression in print, but I am totally convinced that great Earth-saving strides can be made by those who are energized by the realization that adversity can lead to possibility in life.

Finally, we may be on the brink of ending the tragic waste of life and the unlimited suffering of millions of companion animals caused by the pet-overpopulation crisis. Through the tireless efforts of thousands of animal-lovers around the country, some communities are beginning to report a decline in the number of animals who do not leave shelters alive. There are many reasons for this trend. The HSUS, with the help of many local leaders, is working to document the phenomenon in order to provide a road map to success for all to follow. For those charged with the responsibility of euthanasia in shelters, and for all who have worked relentlessly on this issue, let’s hope these are the best of times.

More than you will be reading this issue of the HSUS News at the HSUS conference in Boulder, Colorado, October 28 through October 31. Attending the conference is a great way to learn about the work of the society and be energized by people who share common goals and visions. Another way to keep up to date with the programs you enable through your dedication and contribution is by reading this publication. We value you, your interest, and your comments.

President’s Perspective

PHOTO CREDIT: GLEN J. ROBERTS

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Bear #134 can only wait patiently for her release from the WSU research program. The HSUS has renewed calls for action.

BEAR #134 UPDATE: CHAPTER TWO

The most recent news on Bear #134, the grizzly removed from Yellowstone National Park (YNP) by the U.S. government and sent to Washington State University (WSU), is not good news. Rather than work with the HSUS to provide Bear #134 a better life, Vice Provost for Research Robert V. Smith has steadfastly denied WSU’s continued use of the bear (see the Spring 1992 HSUS News).

In a letter responding to letters sent by HSUS constituents, Mr. Smith stated, “WSU had nothing to do with the decision by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to trap and remove Bear #134 from Yellowstone.” Yet he conveniently ignores the fact that Chris Servheen, listed on government documents as the co-investigator of the WSU bear project, is also the chief official of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) most responsible for the decision to send Bear #134 to WSU. He ignores the fact that in December 1989 WSU applied for and was granted a permit to collect grizzly and black bears from Yellowstone National Park in the names of both Mr. Servheen and Charles Robbins, PhD, who runs the bear research program at WSU. The permit was granted, and four months later Bear #134 was captured and sent to WSU.

Mr. Smith claimed that “before the bear was offered to Dr. Robbins, she was offered to accredited zoos and sanctuaries. . . . No zoo or sanctuary would accept her.” HSUS Legal Investigator Michael Winskoft contacted two of the leading wildlife sanctuaries on the West Coast, both of which indicated that not only would they gladly take Bear #134 now, but they also had never been contacted by the FWS or the U.S. Forest Service about taking her.

Mr. Smith stated that “there were extensive discussions about transferring her to other national parks or forests. . . . transfer to another park or forest was not approved.” Top officials at the Shoshone National Forest in Cody, Wyoming, have confirmed reports that Shoshone offered to take Bear #134 but the offer was turned down by Mr. Servheen.

The HSUS is completely frustrated by the lack of cooperation on the whole issue. While we certainly appreciate the overwhelming response we have gotten from HSUS constituents who wish to rescue Bear #134, more work is needed. We renew our call for readers to contact Vice Provost for Research Robert V. Smith (Washington State University, 422 French Administration Bldg., Pullman, WA 99164-3140) and express our opposition to WSU’s refusal to release Bear #134 to a sanctuary. We urge HSUS members in the Washington State area to ask local newspapers and television stations to concentrate on WSU’s bear experiments. We can only continue to hope that public pressure and outrage will convince WSU officials to do the right thing. If they don’t, we’ll just have to try something else.

MANY OUTRAGED BY BRUTAL OLYMPICS

The HSUS has been inundated with calls and letters from readers outraged by the television viewing coverage of the Olympic three-day equestrian event in Barcelona in July. Horse after horse fell at mammoth fences along a brutal four-mile course, part of a three-phase test of obedience, endurance, and agility that was unlike anything many viewers had ever seen. We have responded immediately, working with expert advisers and planning strategy prior to meeting with Olympic and international equestrian officials to demand changes in any future three-day competitions. We will report on our progress in an upcoming issue of the HSUS News.

HSUS NEWS GETS A RECYCLED LOOK

We are pleased to announce that this issue of the HSUS News is printed on recycled paper. After many months of research and consultation with our printer, we have found a paper that can both withstand the demands of the large, high-speed presses we use to print the magazine and fit within our budget. Many of our members have written to us asking that the News join the recycled revolution, and we have shared their sentiments (indeed, many of our other materials have been printed on recycled paper for two years). It has taken paper-making technology some time to catch up with the groundswell of enthusiasm for recycled paper in all its varieties, but it has finally happened.
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Carry The Humane Society of the United States VISA Card.

Protecting the Earth’s animals is a task that requires energy, dedication—and financial resources. That’s why The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has joined with Marine Midland Bank to offer members an innovative credit card program. With the HSUS VISA Card, you’ll receive unparalleled financial benefits. And every time you use your card, Marine Midland donates a portion of the fee income to The Humane Society for its many worthwhile activities.

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Animal membership fees after the first six months: The HSUS Classic VISA Card $20; the HSUS VISA Gold Card $30.

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UP FRON'T

The "grande dame" of birding, Claudi Wilds (second from left), and Guy Hodge, HSUS director, data and information services (right), join enthusiastic birders man­ning their spotting scopes at Port Mahon, the first stop on the Delaware Bay ecotour.

WILDLIFE

Delaware Ecotour a Success

Tour members observe a crossroads of migration

Each May under the full moon, one of the world’s great animal migra­tions takes place on the shoreline of the Delaware Bay. Less than 40 miles from the glitter of the gambling casinos of Atlantic City, bands of hungry shore­birds descend on the bay coasts of Delaware and New Jersey. End route from winter homes in South America to their breeding grounds in the Arctic tundra, more than one million birds pass along the Delaware Bay shoreline to rest and feed before resuming an annual spring trek that can cover 7,000 miles. This spectacle of animal migration was the featured attraction for the inaugural U.S. ecotour hosted by The HSUS.

The HSUS tour, conducted during the last week in May, was booked to capacity.

Twenty-four members journeyed from as far as California to spend five days bird­watching in Delaware and New Jersey.

The Delaware Bay is one of just four stopover points used regularly by shore­birds as they migrate across the western hemisphere, but the diversity and quantity of shorebirds in the region are unparalleled.

The shorebirds are guided by a biological clock that precisely times their arrival to coincide with the mating season of the horseshoe crab. It is not the crabs, but the crab eggs, that provide the impetus for the migra­tion. Some birds arrive in early May, but the migration usually peaks around the middle of the month.

When the first migrant birds reach the bay in spring, horseshoe crabs are already raised along the shoreline. As the daily tide begins to ebb, the female crabs emerge from the water. The waiting males crowd the beaches, vying for the chance to fertilize the females’ eggs. The tiny, bountiful eggs, deposited in small holes, eventually saturate the sand and float in shallow water, creating a banquet for the northbound birds.

Some of the shorebirds make a non­stop 4,000-mile trek to the Delaware Bay. They can cover the distance in as little as sixty hours, but they arrive in a state of exhaustion. Each bird has lost about a third of his/her body weight by the time he/she touches down at the bay. Since the birds don’t have the energy to search for food, the clumps of crab’s eggs are a wel­come feast. Natural History magazine calculated that during a typical two­week stay at the bay, birds such as sand­pipers may consume 135,000 eggs each, a feat that allows them to double their body weight before embarking on the second major leg of the journey—an additional 5,000 miles, to the Arctic.

The HSUS tour began with an intro­ductory class on shorebird identification by Claudi Wilds. Although the Delaware Bay attracts thousands of bird-watchers

A crab’s journey is temporarily interrupt­ed by an ecotourist: although shorebirds were the tour’s prime attraction, other shore­bird species were also observed.

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HSUS NEWS • Fall 1992
each year, few have the opportunity to visit the region in the company of such a distinguished authority. On May 30’s edition of ABC-TV’s “World News Saturday,” reporter Walt Rogers described Ms. Wilds as the “grande dame” of birding. His story featured footage filmed on location with the HSUS tour. After two days of touring Delaware birding hotspots, the group crossed the bay by ferry to the New Jersey side. Louise Zemaitis, an associate naturalist with the Cape May Bird Observatory, capably guided this portion of the tour.

Tour members observed 140 species during their trip. Sanderlings, semipalmated sandpipers, ruddy turnstones, and red knots dominated the flocks feeding on crab eggs, but the birders also discovered rare birds in the bay waters and nearby marshes. At South Cape May Meadow, tour participants were treated to the sight of a pair of endangered piping plovers tending to their nest. At Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, they discovered a curlew sandpiper, perhaps blown off course en route to Siberia, among the shorebirds feeding in the mudflats. At Reeds Beach, they marveled as shorebirds tending to their nest. At Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, they discovered rare birds in the bay waters and nearby marshes. At South Cape May Meadow, tour participants were treated to the sight of a pair of endangered piping plovers tending to their nest. At Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, they discovered a curlew sandpiper, perhaps blown off course en route to Siberia, among the shorebirds feeding in the mudflats. At Reeds Beach, they marveled as shorebirds tending to their nest. At Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, they discovered rare birds in the bay waters and nearby marshes. At South Cape May Meadow, tour participants were treated to the sight of a pair of endangered piping plovers tending to their nest.

Although shorebirds were the prime attraction, the tour was designed as a “journey in awareness” and included guest lectures and talks by representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife. Participants learned that the bay’s foremost role is as a vital link connecting shorebirds’ wintering areas with their breeding grounds. The health of the Delaware Bay ecosystem is critical to the integrity of the migratory system, as well as the survival of the birds themselves. It is a fragile habitat, made all the more vulnerable by the large concentrations of birds who flock to the region in spring. An entire population of birds is potentially at risk from a catastrophic event such as an oil spill. The foremost threat to the Delaware Bay ecosystem, however, comes from habitat loss and fragmentation. As a result of coastal land development in places such as Reeds Beach and Pickering Beach, this spring spectacle of shorebirds and crabs now takes place within a few feet of beachfront houses and vacation cottages.

The scene recreated each spring on the Delaware Bay is an ancient one, but it may perish without long-term planning to preserve shorebird habitat. Fortunately, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network has been set up through the Monomount Bird Observatory to coordinate the conservation of shorebirds. In 1985 the Delaware Bay was officially designated as the first international shorebird reserve. Only through such careful efforts will future generations of Americans have the kind of opportunity afforded the HSUS tour group to enjoy the special feeling of a spring visit to the “crossroads of bird migration.”

WILDLIFE

Wolf Reintroduction on Track
Fish and Wildlife Service takes first step

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has finally taken the first important step toward reintroducing the endangered grey wolf into Yellowstone National Park. Because the grey wolf is listed as endangered in forty-seven states and threatened in Minnesota, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires the FWS to work toward the wolf’s recovery. In the 1987 Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan, the FWS identified Yellowstone National Park as one of three key wolf-recovery areas and outlined the steps required to bring wolves back to Yellowstone. Little was done, however, until Congress acted last year.

In October 1991 Congress provided the FWS with $498,000 for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will identify and analyze alternative plans for wolf recovery at Yellowstone and in central Idaho, another area earmarked for wolf recovery.

Before the arrival of European settlers, the grey wolf ranged over most of North America. Persecuted by settlers and ranchers, slowly starved as its prey—elk, deer, and bison—disappeared, the wolf all but vanished from the United States by the early twentieth century. Today’s wolf population in the lower forty-eight states consists of only about 1,500 wolves in Minnesota and a total of perhaps five or six dozen individuals spread across Montana, Idaho, and other northwestern states.

The FWS, however, will be pressed to relax the restrictions, for example, by designating wolves a “nonessential experimental population.” Such a designation (permitted under some circumstances, by the ESA) would allow the FWS to write special regulations that could weaken ESA protection for individual wolves.

For the sake of the recovery effort and the wolves’ own safety, The HSUS believes that wolves reintroduced into Yellowstone must receive the full protection of their endangered status under the ESA. This need is underscored by the recent tragic history of the small wolf population occupying Glacier National Park and nearby regions of Montana. In the last two years, at least nine wolves have been killed—either deliberately and illegally or accidentally (in automobile collisions or other human-related accidents). To thrive, Yellowstone’s wolves will need the strongest protection the law can give.

Wolves belong in Yellowstone National Park. The HSUS will do everything possible to help get them there and stay there—Allen T. Rutberg, Ph.D., HSUS senior scientist, Wildlife and Habitat Protection.
A Serene Scene
For the Holidays

Wildlife artist Robert Seabeck’s elegant swan carries HSUS members’ holiday greeting to loved ones this year. Each package of 20 cards and envelopes costs $8. The greeting reads, “May all creatures of the Earth know the peace and joy of this season.” Last year’s card sold out early, so order soon—supplies are limited.

(Cards are available after August 1, 1992.)

Greeting Card Order Form

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Method of payment:

☐ Check  ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard (check one)

Acc# _______ Exp. Date _______

Signature ____________________________

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City State Zip ____________________________

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All checks must be payable to The HSUS, and sent to 2300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. No sales tax is charged. We ship UPS; allow four to six weeks for delivery.

Enlarge Your Circle of Friends

New from The HSUS is a colorful T-shirt featuring the endearing art of Mimi Yang Olsen. Two gentle dogs and three contented cats cluster near a spacious window, surrounded by beloved playthings. Made of white preshrunk cotton, the shirt is available in small, medium, large, and extra large at $12.00 each. Message reads: The Humane Society of the United States. Great for Christmas!

All orders must be prepaid and will be filled while supplies last. Make all checks payable to The HSUS, and send coupon to 2300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. We ship UPS; please provide a street address. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

Trapping in the Nineties

Who Pays the Price?

In December 1983 two passersby found Lucky, a German shepherd, dehydrated and near death, caught in a steel-jaw leghold trap. Emergency veterinary care saved Lucky’s life, but not his leg. Other pets and wild animals are less fortunate: each year millions of animals suffer and die in steel-jaw leghold traps, conibear traps, and snares.

Many people are unaware that traps can be amputated as a result of severe injury. Terror-stricken animals have tried desperately to free themselves, injuring their jaws as they gnawed at the trap in an attempt to free their limbs. (Trappers sometimes report that they have found animals asleep in traps, but such animals are, more likely, exhausted from their struggle or in shock.)

Some animals free themselves only by chewing off their own limbs. Earlier this year a small dog in Memphis, Tennessee, was found with broken bones and a missing foot; a steel-jaw leghold trap was later found in a neighbor’s backyard with the dog’s foot still in the trap. In August 1985 a four-month-old kitten was caught in a steel-jaw leghold trap; she chewed off her paw to escape. Other animals suffer in traps for hours, days, even weeks. Those not found in time succumb to dehydration, starvation, exposure, or attack by other animals. Yet trappers claim that traps merely hold animals in place.

Trapping case reports collected by The HSUS demonstrate the incredible danger that traps pose to pets. In the last six years, such reports received by The HSUS revealed nearly 600 injuries of nontarget animals, almost all of whom were pets. Cats and dogs were caught in nearly equal numbers, and more than half the cases resulted in permanent injuries. Approximately, more pets are found dead in conibear traps; leghold traps are more commonly associated with serious injuries such as broken bones, broken teeth, and loss of limb(s). Yet these statistics belie their importance, because they are only a minute fraction of the millions of injuries suffered each year.

The HSUS has learned of countless horror stories of animals being caught in traps. We have received more than a thousand trapping case reports from veterinarians, humane societies, and animal-control officers, as well as letters and phone calls from many owners grieving over the death of a trapped pet and outraged that such cruelty could be permitted.

Over the years The HSUS has demonstrated the incredible danger that traps pose to pets. In the last six years, such reports received by The HSUS revealed nearly 600 injuries of nontarget animals, almost all of whom were pets. Cats and dogs were caught in nearly equal numbers, and more than half the cases resulted in permanent injuries.

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and only the tip of the iceberg of pain and suffering experienced by pets and other nontarget animals. The reality is that each of these animals represents a tragedy of pain for the pet, and for the owner.

The Truth about Trapping

Despite the claims of its proponents, trapping does not reduce disease in wildlife populations. There is evidence, in fact, that it increases the incidence of diseases such as rabies. Studies have shown that when trappers reduce a species' population in an area, other members of the species are more likely to migrate to that area. Efforts to establish territories in new areas may result in increased fighting among animals, increasing the chances of disease transmission. Further, those with an interest in promoting trapping sometimes intentionally relocate animals. Trappers are suspected to have started the current Northeast rabies epidemic by transplanting infected animals from Florida to West Virginia to increase the raccoon population. (Today the rabies threat to humans has been virtually eliminated. The best protection against the disease has proved to be widespread vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies and reasonable caution when in the presence of wildlife.)

Trappers and wildlife managers also claim that trapping resolves conflicts between humans and wildlife, such as those arising from raccoon raids on trash cans or gardens or coyote predation of sheep or confined poultry. However, nonlethal alternatives—beginning with tolerance of some losses to wildlife and including use of fencing and other exclusion devices, live (humane) traps, and sheep-guarding dogs—can solve such problems.

Unfortunately, traps such as legholds, conibears, and snares are readily available to anyone who thinks they offer a solution to a problem with wildlife. In Cambridge, Ohio, a man illegally set a conibear trap in an alley in order to "catch whoever was getting into his trash"; on February 21, 1992, his trap caught his neighbor's dog, Sadie. It took five men to release Sadie from the trap. She died the following day from internal injuries. (Crush injuries have been brought against the trapper.) In 1990, in Gladstone, Alabama, a man was fined $25 for setting a steel-jaw leghold trap under his house. The trap was set to catch mice, but it caught a gray house cat instead. The cat struggled in the trap for a full day before he was rescued; his hind leg had to be amputated.

Trappers also contend that traps catch only targeted furbearers, such as raccoons, muskrats, and coyotes. They ignore or deny the fact that an estimated five million non-target animals—such as rabies. Studies have shown that when trappers reduce a species' population in an area, other members of the species are more likely to migrate to that area. Efforts to establish territories in new areas may result in increased fighting among animals, increasing the chances of disease transmission. Further, those with an interest in promoting trapping sometimes intentionally relocate animals. Trappers are suspected to have started the current Northeast rabies epidemic by transplanting infected animals from Florida to West Virginia to increase the raccoon population. (Today the rabies threat to humans has been virtually eliminated. The best protection against the disease has proved to be widespread vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies and reasonable caution when in the presence of wildlife.)

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Changing the Laws

More than sixty-five countries have banned the steel-jaw leghold trap, and the European Community recently voted to ban the trap as of 1995. Yet the leghold trap continues in wide use in the United States, which leads the world in the number of animals trapped each year. Many U.S. groups have tried to make their neighborhoods and towns trap-free; some have succeeded. After two cats were caught in leghold traps in Michigan City, Indiana, residents worked to pass a town ordinance that prohibits use of the traps. In California in 1990, investigator Kurt Lapham of The HSUS's West Coast Regional Office brought the trapping issue before the Sacramento City Council after his cat was caught in a steel-jaw leghold trap. The council unanimously adopted an ordinance that outlaws the traps.

For a year a small grass-roots group in Hudson, New Hampshire, pushed for a ban on steel-jaw leghold traps. On July 22, 1991, the town council unanimously passed such an ordinance. Until all states take the responsibility for protecting citizens and their pets, as well as wildlife, from trapping, it will be up to individuals to press for bans. Meanwhile, pet owners should keep pets under supervision at all times. Inspect your property carefully, particularly large tracts of land—traps are often set illegally on private property. Check with animal-control agencies and neighbors to see if traps have been found in the community. Ask people whose pets have been caught in traps to contact The HSUS for a trapping case report form. Filing reports helps us in the battle to ban traps throughout the country.

Above: a fawn is one of many nontarget animals caught in traps every year. Right: in 1990 an unfortunate cat in suburban Kentwood, Michigan, stumbled upon four steel-jaw leghold traps set in a square. The animal tripped three of the four traps and had to be euthanatized.

In 1990 a cat was brought to the Marshall County (Indiana) Humane Society with his paw caught in a leghold trap. The cat had dragged the trap to a barn, where he was discovered. He was later euthanatized. According to the trapping case reports submitted to The HSUS, many such incidents occur every year.
A VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT

BY PAUL G. IRWIN

After more than two years of preparation, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), or Earth Summit, took place June 3-14 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. One hundred seventy countries were officially represented at the biggest event ever sponsored by the United Nations. One hundred eighteen heads of state attended the meeting, whose goal was to create a new framework (the Earth Charter), comprehensive agenda (Agenda 21), and series of agreements that would protect the environment while at the same time provide the means for human beings to develop fully.

For those of us who work to protect animals through changing international policies, UNCED was a unique opportunity. Never before had the world's political leaders seriously considered a declaration that would recognize the intrinsic value of animals and nature, as well as agendas and treaties that would implement an ethic. We were hopeful that the United Nations would take significant steps to protect animals and the Earth, following the lead of its own recent statements and those of other international groups.

Unfortunately, however, concern for the life and beauty of our planet did not prevail in the deliberations. The Earth Charter, formally titled the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, opens with the assertion that “human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development.” In Agenda 21 and various treaties, opportunities for protecting species or habitats were bypassed or ignored. Both the reality and the rhetoric of caring for animals and the Earth were edited out of final versions, as northern, developed countries and southern, developing countries tried to cut deals that would give each the maximum share of natural resources.

Paul G. Irwin is president of The HSUS.
Amidst representatives of indigenous peoples, Sext. Albert Gore speaks at the Earth Summit in Rio. The HSUS sponsored the IPMC on behalf of CRLE, EarthKind, and HSI.

Despite the disregard for animals demonstrated at UNCED, the meeting represented a giant step forward in creating a global framework to protect animals and the environment on which they depend. This new framework of international relations is vital to the protection of species and the deterioration of habitat on much of the planet. We must insist, as CRLE staff has done, that the HSUS, Planet, and others—working with the appropriate international organizations and countries to protect the exploitation of cetaceans. The next meeting of the International Whaling Commission will set the appropriate international organization to regulate whaling, which will help squelch claims by whaling nations, such as Iceland and Norway, that they can form their own whaling organization to regulate commercial whaling.

The preservation of biological diversity requires the preservation of cultural diversity. Many indigenous peoples have lived for thousands of years in ways that enhance the numbers and relationships of plant and animal species in their areas. We can learn from their agriculture, medicine, and Earth-based spirituality.

At UNCED The HSUS sponsored the Indigenous Peoples Media Center (IPMC) on behalf of CRLE, EarthKind, and HSI. The media center, operating out of the International Press Center, held six press conferences and issued many press releases articulating indigenous perspectives on issues of environment and development. The IPMC staff and CRLE helped facilitate a dialogue between leaders of indigenous peoples and representatives of Global Legislators for a Balanced Environment, including U.S. senator Albert Gore. As the nongovernmental, parallel conference of UNCED, the ‘92 Global Forum served as an opportunity for participation for various groups outside the formal meeting. More than 200 organizations from all parts of the world, representing 9,000 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from around the world, reg­istered at the Global Forum. Included were religious organizations, cultural associa­tions, women’s alliances, animal-protec­tion organizations, and environmental activists, indigenous peoples, and international educators. More than 650 media representatives attended in Flamingo Park, interspersed with tents where speeches and workshops were held.

The Earth is an interdependent community of life. All parts of this system are inseparable, and the functioning of the whole. Life is secured. Each of the diverse forms of life has its own intrinsic value. Human beings have a special capacity to affect the ecological balance and avoidable suffering, and killing. Everyone should take responsi­bility for his or her impacts on nature. People should conserve ecological processes and the diversity of nature, and use any resources responsibly and efficiently, ensuring that their uses of renewable resources are sustainable. Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living, published by The World Conservation Union, United Nations Environment Programme, and World Wildlife Fund, 1991.

The next few years will see the ex­tension of more than 30 years of work to protect and, internationally, conserve and, where necessary, restore biological di­versity. To do this we must protect and, wherever necessary, restore biological diver­sity. An Earth Charter: A Religious Per­spective,” International Coordinating Com­mittee on Religion and the Earth, 1992.
SANCTUARY OR DEATH?

In July the International Whaling Commission (IWC) met in Glasgow, Scotland, for its annual debate on the fate of the world’s whales. I attended the meeting as an observer, as I have in each of the last nineteen years.

Going into the meetings, we expected to confront the fate of the world’s whales. I attended the meeting as an observer, as I have in each of the last nineteen years.

The meeting’s most shocking development took place one hour prior to its opening session, when Norway announced that it would resume commercial whaling in 1993, in defiance of the moratorium in place since 1986. That unilateral action would effectively make Norway a pirate whaler. Norway plans to kill approximately 2,000 minke whales in 1993 (compared to the Norwegian’s moratorium annual averages of 1,300 whales from 1980 to 1985).

To make matters worse, Norway announced that it would begin to kill whales—even as the IWC meetings were taking place—in the guise of research. The Norwegians seem unperturbed that the IWC has condemned both Norway’s and Japan’s scientific proposals as being of poor scientific quality.

In a separate development, Iceland announced that it is leaving the IWC and intends to set up a rival organization, with Norway, to manage marine mammals. Norwegians seem unperturbed that the IWC has condemned both Norway’s and Japan’s scientific proposals as being of poor scientific quality.

The U.S. government failed to take a leadership role in promoting the sanctuary proposal. The meeting’s most shocking development took place one hour prior to its opening session, when Norway announced that it would resume commercial whaling in 1993, in defiance of the moratorium in place since 1986. That unilateral action would effectively make Norway a pirate whaler. Norway plans to kill approximately 2,000 minke whales in 1993 (compared to the Norwegian’s moratorium annual averages of 1,300 whales from 1980 to 1985).

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Sanctuaries and other regional programs are now under serious threat throughout the entire Atlantic and Pacific regions of the world. The moratorium on whaling in the Antarctic, which was supposed to provide a sanctuary for that region’s whales, has been continually flouted by nations, including Japan, that wish to continue whaling. Even the agreements limiting whaling in the North Atlantic and the North Pacific are being ignored.

The IWC has condemned both Norway’s and Japan’s scientific proposals as being of poor scientific quality. The moratorium on whaling in the Antarctic, which was supposed to provide a sanctuary for that region’s whales, has been continually flouted by nations, including Japan, that wish to continue whaling. Even the agreements limiting whaling in the North Atlantic and the North Pacific are being ignored.

A humpback whale surfaces joyfully in Frederick Sound, Alaska: the indefinite moratorium on whaling enacted in 1986 could be overturned if the IWC accepts a renewal proposal. Such a proposal was rejected in 1993.
nizations, is helping WSPA provide technical training and education for several people from Eastern Europe in establishing commercial whaling quotas, slaming that such a model would formulate catch quotas that would not threaten the survival of species. Those rare possibilities of such annullition, however, is anathema to The HSUS/HSI. Besides, we don't believe that any model can accurately predict the impact of ocean pollution.

The carcass of a slaughtered whale, filled with dead harpoons, bloomed the water surrounding a whaling vessel in 1989.

The indefinite moratorium enacted in 1986 has not yet been overturned, but it will be if, next year, a three-fourths majority of IWC member states will act to lift the moratorium. Approval of a mathematical formula to set catch limits would weaken the argument that many whaling opponents have used for years: commercial whaling should conform to quotas that do not threaten the survival of species, and such quotas cannot be set without reliable information on the size of whale populations. In theory, the commiter panel modeled the quotas that we don't, however, consider the theory credible.

Opponents of commercial whaling must now shift their emphasis from scientific arguments to others we believe equally compelling. Our bedrock contention is that whaling simply is unwise—regardless of the way to kill whales humanely. At the July meeting, for the first time in ten years, the IWC passed a resolution of humane killing, and The HSUS/HSI presented an open letter on the subject. Humane slaughter will become an even more important issue at next year's meeting, where we hope it will help deter the resumption of whaling.

There was some good news at the IWC in addition to the fact that the moratorium currently remains in place. We were able to get three resolutions passed calling for more action on behalf of small cetaceans, such as dolphins and belugas.

Following the U.S. elections in November, HSUS/HSI used free time to write to whatever administration is in place and demand support for the French Antarctic sanctuary.

Starting now, letters should flood the Embassy of Norway (2720 34th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008), expressing outrage over King's decision not to buy fish from both Iceland and Norway. (Letters of thanks should go to Barry J. Gibbons, Chief Executive Officer, Burger King Corporation, Box 520783, Miami, Florida 33152.)

The.whale has another year's revenue from full-scale commercial whaling. Next year's IWC meeting in Japan could decide whether whales will find a haven from the whaling waters slaught­ ered throughout the world.—Patricia Forhan, HSI senior vice president

**MARINE-MAMMAL ISSUES REMAIN HOT**

HSI efforts to protect dolphins seemed on the verge of success when, on July 8, European Commissioner for Fisheries Manuel Marin suddenly went before the European Parliament's Environment Committee and made a dramatic announcement: he would support the Morris report and seek a complete European embargo against imported dolphin-deadly tuna (see the Summer 1992 HSUS News). Although the European Parliament had approved the Morris report in November, at that time Mr. Marin had refused to support it because the dolphins were not being hunted in European waters. (The Morris report recommended that the European Community to ban the import into Europe of dolphin-deadly tuna and urges that European vessels and nations be prohibited from intentionally hunting down dolphins.)

Mr. Marin's about-face was not, however, enough to pull the rest of the European Parliament's legs. When the commission failed to follow the parliament's lead and support a complete ban on dolphin-deadly tuna—the key action to remove the economic incentive for purse-seine fishing on dolphins. Neither had the commission asked for a ban on dolphin-deadly tuna from Mexico constituted a free-trade barrier. On June 19, 1992, the European Commission filed its own GATT complaint regarding a U.S. secondary embargo of any dolphin-deadly tuna imported from Europe, whether caught by purse-seine on dolphins or exported from a country lacking dolphin-protection laws. (Such countries include France, Italy, and the United Kingdom.) No GATT decision has yet been reached regarding the European Community's complaint, but this ground may explain the European Commission's reluctance to support the Morris report's proposal to embargo tuna caught by purse-seine on dolphins.

Nevertheless, advances have been made. After HSI consultant Sam LaBudde negotiated for weeks with Spanish canners over their adoption of dolphin-safe policies, the canners signed a contract over the summer with Earth Island Institute (which monitors implementation of dolphin-safe policies world­wide) verifying their commitment. This important action will eliminate one of Europe's two major markets for dolphin-deadly tuna. At the behest of HSI, the Spanish canners also sent a letter to the president of the European Commission asking for a ban on dolphin-deadly tuna.

Also in late July, the European Commission voted in favor of a proposal that the European Community seek full membership in the IWC. HSI will welcome this action if the European Commission puts pressure on Norway, which currently has the lead in blocking the proposal to join the European Community, to abandon its recent decision to resume commercial whaling. The commission's proposal to join is supported by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

Meanwhile, HSI will continue to urge the leadership of the European Community to institute effective marine-mammal policies.—Betsy Drilbin, Executive Director; HSI
six years ago The HSUS was among the first organizations to recognize and respond to growing concern about dog attacks and the problems posed by irresponsible owners of dangerous dogs (see the Winter 1986 HSUS News). At that time we noted that many dogs were being bred and sold with little or no regard for their temperament. Dogfighting continued to be widespread, and fighting breeds, including but not limited to pit-bull-type dogs, were increasingly popular among owners who were unable or unwilling to handle them responsibly. Existing animal-control laws in most areas had been designed to control rabies but not to deal with the human problems of irresponsible ownership.

The year that followed was one that saw vicious-dog hysteria in the media, as well as in state and local governments. The HSUS responded to thousands of requests for information from the press, legislators, and the general public. More than five thousand copies of the HSUS Guidelines for Regulating Dangerous or Vicious Dogs were distributed. That publication urged communities to assess the nature of dog-bite problems in their areas and determine the weaknesses of their current laws. The HSUS advocated—and continues to advocate—strong, well-enforced, non-breed-specific dangerous-dog laws that hold pet owners responsible for the actions of their dogs. We also urged increased efforts to stamp out dogfighting. Finally, we called on everyone who provides pets to the community, including breeders and animal shelters, to recognize and respond to growing concern about dog attacks.

Where do we stand six years later? How far have communities progressed toward solving the problem of dangerous dogs? Clearly the issue is still one of great public concern. A front-page story of the May 7, 1992, Washington Post carried the headline “Dangerous Dogs Are New Fear on the Block.” Dog attacks continue to be a serious problem. There is no nationwide tracking of dog bites, but various experts, extrapolating from emergency-room admissions or from statistics provided by communities with good record keeping, estimate that 500,000 to one million dog bites are reported to health authorities each year, the same figure that has been reported annually for the last decade.

The HSUS has worked with the Centers for Disease Control to carefully track fatal dog attacks since 1986. In 1991 there were thirteen such attacks, only one fewer than in 1986. In 1990 there were twenty-four deaths in the United States from dog attacks, an all-time high. What has changed in the last few years is the nature of the dogs involved. In 1987, 82 percent of the dogs implicated in human fatalities were pit bulls or pit-bull mixes, but by 1991 that percentage had fallen to less than 10 percent. In contrast, we have seen an increase in the number of Siberian huskies, malamutes, chows, rottweilers, and wolf-dog hybrids involved in fatal attacks.

Today many communities are trying better to understand their dangerous-dog problems through more precise tracking of bite incidents. For example, the Palm Beach County, Florida, Animal Regulation Division has analyzed animal bites each year since 1986 and recorded important information, such as the breed, sex, and spay/neuter status of the animals involved. Their records show that severe dog bites in that community have increased 25 percent since 1986, with bites from chows and rottweilers having tripled and those involving pit bulls having fallen by 32 percent.

After 1986 the growing public concern about dog bites was reflected in widespread legislative action. The HSUS called for tougher laws against dogfighting; since 1986 thirteen more states have made dogfighting a felony, bringing the total to forty-two. In addition twenty-five states now have vicious- or dangerous-dog laws. Twenty of these have been passed since 1986, many of them based on suggestions from HSUS guidelines. Only one state law, in Ohio, has breed-specific provisions.

Local dangerous-dog ordinances have also proliferated. According to the American Kennel Club, 154 municipalities have enacted breed-specific dangerous-dog laws, most of them targeting pit bulls. An additional 137 communities considered breed-specific laws but chose to pass generic dangerous-dog laws instead. Forty-five cities had breed-specific regulations overturned or killed before passage. Some of these regulations would have restricted ownership of chows, Akitas, German shepherds, or rottweilers, in addition to pit bulls. Many other areas have passed new dangerous-dog regulations without considering controversial breed-specific provisions.

Despite this flood of dangerous-dog legislation, very little effort has been made accurately to assess the impact of such laws. One of the few areas to have evaluated carefully its response to the dangerous-dog problem is Multnomah County, Oregon. In 1986 the killing of a five-year-old boy by a pit bull in Portland led to a toughening of the county’s dangerous-dog laws. A task force of veterinarians, health officials, dog clubs, and animal-control officials made recommendations to the county commissioners. The resulting generic ordinance set up procedures whereby incidents involving potentially dangerous dogs could be investigated and restrictions could be imposed on owners of such dogs.

According to Mike Oswald, director of Multnomah County Animal Control, a powerful measure of the effectiveness of law-enforcement programs is the recidivism rate, the proportion of people who are repeatedly found guilty of simi-
All dog owners should socialize and exercise their dogs properly. To the extent that they fail to do so, they are guilty of negligence and may be made to pay for the costs of their actions.

It is true that there are people, particularly children, who cannot control their dogs and who frequently permit their dogs to bite others. However, there are a number of reasons why this problem cannot be solved by simply making the dogs neutered. For example, many of these children are also responsible for providing other resources to their families, such as food and shelter. In addition, many of these children may not understand the importance of proper dog behavior.

Several recent developments in genetic engineering show how the new industry applies its resources to produce new outcomes. For example, current research is being carried out to develop transgenic animals such as pigs, lambs, calves, and fish who contain the growth hormone genes of other species. To date, an estimated ten thousand such animals have been produced, and these are being used by scientists in the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe, and Australia to study the effects of genetic engineering on animals and their environments.

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Researchers at the University of California at Davis opted to splice extra growth-regulating genes from sheep into lambs to avoid the use of human gene tissue because, according to Dr. Murray, some transgenes comprised entirely of sheep's gene sequences would be more acceptable to laypersons, in particular to farmers. Dr. Murray hoped to develop a strain of sheep whose lambs would efficiently convert their feed to meat, thus improving meat-production efficiency.

Particularly, to quote Dr. Murray, "I opted to splice extra growth-regulating genes from sheep into lambs to avoid the use of human gene tissue because, according to scientist James Murray, sheep into lambs to avoid the use of human gene tissue adverse effects adversely affect liver, kidney, and cardiac function.

"Meredditch and Company, an international pharmaceutical firm, applied for a patent in Europe on a "superchicken" called Maco-Chicken. In the hopes of cornering the worldwide poultry market for highly feed-efficient, fast-growing birds, Merck developed the chicken. The company's Super-Chicken strain may may well have a variety of health problems, but if the birds eat well and grow quickly, they may be ready for slaughter before severe health problems ever develop. What will happen to the reserve stock of transgenic chickens, the ones not raised for slaughter? Will they suffer?

Because such information is proprietary, corpora- tions are not likely to reveal the problems and risks of their new patented creations. Such secrets notwithstanding, creating transgenic farm animals has social and economic consequences for farmers, agriscience distributors, and the general public—consequences that have been given scant attention.

Critics of the genetic engineering of farm animals have often pointed to the abuse of public funds and the lack of concern by the biotech industry to breed animals that produce more meat even if it is leaner. When the short- and long-term costs of such research are not considered, the public subsidizes the growth of unprofitable businesses. A recent problem of modern intensive animal agriculture is overproduction. In many nations, meat and milk overproduction is a serious problem. It is unlikely that the production of transgenic farm animals will help feed the hungry of the world, since meat-production efficiency has its limitations and inevitable environmental costs.

Genetic engineers are now attempting to alter milk for the human markets to be suitable for people who are lactose intolerant. Researchers are inserting into calf embryos the genes responsible for the production of proteins in mother's milk. They hope to create a new generation of cows able to produce "humanized," or more digestible, milk. Such research may be more helpful in feeding the hungry since milk production is far more efficient, ecologically sound, and cost-effective than meat production.

Other innovations in farm technology that do not entail gene transfer but which can have profound social and economic ramifications include the development of cow clones and a technique to preslect the sex of offspring. Scientists are buffled by the fact that some 25 percent of calves produced by cloning are almost twice normal size at the time of birth and may therefore be delivered by cesarean section.

To date no plant genes have been inserted into ani- mals, but animal genes have been successfully incor- porated into the genetic structures of various plants. Re- searchers have successfully implanted human genes in to tobacco plants to produce functioning human anti- bodies that may be used to diagnose and treat human diseases. The "antifreeze" gene of the flounder, which produces a protein that stops fish from freezing, has been cloned and inserted into tomatoes and tobacco. In the future, fish genes may protect such crops from frost-damage.

Fish farming is growing, so biotechnologists have been busy developing "superfish" by inserting growth- hormone genes into salmon, carp, trout, catfish, tilapia, salmon, walleye, and northern pike. The anti- freeze gene of the flounder is also being inserted into other fish species to expand commercial fish produc- tion in cold regions.

At the Army Research Laboratory in Natick, Massachu­setts, biotechnologists cloned the silk-producing gene of the Golden Orb weaver spider and spliced it into bacteria that in turn produce large quantities of spider-type silk. Perhaps even stronger than steel, this product may have wide commercial applications, including new fabrics for bullet-proof vests, helmets, parachute cords, and other types of strong, light equipment.

Working on the frontier of medicine, scientists have created a number of transgenic mice and rats. One example of transgenic mice carries human genes that result in deformed red blood cells. Research using the mice has helped to identify a genetic disease that causes the decay of red blood cells. Researchers have also developed a line of rats that carries the human gene HLA-B27, which causes a painful crippling form of arthritis. Not only has the clinical effecti- veness of many of these new research efforts not yet been demonstrated, but there is also no foreseeable benefit to the animals made transgenic.

Researchers continue trying to identify the genes responsible for various inbred diseases (especially those found in inbred laboratory mice and rats) and for the genes that play a role in development, growth, milk or egg production, disease resistance, and other physio- logical processes in animals. U.S. Department of Agricul- ture (USDA) scientists have recently been given $2 million to start mapping the genes of cattle and pigs. The result of such research may eventually benefit animals in terms of their health and overall well-being, but the benefits will be limited if the focus of the research is limited to the DNA-mapping research is integrated with a more holistic approach to improving animal health and well-being, it may only exploit animals.

Most research on DNA structures has focused on identifying genetic defects and strengths in humans. All to what end? The discoveries will certainly lead to new medical and veterinary products and services, but genetic determinism ultimately may lead to eugenics, the science of improving the hereditary qualities of a race or breed. In my view eugenics means genetic imperial- ism. Do we really want or need such a thing—Creation made over into the human image of perfect utility?

New Animal Drugs

The development of genetically engineered vaccines, hormones, immune-system enhancers, birth-control regulators, and diagnostic tests may benefit animals. However, the gene engi- neering of veterinary products and services may also be a mixed blessing. It is not without potentially adverse animal-health, socioeconomic, and ecological consequences. Such products are no substi- tute for sound breeding, good nutrition, and humane animal husbandry.
Animal Patenting

The controversy over patenting genetically engineered animals began on April 7, 1987, when the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ruled that such inventions, provided that they were nonnaturally occurring "manufactured" and "compositions of matter," could be included under Section 101 of the Patent Act as patentable subject matter. The patenting of animals was vigorously opposed by the HSUS and a coalition of other organizations.

In 1987 Rep. Charlie Rose introduced legislation to impose a moratorium on the patenting of animals so that the patenting of adverse implications of such patenting could be carefully studied. In 1988 Sen. Mark Hatfield introduced a similar moratorium bill in the Senate.

In order for society to reap the full benefits of advances in genetic engineering, biotechnology, the social, economic, environmental, and ethical ramifications and consequences of such developments need to be fully assessed. The rapid pace of developments in this field, which will be spurring the commercialization of altered animals, a five-year moratorium on the granting of such patents is a wise and necessary decision. A moratorium will enable Congress to fully assess, consider and respond to the economic, environmental, and ethical issues raised by the patenting of such animals and in the process, establish the United States as the world leader in the safe, appropriate, and ethical applications of genetic engineering biotechnology for the benefit of society and for generations to come.

It is very likely that the White House Council on Competitiveness, chaired by Vice President Dan Quayle, will try to block this bill. The council is actively working to deregulate the entire biotechnology industry and has proposed administrative and regulatory changes that will allow the industry, one must wonder how such suffering can ever be justified, when transgenic pigs, designed to be lean and to grow quickly, develop perinatal anemia, sterility, respiratory distress, and in some cases, early death. Despite the many documented health problems of transgenic mice carrying human bovine, bovine, rat, and sheep growth hormones, researchers continue to work on animals with farm animals. One must wonder how such suffering can ever be justified, when transgenic pigs, designed to be lean and to grow quickly, develop perinatal anemia, sterility, respiratory distress, and in some cases, early death.

References

Five sheep cloned from a single embryo in England: in a recent poll, fewer than half of the European questioned thought biotechnological research on farm animals for disease resistance or increased productivity should be encouraged.
DOLPHIN MEASURES MOVE IN CONGRESS

Landmark dolphin-protection legislation could be approved by Congress before it adjourns in October. On June 17 Rep. Gerry Studds of Massachusetts introduced H.R. 5419, the International Dolphin Conservation Act of 1992, which would provide for a five-year global moratorium beginning March 1, 1994, on the practice of intentionally setting nets on dolphins if those nations agree to observe the moratorium; reduce dolphin mortality prior to the moratorium; and allow impartial observers on 100 percent of vessels that now use purse-seine nets to catch tuna.

HSUS FIGHTS TO MAINTAIN THE ESA

With the aid of an intensive lobbying effort by The HSUS and its allies in the Senate, S. 3003, introduced by Sen. John Kerry, also of Massachusetts, is being reviewed by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. That committee held a hearing on the bill on July 23. The HSUS was part of a coalition of opponents that have worked for years to ban the practice of setting purse-seine nets on schools of dolphins to catch yellowfin tuna.

A female sea turtle, one of a species affected by challenges to the ESA, returns to the ocean after laying eggs in the sand.

Endangered Species Coalition, congressional supporters of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) successfully held off two legislative challenges this summer. Rep. Billy Tauzin of Louisiana withdrew an amendment to the Coast Guard Authorization Bill that would circumvent ESA protection of the threatened northern spotted owl and exempt logging on federally owned northwestern forests from compliance with the ESA and other environmental laws.

CONGRESS PASSES BREAK-IN BILLS

In August the House and the Senate passed a modified version of the Farm Animal and Research Facilities Protection Act, now called the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, and sent it to President Bush for signature. Another bill covering crimes at facilities funded by the Public Health Service was incorporated into the omnibus National Institutes of Health (NIH) Reauthorization Act, which was reported as part of an omnibus. That bill and the following two bills have introduced S. 2762 (sponsored by Sen. Slade Gorton of Washington), which would provide for an international moratorium on purse-seine fishing for downed animals; and S. 3526 (sponsored by Rep. Bob Smith of Oregon), which would allow the president, the farm-animal bill would now threaten whalers/owners or The HSUS’s and other organizations’ legitimate investigations. Although the NIH reauthorization bill still contains a provision that could be interpreted as threatening to whistleblowers, authors Henry Waxman of California and Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts publicly assured the Congress that such was not the intent and that copying information that might indicate a violation of animal-protection laws would not be a crime.

DOWNER BILLS INTRODUCED

S ince the March 5 hearing before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, The HSUS has continued to work hard to stop the suffering of downers (see the Summer 1992 HSUS News). Two bills have been introduced that would reduce the handling and suffering of such nonambulatory animals: S. 2296, sponsored by Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, and H.R. 5680, introduced by Rep. Gary Ackerman of New York. The bills, both of which are known as the Downed Animals Protection Act of 1992, would create a nationally uniform “no-downer” policy at livestock markets. Both bills have the full support of The HSUS, and we will press hard for their passage next year.

WILD-BIRD BILLS MAKE PROGRESS

O n April 29 Rep. Gerry Studds of Massachusetts broke the congressional deadlock, and two bills calling for a
ban on the commercial importation of wild birds to the United States by introducing another bill, H.R. 5013, the Wild Bird Conservation Act. H.R. 5013 would limit or prohibit imports of exotic birds when necessary to ensure that exotic wild-bird populations are not harmed by the trade and that exotic birds in trade are not subject to inhumane treatment. The HSUS is part of a coalition represented at a House hearing held June 16 on H.R. 5013 and a Senate hearing on July 31.

The bill was approved by two House committees in July and was passed by the full House on August 11. Sen. Max Baucus of Montana will direct the movement of a bill similar to H.R. 5013 in the Senate. The HSUS will be exploring avenues to strengthen the Wild Bird Conservation Act as it moves through the Senate.

HUMANE-TRANSPORT REGULATIONS ISSUED

More than a decade has passed since Congress, in amendments to the Lacey Act, required the secretary of the DOI to “prescribe such requirements . . . necessary for the transportation of wild animals and birds under humane and healthful conditions.” The act states that “it shall be unlawful for any person, including any importer, knowingly to cause or permit any wild animal or bird to be transported to the United States . . . under inhumane or unhealthful conditions.”

On June 17 the DOI issued the long-awaited regulations governing such transport. The regulations govern care, food and water requirements, handling, temperature and ventilation requirements, enclosure size, and vehicle-stocking density. Issuance of the regulations had been held up since 1988 by the poultry, egg, and other animal traders who profit from animal imports despite the trade’s tremendous mortality rates.

The HSUS and other organizations successfully sued the DOI in 1988 for not issuing the regulations in a timely manner. The regulations became effective September 15, 1992.

HEARING HELD ON EXHIBITION ANIMALS

On July 8 the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing on the treatment of animals in exhibition, such as in zoos, aquaria, and circuses, and on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). John W. Grandy, Ph.D., HSUS vice president, Wildlife and Habitat Protection, presented strong evidence documenting the USDA’s inability to enforce effectively the regulations of the AWA in zoos, circuses, and traveling acts. The evidence included specific cases in which exhibition animals suffered and, in some instances, died due to inadequate care.

The HSUS recommended establishment of a blue-ribbon advisory committee, including representatives from the animal-protection community, to review and recommend improvements in relevant regulations; establishment of more stringent licensing standards for animal exhibitors; development of more specific space requirements for exhibition animals; and development of more stringent guidelines for the humane handling and care of exhibition animals.

On July 30 the HSUS and other organizations met with USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services, John Amstutz, and other USDA staff to discuss further the need for stricter enforcement of the regulations governing exhibition animals.

At least $600,000 was transferred from the AWC to the Rabbits to Rescue Fund. AWA Advisory Committee Director Nina Austenberg said that “the health department did not carry out the regulations for animal welfare; the USDA said that [it] knew there was a problem and used poor judgment in handling the case.”

Public protest has kept an additional $300,000 from being taken out of the AFWC. The program was supported by municipalities because of its ability to keep shelter costs down and control the spread of rabies. If low-cost spaying and neutering are not available, the animals will be the ones who suffer.

CARRIAGE HORSES PROTECTED BY VETO

Thanks to New York City Mayor David Dinkins, who vetoed Introductory Number 410-A, a horse-carrigae bill, the Carriage Horse Protection Act, Local Law 89, remains in effect. The Carriage Horse Action Committee, the HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, and other animal-protection organizations worked long and hard to stop the weakening of the current protective regulations for the horses.

“Rabiesgate” in New Jersey

In May representatives from animal-protection groups, animal shelters, and kennel clubs, as well as private citizens, marched in front of the New Jersey statehouse to protest the health department’s mishandling of the state’s Animal Population Control (APC) Fund.

The APC Fund was created expressly to provide low-cost spaying and neutering, through a model program with participating veterinarians, for pets of people on public assistance and pets adopted from shelters. The program was totally funded by a surcharge of $3 on dog licenses.

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In July the HSUS documented the USDA’s lax enforcement of the AWA for exhibited animals, such as these African lions.

REGIONS REVIEW

NEW ENGLAND

“Rabiesgate” protesters, including regional director Nina Austenberg (standing at left), pose at the New Jersey statehouse.

LETTERS PROTEST HEGINS SHOOT

The Fred Coleman Memorial Shoot has been held every Labor Day in Hegins, Pennsylvania, for fifty-seven years. Promoted as the largest one-day “flyer shoot” in the world, the Fred Coleman Memorial Proceedings claims 6,000 to 8,000 pigeons annually.

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Representative Saumann, who has sponsored a bill prohibiting pigeon shoots, accepted the coupons after Governor Robert P. Casey declined to meet with HSUS staff.

NEAL CARRIGE

“Rabiesgate” protesters, including regional director Nina Austenberg (standing at left), pose at the New Jersey statehouse.

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TRUST HELPS AREA SHELTERS
The HSUS is pleased to announce the completion of its 1990 projects funded by the Ruth McDaniel Trust. Mrs. McDaniel was an HSUS member who founded the Nevada (Missouri) Humane Society. Her legacy is a trust fund to help humane organizations finance shelter construction and renovation, humane-education programs, spay/neuter programs, and other animal-related projects.

The City of Cameron, Missouri; People for Animal Rights of Kansas City, Missouri; the Heart of Missouri Humane Society of Jefferson City; the City of Garden Plains, Kansas; and the City of Fort Scott, Kansas, benefited from the trust.

S.B. 636 BECOMES MISSOURI LAW
On July 8 Missouri governor John D. Ashcroft signed into law S.B. 636, which regulates puppy mills and catteries. The Animal Care Facilities Act establishes standards of care for animals housed in breeding facilities, boarding kennels, animal shelters, and municipal pounds. Such facilities will be licensed or registered and inspected by the Missouri Department of Agriculture. The law also includes a provision requiring dogs and cats adopted from shelters to be spayed or neutered. Along with the Alliance for Animal Legislation of Missouri, The Humane Society of Missouri, Protect Our Pets, and others, The HSUS worked for nearly six years for passage of this legislation.

TASK FORCE STUDIES COUNTY PROGRAM
A task force has been organized in Jackson County, Missouri, to study the feasibility of constructing an animal shelter and operating an animal-control program. The task force consists of representatives of ten municipalities that had contracted with a private kennel to provide housing and pickup of stray and unwanted animals. The private kennel has been the subject of many complaints of inhumane conditions. Because of these alleged inhumane conditions, all members of the task force have canceled their contracts with the kennel.

Blue Springs, Missouri, a task force member, obtained a grant for the purpose of hiring an evaluation team headed by Nicholas Gilman of the HSUS Companion Animals section. The team spent four days touring the area and will submit its recommendations soon.

DOG BOUND: REWARD OFFERED
The Iowa Federation of Humane Societies, supported by The HSUS, is offering a $5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the brutal blinding of an Eddyville, Iowa, family dog. "Bear" was missing for three days and his family searched for him without success. On the fourth day, family member Gary DeMoney found Bear in the woods near his home. The dog had been left for dead with both eyes gouged out and encrusted with blood. The veterinarian who removed Bear’s eyes said it appeared they had been gouged out with a sharp object or burned with a chemical. Bear is expected to recover.

Missouri governor John D. Ashcroft signed the Animal Care Facilities Act at a ceremony attended by regional director Wendell Maddox (standing behind the governor), among others.

GREAT LAKES
Peculiar circumstances led the Great Lakes office staff to conclude that surrender of the more than 225 animals by the owners would be a better course of action than pursuit of criminal animal-neglect charges based on the facility’s extreme overcrowding and poor living conditions. Great Lakes program coordinator Robin Weinacht met with the county prosecutor and later with the puppy-mill owners. After considerable negotiation, she obtained an agreement from the owners to surrender all animals and refrain from future breeding and selling of animals, in Indiana and elsewhere. Seventy-one dogs were removed in the last phase of this rescue and immediately transferred to shelters willing to take them in for potential adoption.

HORSE-REFUGE DEATH INVESTIGATED
We recently investigated the death of a wild horse on the Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Refuge. The horse had become entangled in a barbed-wire fence and elsewhere. Seventy-one dogs were removed in the last phase of this rescue and immediately transferred to shelters willing to take them in for potential adoption.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT CLOSES PUPPY MILL
The cooperation of nine Indiana animal-protection agencies has made it possible to close another puppy mill in the Great Lakes region. Peculiar circumstances led the Great Lakes office staff to conclude that surrender of the more than 225 animals by the owners would be a better course of action than pursuit of criminal animal-neglect charges based on the facility’s extreme overcrowding and poor living conditions. Great Lakes program coordinator Robin Weinacht met with the county prosecutor and later with the puppy-mill owners. After considerable negotiation, she obtained an agreement from the owners to surrender all animals and refrain from future breeding and selling of animals, in Indiana and elsewhere. Seventy-one dogs were removed in the last phase of this rescue and immediately transferred to shelters willing to take them in for potential adoption.

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**CONFERENCE IN APRIL A SUCCESS**

More than 150 people attended the “Animal Welfare: Outlooks for Success” conference sponsored by the Gulf States Regional Office and the Texas Federation of Humane Societies April 23-25, in Austin, Texas.

Workshops addressing search and seizure and the psychology of cruelty, as well as mock trials, were very popular. Workshops concerning nonprofit administration, grant writing, and newsletters were well attended by board members, executive directors, and shelter managers from the area.

**HORSE SLAUGHTER, THEFT ARE PROBLEMS**

More than 315,000 horses were slaughtered for human consumption in the United States in 1990.

Of twelve U.S. horse-slaughter plants, four operate in Texas. The Gulf States office is investigating the interstate shipment of horses destined for slaughter to determine the care these animals receive in transit. Also of concern is the theft of horses, many of whom end up in slaughter plants. State Sen. Ted Lyon is expected to introduce legislation to curtail horse theft in Texas.

**REGIONAL POTPOURRI**

In Arkansas, Gulf States Regional Director James Nee and Rick Evans of the Humane Society of Pulaski County have met with Gov. Bill Clinton’s staff to discuss the need for minimum operating standards for animal shelters across that state. The HSUS is optimistic that needed changes will take place in the very near future.

In Louisiana, Legislation in Support of Animals has successfully pushed through a bill that criminalizes wrestling-bear acts in the state. The new law provides up to a $500 fine or six-month jail penalty for those convicted.

The HSUS has long tried to protect Chincoteague ponies; those changes made have taken sixty-four years to enact.

If these changes are not made, we will seek to end all exploitation of the ponies.

**INCREASED PENALTIES FOR CRUELTY**

A Tennessee bill designed to increase the penalty for animal cruelty has become law. Cruelty to animals was upgraded to a class A misdemeanor carrying a fine of up to $2,500 and a jail term of up to eleven months.

In Virginia the general assembly passed H.B. I, which extends the statute of limitations on animal-cruelty offenses from one year to five years. Also passed were S.B. 252, to remove the authority of investigators to sell at auction animals confiscated from unfit owners, and H.R. 196, to establish a special study group to assess the feasibility of mandatory spaying/neutering of pets.

Kentucky’s H.B. 529, to outlaw cockfighting by redefining “cock” as “the矜ed fighting pit, training equipment, records, and dogfighting paraphernalia were found on their property.

“It’s hard to fathom that some people get enjoyment from watching two dogs tear each other apart,” said Southwestern investigator Ken Johnson. Dogfighting is a felony throughout the Southeast.

**GAME COMMISSION KEEPS BEAR HUNT**

The Florida Game Commission shocked the HSUS and others earlier this year by rejecting its own staff’s recommendation to stop black-bear hunting.

The black bear was designated a threatened species in Florida seventeen years ago; estimates of the bear’s current numbers range from 400 to 1,500. Although many bears are lost to poaching, automobile deaths, 60 were killed by hunters and their dogs during the most recent hunting season (see the Spring 1992 HSUS News).

A bill filed in the past legislative special session would have made it a felony to kill a black bear. Another called for the restructing of the game commission to shift its focus from managing animals for hunting to wildlife protection.

The game commission has reduced the numbers of black bears to be hunted and killed this winter by requiring a 200-pound weight minimum for any bear killed.

The commission has consistently catered to the small minority of Florida citizens who hunt and ignored the concerns of the majority who do not. If positive action is not taken soon, the black bear will go the way of the endangered Florida panther.

**DOGFIGHTERS ARRESTED**

A yearlong dogfighting investigation by the HSUS ended in June with the arrests of two Pensacola, Florida, men.

Nine felony charges were filed against the men after a raid conducted by the Escambia County Sheriff’s Department and the HSUS. Thirty-five dogs, alleged fighting pit, training equipment, records, and dogfighting paraphernalia were found on their property.

“It’s hard to fathom that some people get enjoyment from watching two dogs tear each other apart,” says investigator Ken Johnson. Dogfighting is a felony throughout the Southeast.

**CRASH TESTS ROADBLOCKED**

The HSUS recently received personal thanks from California Assemblyman Mike Gotch for their help in the passage of A.B. 3691. The bill forbids the introduction of evidence based on live-animal testing in any product-liability action involving motor vehicles.

The law will take effect January 1, 1993. A.B. 3691 was introduced by Assemblyman Mike Gotch in response to news reports that General Motors was conducting automobile crash tests using live animals (GM is the only car manufacturer still conducting such tests; all others use computer simulations or crash dummies.) Since GM stated such tests were necessary to product-liability claims, A.B. 3691 forbade introduction of evidence derived from such tests, making them useless.

There is no longer any reason for them to be conducted, at least in California, the largest automobile market in the nation.

**SPAY/NEUTER MONEY REVISITED**

California Assemblyman Jack O’Connell introduced A.B. 3888 to require forfeited spay/neuter deposits to be spent only on items directly related to spay/neuter programs and within twenty-four months of their forfeiture. The bill would have required most shelters to make available for public review a report on use of the forfeited deposits. It would have also required retail sellers of dogs and cats to provide their customers with information on the advantages of spaying/neutering their pets.

Unfortunately, Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed this important bill.

The bill had been introduced to address problems brought to light by an auditor’s general report requested by West Coast Regional Director Charlene Drennon.
LAW NOTES

RIGHTS OF PET-OWNING TENANTS

Tenants in public and private housing frequently contact The HSUS for advice after they have been denied permission to have a pet in their residence or have suffered discrimination because of their pet ownership. Unfortunately, federal law protects relatively few pet owners. Generally, Section 227 of the federal Housing Act of 1983 provides that no type, and require tenants to post security deposits.

The regulations set the maximum deposit that may be required of pet-owning tenants for most pet owners who live in rental housing for the elderly or handicapped and whose rents are subsidized or assisted, the maximum deposit is currently $300. Most tenants are permitted to pay the deposit in installments through an initial payment of no more than $50 and subsequent monthly payments of no more than $10. However, a few assisted projects are not required to allow installment payments of the deposit; in such cases, a tenant may be required to pay the full deposit at the time the pet is brought onto the premises. For all other pet owners, the deposit cannot exceed one month's rent at the time the pet is brought in.

Only tenants living in federally assisted rental housing built exclusively for the elderly or handicapped are protected under federal law. A lease agreement should clearly state whether housing is federally assisted. Anyone applying to live in public housing should ask about pet regulations before or at the time of applying. Anyone who lives in housing covered by federal law and is being pressured by a landlord to dispose of a pet—or who has been denied federally assisted housing because of a pet—should contact his/her regional HUD office for assistance. Local legal aid offices can also provide advice.

The benefits, both emotional and physical, of pet companionship have been widely documented, particularly for the elderly or handicapped. Unfortunately, only a handful of states (including Arizona, California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey), have enacted protection beyond that afforded by the federal law concerning pets in rental housing. If you live in one of these jurisdictions, you may be protected even if you do not live in housing that qualifies you for protection under federal law. Therefore, you may need to contact a local attorney to determine your rights under state law. Often, local humane societies can help in such matters.

COURT RULE ON ANIMAL SACRIFICE

In the last century, humane organizations fought the use of dogs as draft animals. Today they are fighting to keep dogs from being used as ritual sacrifices. A landmark case, now before the Supreme Court of the United States, will decide whether the constitutional right of free exercise of religion protects the ritual killing of animals for whether state and local governments, in keeping with their role as fiduciaries of animals, can ban the practice. In July The HSUS and four other national animal-protection organizations filed a brief with the Court, arguing that religious ideology is no justification for killing or abusing animals.

The case began in 1987, when the city of Hialeah, Florida, enacted a series of prohibitory ordinances, par-
"But, Mom, I didn’t have time to feed Sadie."

We often assume that all children love animals. Unfortunately, that’s not always true. Children have to be taught to care, especially if they are to grow up to be caring, concerned adults.

That’s why humane education is so important. You can help make it happen in our schools by participating in the HSUS “Adopt-A-Teacher” program. It’s quick and easy! Over 9,000 teachers requested help from The HSUS last school year. You can “adopt” one of them or a teacher of your choice.

For more information, write to HSUS Adopt-A-Teacher, 67 Salem Road, East Haddam, CT 06423.