C. ¿Qué agencias de gobierno están encargadas de hacer cumplir legislaciones relacionadas con:
1. vida silvestre?
2. animales domésticos?

D. ¿Qué agencias de gobierno están relacionadas con asuntos concernientes a:
1. vida silvestre?
2. animales domésticos?

E. ¿Qué organizaciones privadas en su país se relacionan con asuntos que conciernen:
1. vida silvestre?
2. animales domésticos?

Appendix E —
A Discussion of the Status of Domestic Animals in Latin America and Recommendations to The Humane Society of the United States

While there is no dearth of information and activity concerning the status of wildlife in Latin America, the problems of animal welfare and humane legislation — regarding both wild and domestic animals — are areas that require urgent attention and assistance from U.S.-based organizations such as The Humane Society of the United States. With the exception of rather limited activities in these areas by the International Society for the Protection of Animals (ISPA), the World Federation for the Protection of Animals (WFPA), and the Fund for Animals, virtually no activities from outside Latin America are being undertaken to relieve the situation.

Some forty-two animal welfare agencies are listed as operating in the twenty-one nations of Latin America (see Appendix A). The majority of these occur in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile. Legislation on the conservation and hunting of wildlife far outnumbers that regarding the welfare of domestic animals (see Appendix B).

An attitude exists among many individuals involved with U.S. animal welfare activities that the countries of Latin America are hopelessly behind the United States, Canada and Europe in regard to humane legislation and animal welfare concepts. But considering that the United States passed its first federal humane slaughter act in 1958 — some seventy-five years after similar legislation was enacted by Switzerland — Latin America may be seen as being less than a generation behind” the United States. Indeed, existing humane legislation in some Latin American nations can provide a foundation upon which future efforts can be based.

At the same time, there is a consensus among the individuals interviewed in the U.S. which is also based on the author’s discussions with Latin American authorities, that both private organizations and state and federal government agencies in Latin America would benefit from the assistance — legal, financial and moral — that U.S. organizations can provide. Assistance is needed to help Latin American organizations promote the concept of animal welfare as well as to help governments formulate new laws and comply with new regulations, such as U.S. government legislation prohibiting the importation of meat products not slaughtered under humane guidelines.

A notable contact person developed during the course of the project is Dr. Braulis Orejas-Miranda, Scientific Affairs, Organization of American States (OAS). An eminent authority on animal problems in Latin America, Dr. Orejas has repeatedly expressed his desire to cooperate with The Humane Society of the United States in establishing liaison with both government and private agencies involved with animal issues throughout Latin America. Two recent meetings could lead to further involvement of the humane movement in North America. One, the “Technical Meeting on the Conservation of Migratory Animals of the Western Hemisphere and their Ecosystems,” convened in Panama City on June 4-8, 1979, and was the fourth in a series of meetings attempting to bolster the 1940 Convention on Nature Protection and Wild Life Preservation. The Panama meeting was organized to lay the foundation for the second meeting, an assembly of the OAS legal department, scheduled for July 24-27, 1979, in Washington, D.C.

It is recommended that the humane movement consider the implementation of a Latin American program through which the OAS and private and government agencies in Latin America can be encouraged and assisted in the promulgation of animal welfare and conservation activities. The success of such a program could possibly lead to the establishment of a “Pan American Humane Association.”