

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy

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The Humane Society of the United States

West Coast Regional Office

REPORT

SPRING 1977

CHINO GEESE-BUREAUCRATIC BUNGLING!



Riverside Press Enterprise

Photo by Bob Ringquist

In 1975 hundreds of wild geese migrating from Canada to the Salton Sea were slaughtered just outside the Chino prison. The prison officials hazed the geese off the grounds and into range of the waiting hunters' guns.

Dr. Alice DeGroot, a local resident, counted over 150 pickup trucks full of hunters lined up to shoot the geese. Dr. DeGroot reported bloodied geese falling all around. "The sound of the geese whose mates were killed was eerie", she said. Finally, the sheriff was forced to call off all hunting in the area. Because the problem involved the California state prison system, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Fish and Game, bureaucrats promised that there would be meetings between these agencies and interested citizen groups to decide how feeding grounds might be provided. As fall 1976 approached and nothing had been done, the HSUS Sacramento office began work to head off a 1976-77 slaughter. Over 6000 geese were expected into the area. After numerous fruitless phone calls (the DFG and others called it a complex problem without solution) the HSUS sent telegrams to get the hazing permits canceled. We called on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to halt all

hunting in the area to avoid a repeat of the previous year's debacle. The HSUS also offered to meet with any department to attempt to find a solution.

Dr. Doug Ryan, a humanitarian in the Chino area angered by lack of cooperation from officials, began taking license numbers and pictures of hunters taking over the limit and violating private property rights. Ironically, there is only one overworked DFG field man in the Chino area to enforce hunting regulations. Dr. Ryan called the sheriff after witnessing hunters aim and fire in the direction of children leaving a school bus. He reports that the sheriff did not respond.

As we go to press, we are still working to head off the inevitable. The HSUS believes that the geese must be allowed to feed at the prison until alternate goose pasture can be provided. The tragedy of the Chino geese is a chain reaction; it began with the prison happily allowing the geese to graze there until the DFG stopped California officials from using the prison grounds as a private hunting reserve. According to a newspaper report, in 1973 the prison superintendent and his friends were arrested for illegal hunting on the grounds. No solution will be forthcoming until the government agencies involved stop passing the buck. We have sent the DFG a list of 40 management questions and await their answer.

The HSUS is preparing petitions to the Governor asking his support in getting the agencies to work together to provide a feeding area in the Del Prado Basin where these beautiful birds can feed undisturbed.

Help Save California's Endangered Species Law

If Assemblyman Frank Vicencia's new bill AB 137 passes, Penal Code Section 6530 would be repealed in part allowing products from endangered species including feral roaming horses, alligators, sea otters, and dolphins to be sold in California. Help us save the endangered species section that now forbids such sales. To express your views contact your own state legislator c/o State Capitol, Sacramento 95814.

RODEO INFORMATION SOUGHT



On September 18, 1976, two horses died at the Western Championship Finals Rodeo in Folsom, California. The first horse died from a heart attack after picking up a cowboy who had just completed a successful ride. The second horse was killed when it charged into a fence and broke its neck during the saddle bronc event. (pictured above)

Not all cruelty is so blatant. Unfortunately, much of the cruelty in rodeo is overlooked by spectators who are easily led to believe that once an animal is behind the chutes it is given a chance to recover and is not really hurt. Often the animal has broken bones and other injuries. Too often there isn't any veterinary attention, the animals are returned to crowded, filthy pens, and these same animals are used up to four times a day.

The HSUS-WCRO wants information about the rodeos appearing near you. What did the general condition of the stock look like? Were there sores, limping, underfed, etc.? Were any animals injured during a show and what became of them? Was veterinary care available? What condition were the holding pens in and where will that rodeo appear next? Find out if any clown's acts involved fighting cocks or were abusive to the animals used.

No animal should have to endure the pain and suffering found in and behind the rodeo arena. Send any information to the WCRO.

THE DOGS WON!

California voters going to the polls in November's General Election, were faced with Proposition 13, an initiative to legalize betting on greyhound dog racing in California. The results were better than 3-to-1 against the cleverly worded measure.

George G. Hardie, the moving force behind Proposition 13, first began his efforts to legalize betting on greyhound dog racing in Sacramento in late 1974. As a result of his lobbying efforts, AB455, which would have achieved this, was introduced. When the bill failed in committee, Hardie organized a huge signature gathering campaign, and succeeded in obtaining enough signatures to get the initiative on the ballot.

Had the initiative passed in November, Hardie would have had much to gain. When he wrote the proposition, he worded it so that he would have almost virtual control of what potentially could have been a billion dollar operation in the state.

But the animals would have lost as has been proven in states where greyhound racing is legal. The Humane Society of the United States was in the forefront of the opposition and the West Coast Regional Office was besieged with letters from people concerned about the animals in dog racing. It is the policy of The Humane Society of the United States to oppose dog racing because of the cruel training methods, the large scale breeding of greyhounds in the hopes of producing a winner, the often cruel methods by which non-winners are sometimes killed, and because this so-called sport is an inhumane and unjustified exploitation of animals for profit. The Society works to prevent the legalization of dog racing and the establishment of racing tracks in communities where none now exists.

The initiative purported to prohibit the use of live rabbits as lures in training greyhounds to race, but it did not mandate investigation or enforcement of that provision. The initiative provided for retirement farms for racing dogs, but it couldn't protect them from being shipped out of state where they could have been disposed of without violating the initiative's provisions. It didn't prohibit the killing of greyhound puppies unsuitable for racing, which may be up to 80 percent of the litter.

The HSUS-WCRO produced a brochure, "Let's Put Greyhound Racing Out of The Running" informing people of cruelties in the dog racing industry and it denounced Proposition 13 for what it really was; a farce.

On November 2nd, 1976, Californians chose to vote against Proposition 13 and for the animals.



Photo by F. L. Dantzler

WARNING

The West Coast Regional Office has just learned that proponents of dog racing will try again this session to get it passed in the California State Legislature.

SUSANVILLE WILD HORSE ROUNDUP

The Susanville District of the Bureau of Land Management plans a wild horse roundup in that area. Concern for conditions of the roundup led Phil Steward, HSUS Investigator, and Char Drennon, Director WCRO, to take a two day field trip to that area. Mr. Rex Cleary, BLM director, arranged for The HSUS personnel to be taken both to the corral holding area and to where the trap was being set up.

All phases of the taking of horses was discussed and HSUS suggestions for improving the arrangements were subsequently taken. Each outside gate on the corral at Litchfield would be chained and locked. More important, was the provision for a veterinarian technician to be on the site during the roundup. A stipulation was also added (for what we believe to be the first time) to the Cooperative Agreement that those adopting the horses must sign. This stipulation reads, **"One year from date of acquisition of animal the cooperator is required to furnish the Susanville District Manager a written statement signed by a certified veterinarian describing the condition and health of subject animal."** This stipulation is important. Should a person adopting the horse not file such a veterinarian's certificate, it would be evident that followup should be done to see why not. What, in other words, has happened to that horse? We will continue to be in touch with BLM officials as the roundup goes on.

Your HSUS Membership is More Important Than Ever

California has a number of new state laws affecting animal welfare. Dog fighting can now be considered a felony with penalties up to \$50,000. Animal control officers must return a dog to its owner (if home) when the dog has just wandered off the owner's property. Elephants have been added to the Endangered Species list and the Mountain Lion Moratorium remains in effect until January 1978.

The new federal tax law will allow the HSUS to be more active on the legislative scene. However, if you want to receive all legislative information be sure you send in your HSUS membership dues. Because of increasing costs our West Coast office cannot maintain separate lists of interested people. The tax law allows greater flow of information to our members. Additionally, upon receipt of membership you become eligible to be added to our Action Alert. If you are on Action Alert you receive immediate bulletins on federal legislative and animal welfare crises.

Charlene Drennon
DIRECTOR

ERIC SAKACH JOINS HSUS STAFF



Eric Sakach is Field Representative for The Humane Society of the United States, West Coast Regional Office. Prior to joining the HSUS staff, Eric was employed by a corporate advertising agency in Reno, Nevada as an illustrator and graphic artist. He has been a commercial artist since 1972.

Eric has been involved in animal welfare work most of his life. He received the Animal Welfare League of Nevada's annual award for "Outstanding Kindness To Animals" in 1968. Eric was also a founder of ECOLOKIND and featured in the December, 1974 issue of KIND magazine. He has done field investigation and worked with veterinarians at rabies clinics.

California Societies' First In Nation

The West Coast has the first two humane societies in the United States to qualify for HSUS accreditation. In announcing the accreditation of the Peninsula Humane Society and the Monterey S.P.C.A., HSUS President John Hoyt said, "It is a pleasure to award our first two accreditations to these outstanding California humane societies. They have admirably fulfilled our standards of conducting their animal welfare programs in a professional and responsible manner." Among the outstanding features of each of these organization's work and programs are their emphasis on education in the schools and at their local facilities; adoption policies that require and implement neutering of all adopted animals; responsible pet ownership and providing health standards and care for the animals housed in their shelters.

DISASTER IN THE WEST COAST REGION

Many Snake River Valley residents in Southeastern Idaho, with barely enough time to escape onrushing waters, could not provide shelter for their pets and livestock when the Teton dam collapsed last August, spilling an estimated 80 billion gallons of water.

Frantz Dantzler, HSUS Director of Field Services and Investigations was sent to the scene to coordinate efforts to help animals in the stricken area. According to Dantzler, the combined efforts of The HSUS and local animal welfare groups led to the rescue of more than 250 pets and several hundred livestock. "It's impossible to tell how many animals we helped indirectly," said

(Please turn to page 4)

Disaster . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Dantzler," but I think it was through our persistence that hay was air dropped and trucked to stranded cattle."

The Bonneville County Humane Society and its president, Gail Snider, were key factors and of invaluable assistance in coordinating animal relief efforts.

"There is no established disaster relief system for animals," said Dantzler," the Idaho flood and other disasters HSUS has been involved in make it crystal clear such a system is needed."

HUMANE EDUCATION HAPPENINGS 1977

February 25th and 26th Sheraton Inn
Fresno, California
Co-hosted by Central California SPCA

March 4th and 5th Vacation Village
San Diego, California
Co-hosted by Animal Care Center, Rancho Sante Fe

FEATURING

John J. Dommers, Director of Education for The Humane Society of the United States, and outstanding West Coast humane educators.

**INTERESTED IN HUMANE EDUCATION?
FOR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT
HSUS-WCRO [916] 447-3295**

\$500. REWARD
FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION THAT RESULTS IN THE ARREST AND FELONY CONVICTION OF PERSON(S) INVOLVED IN DOG FIGHTING.
(916) 447-3295

The Humane Society of the United States

**Ad Paid For By :
YOUR NAME HERE**

The above ad ran in the Sacramento Bee on December 14, 1976 paid for by Pets and Pals. Any group interested in running a similar ad must first contact HSUS-WCRO for permission.

CALIFORNIA WHALE DAY — HUGE SUCCESS —

Eric Sakach and Judi Kukulka of WCRO manned a booth at the all-day "California Celebrates The Whale" event in Sacramento, California. Over 5,000 people interested in saving the whale attended. The event was sponsored by California's Governor Jerry Brown. Several hundred interested people signed up at the HSUS booth, to receive information about HSUS humane education programs.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance should be addressed to Charlene Drennon, West Coast Regional Director, 1713 J St., Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916-447-3295). All contributions made to the HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.



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