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This was only one horse out of several hundred that HSUS investigated in relation to alleged starvation charges. It appears as though the horse became entangled and died in the fence while trying to reach pasture land on the opposite side.

**HSUS Fights to Save Horses**

Over three hundred horses were being held for slaughter in Clarksville, Texas. The reports to HSUS stated that the animals were slowly dying as a result of not being properly fed. More than thirty dead animals had been counted by reliable eye witnesses.

HSUS Regional Director William Meade immediately dispatched a telegram to the local County Attorney calling for immediate steps to be taken to investigate the shocking reports. After receiving no reply from the County Attorney, Meade scheduled Rich McCracken, HSUS Field Investigator, to fly to the scene.

Accompanied by Dr. Clifton Shepler, with the Texas Dept. of Health, they proceeded to walk the property line observing and photographing conditions. The animals were standing ankle deep in mud and water, there was not one blade of grass in sight. The bark from trees was eaten off by the starving horses. The only food seen was garbage dumped by a nearby processing plant. Dead horse carcasses and skeletons were in piles around the property. The scenes were revolting enough to anger the most hardened soul.

The local Judge and County Attorney were immediately located and charges were sworn out. The horses' owner appeared as if he was being inconvenienced by all of this concern over the horses.

During the court trial testimony was taken and Rich McCracken described the suffering and inhumane conditions he had observed. Dr. Shepler stated under oath that horses could not be expected to survive on the waste slop that was being fed.

However, when the defense side was called a number of witnesses were produced who all stated that the horses were in fine shape and receiving the best of food and care. As a result of this testimony the judge found the horses owner innocent of any wrong doing! Later that day as our investigator was leaving the courthouse, he was threatened by several bystanders to keep out of Clarksville.

Currently additional court action is being initiated which will hopefully force changes and corrections for these unfortunate horses.
There is no requirement to neuter these shelter animals which means the TV program is only promoting continuing pet overpopulation.

- JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS The Cherokee County Humane Society held five spaying campaigns during the past months. Close to 300 animals have been neutered as the result of this subsidized program. This expanded spaying program will save many animals’ lives from being wasted.

- AUSTIN, TEXAS Employee training classes have been conducted for over 30 shelter employees and wardens at the Austin & Travis County Humane Society. The sessions were taught by a veterinarian and dealt with many phases of good animal care.

- JUDSONIA, ARKANSAS A case of abandoned horses has provoked a group of concerned citizens to start a new humane society in Judsonia. The HSUS is assisting with information and guidance to get their group organized.

- RICH McCRAKEN, HSUS FIELD INVESTIGATOR, ASSISTED LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETY OFFICIAL MRS. CISSY SWEENEY. After the complaint and warrants were taken from witnesses, Rich McCracken HSUS Field Investigator, assisted local humane society official Mrs. Cissy Sweeney. Together they documented the case with photographs and information. Following HSUS’ recommendations, statements were taken from witnesses and a veterinarian was obtained to examine the horses.

- The court case resulted in a $500 fine and suspended sentences. The horses were auctioned to new responsible owners. The local society now has the experience and know-how to handle future cases.

Cruelty Case Won With HSUS Aid

One of the major goals of The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office is to assist and counsel local organizations so that they are able to prosecute local cruelty violations with their own resources.

The case of six horses, impounded in Nueces, Texas for mistreatment was a recent successful example. After observing the unhed and unkept horses in their delapidated stables, Rich McCracken HSUS Field Investigator, assisted local humane society official Mrs. Cissy Sweeney.

Together they documented the case with photographs and information. Following HSUS’ recommendations, statements were taken from witnesses and a veterinarian was obtained to examine the horses.

After the complaint and warrants were executed we assisted the local society with moving the horses to a local veterinarian hospital for treatment and care.

The court case resulted in a $500 fine and suspended sentences. The horses were auctioned to new responsible owners. The local society now has the experience and know-how to handle future cases.

Dr. Fox Speaks Out For Animals Rights

Dr. Michael W. Fox has “declared war” on trophy hunting, rodeos, wearing furs, and inhumane conditions for food animals.

Speaking at the St. Mary’s Hall Centennial Celebration in Texas, Fox said, “Adults tend to regard animals as utilitarian — that they’re here only for our own exclusive use — that they have no intrinsic value unto themselves. The intrinsic value of animals is where animal intrinsic value unto themselves. The animal’s life and health.”

Fox also gave his opinion of safaris, “Trophy hunting is ignorant,” he declared. “These hunters are like little children. They do not have the right to do whatever they like with these animals.”

In concluding, Dr. Fox said, “To glory in nature is to see something beyond the animals and the plants. This more total world view can cause us to cease destroying our life support systems. This reverence for life taught by Schweitzer is the ethic behind the new phenomenon of animal rights.”

Animals Suffer Because Of Modern “Factory Farming”

Much animal mistreatment is excused in agriculture because “it just costs too much to give them better care.”

This poor treatment generally takes the form of overcrowding, being fed and raised in unnatural ways, and rough handling during mass transit.

The Gulf States Office of The HSUS recently became involved in a tragic case that is typical of what can happen to “Factory Farmed” animals.

A truck loaded with 10,000 chickens had departed from Nashville, Arkansas. While enroute the truck overturned in the middle of a four lane highway. The chickens were crammed in cases so tight that hundreds were mangled and crushed to death as the cases overturned.

When our investigator arrived on the scene the truck driver had left the accident. After some checking we were able to contact the shipping company and urge them to rush rescue crews to the scene.

It took the work crews over eight hours to arrive at the accident scene. During this time many of the chickens were dying of crushing confinement. We fortunately were able to get the local Animal Control truck to assist with some of the injured and escaped birds during the long wait.

Although the truck accident may have been unavoidable, the overcrowding and slow response by the trucking firm resulted in an estimated 3,000 birds dying a slow, painful death.

This may not seem like a major loss; however, it illustrates the attitude today towards animals destined for human use. Some people seem to be saying “Since the animal will be slaughtered anyway, why be concerned with its existence.” The HSUS believes this is wrong and that we should afford food animals a natural existence and the best humane transportation and slaughter methods possible.

Remember Animals In Your Will

There’s only one way to make sure you can help animals after you’ve gone... make a Will and provide for them in it. HSUS will send you an informative booklet without obligation about how to make the best of your animal welfare bequest.

Write in complete confidence to: Doug Scott

Doug Scott

Assigned to Denver

Dear Friends:

Many, many thanks for the faithful support to the work of The HSUS while I have been director of the Gulf States Region. I shall never forget you. And, a special thanks for all the expressions of goodwill in my new job as HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Director. The surprise award at the San Antonio workshop was indeed just that—and a very pleasant one. Thank you for the gifts, the cards and letters, and your kind thoughts and prayers.

I know you will give Bill Meade the same kind of wonderful support you have given me. He is fortunate to be able to count you among his friends and you are fortunate to have him as a regional director. Bill brings the kind of expertise to this job that is needed at this time in the history of the Gulf States Region. I look forward to working with him for great things from all of you.

My very best to all of you.

Peace,
Douglas M. Scott

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After a two year campaign by concerned citizens in Pulaski, Arkansas, the decompression euthanasia chamber has been banned. The HSUS supplied these local people with information to aid in their victory.

The high altitude decompression chamber has been used for a number of years in many shelters for destruction of homeless animals. However, in the last eight years strong medical and scientific evidence has indicated that the method is painful.

When decompression first came into use it was thought that it would cause no more pain than a pilot going up in an open plane without supplemental oxygen. The pilot would simply pass out after becoming light headed.

What wasn't taken into consideration was that the airplane would ascend over a fifteen or twenty-minute period of time, giving the pilot time to equalize internal body pressures (lungs, bowels, ears). Whereas the decompression machine sends the animal from sea level to a simulated 50,000 feet elevation in just one minute. This does not allow natural equalization in the body and can result in excruciating pain in the inner ear and other areas.

Many shelters have converted to more humane methods such as injections of sodium pentobarbital or use of pure bottled carbon monoxide. This change-over has occurred in New York City and large California cities who for a long time said they just didn't have the time to euthanize each animal individually.

Another reason given by reluctant shelters was that sodium pentobarbital is a restricted drug that must be carefully controlled. This is true; however hundreds of shelters are using it with no problems, therefore this excuse does not stand up.

We are hopeful that all shelters will quickly move to up-date and provide only humane euthanasia methods.