NERO Summer 1981

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Maine Restores Division of Animal Welfare Cuts

Governor Joseph E. Brennan’s office has stated in an April 22, 1981, letter to The HSUS New England Regional Office that the proposal to cut funds for the work of the Division of Animal Welfare has been dropped. The Maine Federation of Humane Societies organized a “Leash In” to protest the cuts last September. The Regional Office at the same time urged Maine HSUS members to write letters to the Governor. The proposed cut funds were restored by Legislative Action. On Friday, May 22, 1981, Governor Brennan signed the budget for fiscal '82 and '83. It would appear that the animals of Maine will benefit from the efforts of humanitarians.

Interesting!

Miss Celia Steele of Hartford, CT, noticed that the G. Fox Department Store downtown was selling tadpoles in a plastic container as part of a package to create an instant aquarium. She complained to the management expressing her concern for the animals’ welfare and the questionable educational effect upon children. She reports that the store stopped selling the tadpoles.

Connecticut’s General Assembly Mandates Sanitation Regulations for Poultry Farms

Intensive poultry farming has caused serious fly infestations over the past several years in at least four eastern Connecticut communities—Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin and Lebanon. Public concern prompted the Connecticut General Assembly to pass a bill mandating controls of the storage, spreading, and transportation of manure, and other sanitation aspects of poultry farms.

Testifying at a public hearing conducted by the Environment Committee, HSUS supported the measure and urged the Legislature to look at all aspects of this industry, including the welfare of the chickens that are often viewed only as “egg laying machines.” Regional Director John W. Inman described HSUS concern about animal husbandry systems that rely heavily on the use of antibiotics, other drugs and vaccines. He said that farm personnel and designers of animal facilities and equipment need adequate training in methods of husbandry that are compatible with the animals’ ethological and welfare needs. On some farms sick animals receive no attention at all. Treatment of illnesses, or humane euthanasia, needs to be given to sick livestock. Other concerns of The HSUS include the methods of destruction used for “culled chicks,” abuses connected with the “debeaking process,” the removal of combs and wattles, and overcrowding in battery cages. Although this bill is only concerned with human welfare that might be adversely affected by fly infestation, it is a beginning that will serve to focus public attention on the manner in which our food animals are raised.
Does Your Society Have Regular Contact With Teachers?  Here's a Good Way...

The HSUS, as you know is committed to education. Our magazine, Humane Education, is the leading publication of its kind in the field. It is available by subscription or through membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, the educational division of HSUS. NAAHE membership has many additional benefits for persons engaged in humane education programs. A subscription to Humane Education is $7. Membership dues in NAAHE are $10 per year for an individual or $25 per year for an organization. Both memberships include a subscription to the magazine. As part of a special offer from NAAHE, organizational members are offered the option of purchasing additional subscriptions for local schools and/or teachers for only $4 each. An organization on the West Coast recently allocated funds from its education budget to take advantage of this offer and purchase 58 complimentary subscriptions. Why not consider a similar project to benefit your local schools?

Moose Hunting Returns to Maine

The Legislative Document's Statement of Fact on moose hunting made it very clear the most important reason this activity has been revived is that the legislatures have been told $450,000 will generate about $450,000 in revenues. In response to this bill, an ad hoc organization has been formed to work at putting a referendum question before the voters of Maine asking about suspension of the legislation. If you have any connection with organizing one of these Fairs in Connecticut or in any other state, or know anyone who does, you, too, can request that the substitutions be made. We can expect to incur the wrath of people who enjoy the oxen, horse and pony drawing contests. They may argue that it's a "Time Honored Tradition"—that their teams have been hauling loads of timber out of the forests, and rocks out of the fields for generations. HSUS does not consider a similar project to benefit your local schools.

Director's Desk

Drawing contests by oxen, horses, and ponies will be a favorite component of most of the 57 Fairs to be conducted between July 9 and October 11, 1981, in Connecticut. Frog jumping contests and turtle races will also be included in some of them. I have written to the organizers of the Fairs and urged them to substitute for these activities non-animal events such as tractor pulling contests, weight lifting competition, talent shows, flea markets, and pie eating and bubble gum blowing contests.

Drawing contests by oxen, horses, and ponies verge on violations of Connecticut Law, Chapter 945, Section 53-247. Frog jumping contests and turtle races might also be considered a violation of Section 53-250 of the same law. If you have any connection with organizing one of these Fairs in Connecticut or in any other state, or know anyone who does, you, too, can request that the substitutions be made. We can expect to incur the wrath of people who enjoy the oxen, horse and pony drawing contests. They may argue that it's a "Time Honored Tradition"—that their teams have been hauling loads of timber out of the forests, and rocks out of the fields for generations. HSUS does not object to animals that are working under humane conditions, but does object to animals being subjected to questionable and exploitative activities merely to amuse some people.

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Reflect for a moment... how can I help animals even when I no longer share their world...?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States. Your will can provide for animals after you’re gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material which will assist in planning a will.

HSUS Visits New England State Education Officials

Over the past several months Anita Coburn, a new staff person of The HSUS, has been meeting with State Department of Education officials in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, and other states throughout the country. In her meetings, Anita has been distributing copies of Kind, and Humane Education, and has been describing the new Humane Education Curriculum Guide that was developed under the leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE). In each case Anita left a copy of the Guide for review and comment. The Guide was recently field tested in 350 classrooms across the country and in Canada and is being revised for publication this fall.

At the Connecticut State Department of Education Office, (L to R) Arthur E. Soderland, Social Studies Programming Director, Anita Coburn, and Francis A. McElaney, Associate Commissioner, Division of Instructional Services discuss HSUS' new Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade Curriculum Guides.

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