Let the Dialogue Continue

On June 9 and 10, a national symposium sponsored by the American Animal Hospital Association, the American Humane Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, The Humane Society of the United States, and the Pet Food Institute was convened to address the issue of animal health care and the respective roles and prerogatives of veterinarians and humane societies in providing such care. As was anticipated, the primary area of debate and discussion centered on tax-exempt spay/neuter clinics as well as other medical services being offered by a number of animal-welfare organizations and animal-control agencies.

An article by Bill Brothers, executive director of the Monterey County SPCA and one of the speakers at the symposium, found in this issue of The Humane Society News explores several reasons why the providing of these services by animal-welfare and animal-control agencies has generated alarm within the veterinarian profession and suggests a number of ways in which such services might otherwise be provided, minimizing the controversy and conflict that has resulted.

As early as its annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1973, The HSUS recommended that "where spay/neuter clinics or facilities are being anticipated or planned, we urge the development of reduced cost spay/neuter facilities under the auspices of local veterinary associations so that veterinary facilities be used where possible." However, it became all too clear that in many communities veterinarians were unwilling to engage in cooperative endeavors with animal-welfare groups, often resulting in the development of humane society-sponsored or government-subsidized spay/neuter programs and, more recently, other medical services.

The HSUS continues to maintain the position that where genuinely cooperative programs can be established between veterinarians and animal-welfare/control agencies utilizing already existing veterinary clinics, such should be done. Indeed, few humane societies have either the resources or staff to establish and maintain such programs without having to reduce or eliminate other important and necessary services. However, the principal concern of The HSUS is the establishment of those programs that will most effectively serve to reduce the tragic surplus of unwanted animals and, consequently, eliminate a significant amount of animal suffering, regardless of under whose auspices such services are provided. Surveys compiled by The HSUS indicate a drastic reduction in the number of animals being handled by shelters where there has been an effective spay/neuter program supported by community education and strong and enforceable animal-control ordinances.

Proceedings from this conference, including a number of recommendations voted by those attending this symposium, will be available later this year. While not all these recommendations are supported by The HSUS, I am confident the net result of this symposium will serve to benefit animals. I am also convinced the dialogue it made possible between veterinarians and animal-welfare groups must continue into the future, addressing other issues of perhaps even greater importance for the elimination of animal abuse and suffering.

Robert F. Welborn

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John A. Hoyt
Zoo Fallout

Our story on the "Ten Substandard Zoos" (September 1983 HSUS News) seems to be having the desired effect, not only in some of the communities where these facilities are located but also nationwide.

Sue Pressman, HSUS director of captive wildlife protection and author of the article, has talked to reporters in newspaper, radio, television, and stations in California, Indiana, Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

"I have seen it happen before where discussion about a zoo will start in the newspapers or other local media. Over time, it is picked up by the general public, and eventually a real dialogue about the zoo gets going. Change doesn’t happen overnight, but at least this is a beginning."

Mrs. Pressman has not been discouraged by the apparent lack of interest in several areas discussed in the article or even by a very hostile reaction some people had. "Obviously, we may not be aware of every instance of press coverage. But even where there may have been none at all, I find it hard to believe that there aren’t some people talking about it. Something may appear publicly months from now. And as for hostile reactions, any reaction is better than indifference. It does show that the zoo is the topic of a lot of conversations. Some time ago, we met with a lot of resistance in Tacoma, Washington, but we criticized our zoo, but we hung in there and so did they, and now they have a truly excellent facility."

National media are also picking up on the story, but they are using a different approach. "Some of the reporters to whom I’ve spoken," Mrs. Pressman recalled, "read the story and decided to take it a step further by looking at zoos in general. I hope that this more widespread publicity will inspire other communities to take a good look at their zoos and decide whether and where change might be needed. I’d like to be able to say that this was the first and the last of ten substandard zoos we could come up with."

Bear Reward

The HSUS is offering a one thousand dollar reward for key information reported to the proper authorities which directly results in the arrest and conviction of anyone guilty of killing eleven black bears in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, over the past fourteen months. "The HSUS has been informed that the reluctance of area residents to provide evidence has hampered the game commission’s investigation of the bear slayings," said HSUS President John Hoyt in his letter offering the reward to the executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The bears had been shot and their bodies mutilated. Officials theorize that someone may have a vendetta against bears because of crop damage or management practices of the game commission. "The wanton torment of these bears was unconscionable," said Mr. Hoyt. "The HSUS is determined to bring an immediate halt to these senseless acts of mayhem against black bears.

No leads had developed as of mid-September.

FSA On the Way

As part of our campaign to solve the porpoise mortality problem, The HSUS’s public relations department has created a public service announcement for television. Entitled Responsible Pet Ownership, this sixteen-minute color film is pro-pet owner, at a local pet fair giving advice on how they properly care for and raise their pets. The film was produced in conjunction with Professional Media Services, Inc. of Waban, Massachusetts, and was free-of-charge on ten-second and thirty-second tapes.

Correction

In the Summer 1983 issue of The HSUS News we asked our members to write to the tuna industry urging them to accept government observers on tuna boats to enforce porpoise protection regulations. Del Monte has informed us they are no longer in the tuna business. We regret the error and ask that no letter be directed to Del Monte.

Nix For Orcas

In a June 16 letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service, The HSUS joined several other animal-welfare and environmental organizations to protest Sea World’s plans to capture the wild one hundred orcas over a five-year period. This six-page letter outlined the rationale against allowing the San Diego amusement park to capture these whales, a major point being their difficulty in breeding in captivity and the potential disruption and dislocation of orca pod population. Chasing, capturing, and handling these large and sensitive marine mammals will inevitably entail considerable stress," read the letter. "Sea World apparently ignores the hundreds—perhaps thousands—of letters that would be harassed as they are chased during the capture of the one hundred orcas.

The period during which the National Marine Fisheries Service welcomed comments from the public on this issue ended on August 26. The final decision is expected by the beginning of October.
MOVING TOWARDS 1986

"Whales Alive" Conference and IWC Meeting Chart Whales' Hopeful Future

by Patricia Forkan

Hope's Alive for Leviaths

In June, The HSUS and eight other organizations, including the International Whaling Commission, sponsored the first Global Conference on the Non-Consumptive Utilization of Cetacean Resources, entitled: "Whales Alive." This ground-breaking meeting was a first step towards developing a new role for the International Whaling Commission (IWC) that would be to protect whales rather than set slaughter quotas for them. This conference, the brainchild of Dr. Robbins Barstow and the Connecticut Cetacean Society, brought together some of the world's most talented and creative people working to help whales, dolphins, and porpoises. In all, 167 people, including well-known whale advocates Roger Payne and John Lilly, lawyers and political activists, philosophers and artists, from twenty-one countries made "Whales Alive" a memorable gathering.

Dr. Victor Scheffer, in the closing speech, spoke of the meeting as shaping a "global morality," a code of ethics, to help effect a transformation in public thought about what is right and wrong for whales. It was a rare blend of personal experiences, scientific views, and legal and cultural discussions that set forth a new role for IWC to begin its transformation from being part of the animal protectionist's problem into part of the solution.

A series of recommendations grew out of the discussions, and those were formally presented to the IWC at its July meeting. In response, the IWC set up a working group to study the recommendations and report next year on those that fell within the "jurisdiction" of the IWC.

Some of the recommendations were:
1. That governments continue to support the IWC as the appropriate body to coordinate research on cetaceans;
2. That the IWC consider possible means for monitoring the impact of whale-watching on the welfare and behavior of whales with a view to assuring their proper protection;
3. That special protection areas for cetaceans be created;
4. That the IWC consider establishing requirements for members to submit basic information annually concerning the health, conditions, and exchanges involved in the imports and exports of captive cetaceans;
5. That the IWC and other organizations and governments ensure that adequate consideration is given to moral issues, such as the question of holding cetaceans in captivity and using live cetaceans for military purposes, when considering the issuance of permits for research.

There is great optimism about IWC's transformation. But many of the specific recommendations will have to originate in or be accomplished by member countries before they can be truly effective on an international scale. One of the most crucial questions facing IWC in 1986 will be funding. Member nations will have to provide enough money to make research and staffing possible.

There is no doubt, however, that the "Whales Alive" conference was the turning point in the human/cetacean relationship. In the future, that relationship should be peaceful, now that the final years of cruelty and bloodshed against the great leviathans are drawing to a close.

Quotas for 1984 Point to Phase-Out

With the prospect of a complete ban on whaling in 1986 staring them in the face, those who attended this year's International Whaling Commission June meeting in London witnessed the usual political wrangling and quota splitting as well as spectacular and unexpected capitulations. Peru, which began the week fighting tooth and nail to keep its vote, ended it by dramatically announcing its exit from whaling to comply with the 1986 ban. Norway saw a huge reduction—from 1,690 to 635—in its North Atlantic minke whale quota for 1984. This cut, coupled with an HSUS-originated boycott of Norwegian fish (see sidebar), have put tremendous pressure on the Norwegian government to end its whaling activities. A quota for bowhead whales taken by U.S. Eskimos (see sidebar) consumed enormous quantities of time, and The HSUS fight for an alternative to the cold harpoon entered its tenth year.

The week began with Peru in danger of being frozen out of all voting. A rule adopted last year denying voting privileges to countries whose IWC dues were unpaid caught Peru, a whaling nation, instead of the poor little anti-whaling countries it was designed to thwart. Rather than accept its fate Peru put a stranglehold on the proceedings until an "exception" was made and its promise to pay up was accepted.

The IWC's ban on the cold harpoon, a cruel weapon used on nearly ninety percent of all whales killed commercially, took effect this year. The IWC's ban on the cold harpoon, a cruel weapon used on nearly ninety percent of all whales killed commercially, took effect this year.
Bowhead Dilemma

This year, the IWC once again had to grapple with the problem of the Alaskan Eskimos’ hunt of the rare bowhead whale. With a total world population estimated at 3,800 animals, the addition of every digit to the Eskimos’ quota reverberates throughout the earth’s tiny stock. The struggle between scientific evidence, which indicates no bowheads should be taken, and the political realities of the Eskimos’ considerable influence on the U.S. delegation is a painful one for U.S. officials. Since 1977, when the IWC set a zero quota for bowheads to be taken by Eskimos, the U.S. government has been embroiled in a domestic battle between saving a highly endangered species and responding to the vociferous demands of the Eskimo community. The Eskimos have documented a cultural and dietary requirement for twenty-six whales per year, but no needs can be filled if there are no whales! The Eskimo hunting techniques, which make many additional strikes necessary, are not immediately fatal and woundlagged. It might have an alternative to the cold harpoon in contravention of the ban. Norway’s efforts to seek alternatives to thisinhumane weapon have proven itself.

Spain, Brazil, Iceland, South Korea, and now Peru have confirmed their intention to end commercial whaling by 1986. Each has a “phase-out” quota. The Japanese and the U.S.S.R. continue to kill the most whales, primarily minke whales in the southern hemisphere. Japan’s hunt of minke, bryde, and sperm whales off its coast. Norway suffered the most severe quota reductions this year, not extending its right to its export of minke whale meat to Japan. A major dispute with Peru over that country’s allocation of Bryde’s whale ended abruptly when Peru announced it was getting out of whaling and withdrew its objection. Boycott Strikes Its Blows

The HSUS nationwide campaign to stop buying fish from objectionable nations has hit where it hurts (see the Spring 1983 HSUS News). Prior to this year’s IWC meeting, HSUS and others fought the U.S.S.R., Norway, and the U.S. for a zero quota of thirty-five whales for 1984, nearly twice as many as in 1983. The International Whaling Commission has approved a quota for bowheads to be taken by the Eskimos for 1984—six whales per year, but no needs can be filled if there are no whales. The HSUS has cooperated with the U.S. Department of Commerce in efforts to educate consumers about the risks of purchasing whale meat. The HSUS has worked with the Alaskan Eskimos to educate consumers about the risks of purchasing whale meat. The HSUS has worked with the Alaskan Eskimos to educate consumers about the risks of purchasing whale meat. The HSUS has worked with the Alaskan Eskimos to educate consumers about the risks of purchasing whale meat. The HSUS has worked with the Alaskan Eskimos to educate consumers about the risks of purchasing whale meat.

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The population of the North American black duck has declined drastically and steadily since 1955. In spite of this decline, which has now exceeded sixty percent of the population, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has failed to take consistent and sustained regulatory action to allow restoration of the population.

In 1968, a black duck symposium held in Chestertown, Maryland, convened most of the then-acknowledged experts on black ducks; the participants concluded that the black duck population was at its lowest level in about twenty years and that the FWS should undertake a program of major regulatory restrictions aimed at restoring the population. Notwithstanding that recommendation, since 1968, regulations have, in sum, only been liberalized and, indeed, each year since 1970, regulations have been more liberal than they were in 1968. Furthermore, the numbers of hunters increased by forty-five percent in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways from 1968 to 1982, thus compounding the effect of the liberalized season.

In 1980, the FWS published the migratory bird program management document in which it established a goal of attaining an index level of 800 black ducks × 1000. However, during the years 1970–1982, the FWS took not one regulatory action aimed at achieving that goal and the goal was never approached, much less achieved.

The population has declined steadily since 1968. Since then, numerous studies have been conducted on the cause of the decline. None of these studies has proven conclusively and irrefutably that hunting is the cause or only cause of decline. However, beginning in 1968, all of those studying the black duck have noted that hunting is the major cause of black duck mortality and most have concluded that hunting is the most likely cause of the black duck decline.

Four of these studies deserve particular note. In 1976, W.F. Crissey, who had been chief of the FWS migratory bird population station for ten years, evaluated, directly and indirectly, hunting and other forms of black duck mortality. He concluded that hunting was the likely cause of the population decline. In 1980, the FWS labeled the continuing decline of the black duck population the twentieth most important resource problem facing the United States. The FWS convened a meeting of some twenty waterfowl, coastal, and estuarine experts to examine the problems facing the black duck. These experts, after evaluating all potential hunting and non-hunting mortality factors, concluded: “that the declining numbers of black ducks are primarily the result of annual mortality that exceeds production. Most of that mortality is directly related to hunting.”

Finally, in 1982, both the black duck committee of the Atlantic Waterfowl Council and the doctoral dissertation of Atlantic flyway biologist Dr. Warren W. Blandin concluded that hunting of black ducks was causing the population decline. While even these “conclusions” are theoretically debatable in that one may never know with absolute certainty which, amongst many, mortality factors would have killed the ducks that would have nested, it is only reasonable to assume that when, as in black ducks, hunting is the known cause of more than fifty percent of total annual mortality and other mortality causes have been examined and found to be within reasonable, natural limits, hunting must be considered the most likely cause of decline. Furthermore, as the attendees at the “black duck symposium” (The Black Duck: Evaluation, Management, and Research: A Symposium) and numerous others have noted, hunting mortality is the only mortality factor which wildlife managers can control at least in the short run.

But for the North American black duck, this has clearly not been done. Once the black duck was a major breeding bird in most of the eastern one-third to one-half of the United States. Now, its only significant breeding populations in the United States are in the extreme northeast (Massachusetts, Maine, et al.), and even there, suitable breeding habitat remains vacant and overall black duck productivity (in terms of young per breeding female) remains high. Taken together, these facts are indicative of breeding habitat which is not only understocked relative to “carrying capacity” and where debilitative factors which reduce productivity are not a serious factor. Similarly, there is no evidence that winter mortality or habitat loss is a cause of the continuing population decline. Winter habitat has been destroyed, but, fortunately, not in sufficient quantities to have caused the severe and continuing decline in black ducks.
using population decline. Similarly, while hybridization with the mallard is no doubt a drain on the black duck population, it cannot be implicated as the cause of its decline. Rather, the existence of undersized breeding habitat, the high productivity, and the analyses of a number of experts suggest that this factor, while possibly increasing importance, is not implicated as the cause of the decline.

Why has the FWS allowed this situation to develop without taking corrective action? Why has the FWS ignored the guiding tenet of wildlife management that the first duty is to conserve and increase the population base? Why has FWS consistently ignored the principle that mortality due to sport hunting is one form of mortality that wildlife managers can control? Why has FWS consistently ignored the best recommendations of its own experts? It seems to me that hunting is the primary influencing factor in the decline of black ducks, and that hunting may not be prevented from being the primary influencing factor in the decline of the black duck.

The HSUS Fights for Black Ducks

The HSUS filed suit in the fall of 1982 to stop the killing of black ducks in the United States. Unsuccessful, and the court allowed the hunting season to progress in 1982. The Fish and Wildlife Service promise to take action in 1983 has not been fulfiled. The reason is that hunting may not be prevented from being the primary influencing factor in the decline of black ducks. Unless that factor is removed, the black duck population will continue to decline.

The HSUS has written to the governors of New England states asking them to limit hunting of black ducks. We plan additional legal action as well.

The Humane Society of the United States

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management community of closing hunting seasons. In the black duck case, the fear of many officials of closing the season is that the season may never be reopened, the "antagonizing element" may be credited with a victory, and/or the agencies affected will lose support and/or revenues (since hunting constituencies and/or license fees are very important to FWS, CWS, and state and provincial agencies).

The point is, however, that all arguments about hunting and anti-hunting aside, wildlife biologists have always maintained that their first duty was to protect and preserve viable wildlife populations, presumably throughout their ranges. Yet, in the case of the black duck, the rationalizations engendered by this fear is tantamount to putting the welfare of hunters and hunting above the welfare of the black duck populations in question. Ironically, in a case like the black duck’s where the population has declined markedly, such fear-engendered action or inaction only gives anti-hunters and more hunters more reasons to be against hunting.

This, in my view, another reason for the FWS failure to act. The black duck decline has occurred slowly in recent years, the last 25 years. FWS personnel and others, as scientists, did not want to “overreact,” particularly in light of past political pressures and group pressure to maintain the status quo. For that reason, beginning with the serious advocacy of major restrictions on black duck hunting as represented by the 1965 black duck symposium, cautious and politically aware officials resisted making the recommendations, and they were not made. Officials began to rationalize their positions in order to continue hunting black ducks, and, in the current black duck population, there is an abnormally high percentage of juvenile ducks—a solid indication in many species of heavy mortality among adults. Although the daily bag limit was cut from four to two quite a while after it became evident that the black duck was in serious trouble, the problem of black duck hunters has since doubled. Thus, despite the attempted outreach, the rate of harvest has essentially remained constant. As one courageous federal waterfowl biologist publicly declared, increased hunting pressure has nullified much of the management effort. Administrators must decide on a population objective for the black duck. If they sanction a program of population increase, they must recognize that the measures necessary to achieve that objective will hurt.

Yet, last year when a group of conservation organizations, calling themselves "Friends of the Black Duck," argued for a brief moratorium on black duck hunting, citing twenty-one years of dwindling winter counts as evidence of the need, they would be in the company of the management complex that the counts were unreliable. Many biologists can’t have it both ways. Winter counts can’t be effective tools for modern game management when they want to sell licenses and worthless guess­timates when someone wants to limit immediate hunting opportunity.

“Metro-Medical” is the term Scientific American uses for the effect that the black was such a popular game species that hunters couldn’t be asked to refrain from shooting out the resource. Typical of this doublethink was the astonishing declaration of the migratory bird research leader of Massachusetts, "I’ll bet there are ducks in the Atlantic Waterfowl Council, there is the feeling that no regulations could exist for setting waterfowl seasons. Yet, last year when a group of conservation organizations, calling themselves "Friends of the Black Duck," argued for a brief moratorium on black duck hunting, citing twenty-one years of dwindling winter counts as evidence of the need, they would be in the company of the management complex that the counts were unreliable. Many biologists can’t have it both ways. Winter counts can’t be effective tools for modern game management when they want to sell licenses and worthless guess­timates when someone wants to limit immediate hunting opportunity.

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The HSUS Introduces Two New Periodicals This Fall

This September, The HSUS began to publish Kind News, a tabloid newspaper for children that replaces Kind magazine. Designed to reach larger numbers of children—including those whose families don’t provide humane reading material—Kind News is to be distributed through educators and interested adults rather than by individual subscription. “Although Kind magazine had a very loyal following, it was too expensive for widespread distribution by teachers and animal-welfare organizations,” explains Kathy Savesy, director of Humane Education division. “Most of the readers came from families where the development of humane attitudes was already encouraged, and Kind was used as a tool to help in this process. We are hoping that Kind News will help us reach a broader audience, including those children who would not otherwise be exposed to a humane perspective.”

Helping young people develop responsible, caring attitudes toward the animals that share their world has been a priority for The HSUS since the beginning, with the formation of U.S. Kindness Clubs in 1969 and continuing with the introduction of Kind magazine in the 1970’s, an increasing number of American children have been reading and learning to care about animals through our children’s publications.

Kind News, with its colorful newspaper format, makes reading about animals fun for the young reader. Its four-page length is not intimidating to children and brief enough for a child to digest in one sitting.

In order to reach a varied age group, the new Kind News is being published at two levels: Kind News I for children in grades one to three and Kind News II for children in grades four to six. The editions contain similar stories and photos, but Kind News I contains simpler vocabulary and concepts more appropriate for young children. Both editions focus on news stories about animals, animal issues, and people—especially children—who are working to help animals. Each issue of Kind News also carries games or puzzles, project ideas, letters or comments from young people, and much more. A special feature appearing each quarter is the Kind News button. Young readers are asked to summarize what they have learned in the issue by creating a slogan for a blank button beginning with the December 1983 issue. Kind News will also feature a regular cartoon strip starring “Observe-Ant,” a likeable character who makes observations about the ways in which children and animals interact in the world.

Kind News is not available on a single-subscription basis, but can be purchased in packets of thirty-five copies for only five dollars each.

Depending upon adults to bring Kind News to children is an important element in this new approach to reaching young people. “A major problem for any children’s periodical is attracting young people and maintaining their interest over a long period of time,” says Ms. Savesy.

Renewal rates are very low for children’s magazines. Few children stay interested for more than a year or two, or they simply outgrow the publication. Promotional activities are costly and time-consuming. Kind magazine experienced all of these problems. The new distribution system for Kind News should help overcome them. Adults who want to receive more than thirty-five copies of one level or would like to subscribe to both levels can purchase additional subscriptions (in packets of thirty-five) for only five dollars each.

News to be a valuable tool for humane education are more likely to reach children every time and as the children they work with grow older, the same subscribers will be reaching new groups of young people.

In order to better coordinate and unify our membership, a new membership division was created. Publication dates for the Kind News level are now parallel those for NAAHE’s quarterly teachers’ magazine, Humane Education, and the theme of each Kind News publication relates directly to the subject of one or more of the articles in the adult periodical. But the publications are written to be used independently and have separate subscription rates.

Humane Education has asked those who also subscribe to Kind News will benefit by receiving reading material for children that supports the teaching activities in the magazine,” says Lorraine Holden, editor of Kind News. “Educators who are using Kind News with their children can use the Kind News kindergarten subscription to enhance the learning experience.

In order to encourage educators to use both publications, the two will be promoted together. A subscription to Kind News is available for NAAHE members. Membership in NAAHE and a subscription to Kind News costs ten dollars each when purchased separately; the two together are fifteen dollars.

The Kind News staff enjoys the first issue from left: Humane Education Editor Lorraine Holden, Kind News Editor Vicki Parker, and NAAHE director Kathy Savesy.

The Animal Activist Alert Rouses Legislative News to Activist Members

For the last seven years, whenever The HSUS has faced a legislative crisis in which immediate attention was needed, our Action Alert Team has answered the call. This September, The HSUS Action Alert Team received a call from all over the country is galvanized into action by HSUS mailings on specific animal-welfare issues of local, regional, or national significance. Action Alert members write letters, send telegrams, and make telephone calls to their legislators urging them to support animal-welfare issues. Because the amount of legislation involving animals is increasing at all levels of government and because that legislation is constantly changing—often on a daily basis—The HSUS is launching a newsletter written especially for their child’s favorite teacher or child. The Animal Activist Alert Team member.

The introduction of Kind News by The HSUS provides humane educators and animal-welfare organizations with a functional tool and offers children an inviting way to learn about animals. “We hope the Animal Activist Alert will make to animals’ well-being,” summarizes Ms. Savesy. For more information, write Kind News, Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423.
Seven Years of Success

The HSUS Action Alert Team was first mobilized in 1976 when the U.S. Congress wrote Animal Welfare Act amendments which would add regulations concerning pet transportation. At that time, puppy-mill puppies were being shipped throughout the United States in filthy, unsafe containers. Luggage and other heavy boxes would fall on the crates during the journey and crush puppies to death.

In a bright yellow-and-black, four-page, tabloid format, the Animal Activist Alert will also concentrate on federal agency developments such as funding for regional primate centers and appropriations measures, practical ways to fight discrimination against pet owners, and tips on how to get your own activities recognized by your local legislators and media.

Early issues of the Alert (the first will appear in October) will contain much dog-bolts information on how to fight pound seizure laws in your community; how to persuade landlords to allow pets in rental housing; how federal funding of primate centers guarantees prestige for the researchers and waste for the taxpayer; how to write a letter to your legislator that will really get results; and how to influence legislation on Capitol Hill by doing more than just writing a letter. Although some of these subjects have been discussed in The HSUS News, none has been explained with the legislatively-oriented member in mind. Of course, The HSUS News will continue to carry a complete Federal Report in every issue for the entire HSUS membership.

The Animal Activist Alert will provide the tools and the knowledge that the activist needs to make a difference on both local and national levels. It will be automatically sent to Action Alert Team members free-of-charge. Only those HSUS members who are on the team may receive this newsletter, but all HSUS members can join the team! If you would like to receive the Animal Activist Alert and be part of the Action Alert Team, please fill out the coupon.

You will then receive the newsletter and periodic Action Alerts requesting that you immediately write or telephone your legislator to indicate how you stand on the pending issue concerning the welfare of animals. Sorry, because of Internal Revenue Service restrictions, only dues-paying members (ten dollars annually or more usually) may be on our Action Alert Team.

The HSUS Action Alert Team
2100 L St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20037
In West Virginia, where racing is legal on a state-wide basis, a different fight is being waged. There, residents can vote to prohibit racing in their county specifically by gathering enough signatures to put the issue on the ballot. If the majority of voters reject racing, the county will be racing-free. Recently, citizens of Kanawha County waged a gallant effort to thwart racing interests there, but they fell short of gathering the 10,000 signatures needed for ballot approval. A public notice printed in the newspaper announcing the advent of racing was not noticed by anti-racing groups until too late, but they fell short of gathering the signatures needed to put the issue on the ballot at the local or state level unless concerned citizens work with us to clean up its sport.

In some states, a separate racing commission allows racing to continue undeclared in other states. The industry has indicated a willingness to work with us to clean up its sport, and we hope that it will make sure the industry survives regardless of whether animals suffer. It is clear that we are going to have to fight the battle again and again, in state after state, as racing’s backers continue to press for legalization. The issue is not going away until we have educated the general public to the cruelties involved in racing. We are working for a future that since racing as it is now operated is a barbaric and inhumane sport which benefits few people financially, there is no room for it in a civilized society.

The HSUS opposes further legalization of horse racing until it can be demonstrated that racing can be conducted without mistreatment of horses. Dog racing is so inherently cruel that the HSUS opposes all current dog racing and is working to defeat its existence-to address its cruel aspects of the industry including the lives of the dogs. Why Horse Racing is Cruel

- Faulty racetrack surfaces: many track surfaces are kept intentionally hard to provide fast race times. Hard surfaces result in extreme concussion to the horses’ limbs, causing lameness in over three-quarters of all the horses racing.
- Two-year-old racing: some horses begin racing before their musculo-skeletal system is mature, resulting in many needless injuries and deaths.
- Abuse of drugs: pain-killing drugs are often used to mask a horse’s suffering, enabling it to run full out on an injured leg. This aggravates the injuries and can cause a leg to shatter.
- Death of racing workers: the life of a race horse on the track is measured in months or, at most, a few years. In the race horse survival rate is generally less than 50% without crippling injury to retire from racing; it faces twenty years of life with any number of small, debilitating injuries that will make it useless for jumping, pleasure riding, or other athletic activities in the outside world. Every day, scores of ex-racers go to slaughter because they cannot earn their living in any other way.

The Humane Society News

Why Dog Racing is Cruel

- Young dogs are encouraged to chase and kill live rabbits in order to develop a lust for blood. So that his young dogs did not get discouraged, one trainer broke a rabbit’s legs so that it could more easily be caught. Another locked a dog unwilling to kill with a live rabbit in a cage without food until the dog killed it.
- The greyhound industry have admitted that the entire industry should be using artificial lures in training, trying to convince breeders and trainers that the Jack-A-Lure can be a better training method than live animals. We commend them for this positive action and are hopeful it succeeds. Until then, thousands of rabbits suffer the trauma of being chased and caught by the dogs. They are often used repeatedly until ripped apart by dogs or else tossed onto a pile to die.
- An estimated fifty percent of the dogs are killed before they get to the race track because they did not show enough racing potential.
- Even money winners are killed to save on feed costs when they are not running to show enough speed. Even dead dogs are allowed to live longer than four years.
- Because so many dogs have to be culled, oftentimes they are shot from the tracks and their bodies thrown in the garbage. The dogs are bred only to be used and then destroyed.

The Humane Society News

States Without Racing


The Humane Society News • Fall 1983

For its legalization. A broader set of arguments is essential to appeal to more legislators. Animal welfare organizations sometimes have to save on feed costs when they are not running to show enough speed. Even dead dogs are allowed to live longer than four years. Because so many dogs have to be culled, oftentimes they are shot from the tracks and their bodies thrown in the garbage. The dogs are bred only to be used and then destroyed.

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A river otter goes about its business. The Loxahatchee’s delicate ecological balance is threatened by Washington’s political decision-making.

"ARNETT VS. LOXAHATCHEE"

by Jennifer Lewis

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is a unique piece of the American natural landscape. Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the refuge is one of the last relatively untouched fragments of the Florida Everglades, a giant freshwater marsh that once stretched over much of South Florida from Lake Okeechobee to the south coast. For over thirty years, Loxahatchee has been part of the national wildlife refuge system, sheltering a myriad of wildlife from the inevitable encroachment of civilization as it is practiced in the state of Florida.

Within a few weeks, however, from his desk in far-off Washington, D.C., Assistant Secretary of the Interior G. Ray Arnett will put the Reagan administration’s wildlife management philosophy into practice and open the Loxahatchee to sport hunting of the most disruptive kind. Loxahatchee is just one of 417 refuges in the federal system. The creatures on many of these refuges have had to tolerate a number of recreational uses and intrusions on “their” land, but those that have found sanctuary on the Loxahatchee are, in many ways, in danger of losing most from the political decision-making on Eighteenth and G Streets. To understand why this is, we must understand what makes Loxahatchee unique, and what makes it symbolic of the problems facing refuges in 1983.

Over the years, almost half the original Everglades has been diked, drained, channelled, and developed out of existence. What was once a paradise for hundreds of wildlife species has been transformed into homes, farms, ranches, and heavily urbanized areas. Loxahatchee’s 149,606 acres, caught between intensive urban and suburban development to the east, and agricultural development to the west and northwest, preserve an island of crucial living space for many animals. The northern half of the refuge, about 69,000 acres, is especially undisturbed. It has been closed to the public since 1963 and has not suffered the destructive, heavy recreational use experienced in the state-owned conservation areas south of the refuge. In the state-owned areas, recreational use by off-road vehicles, including airboats and half-tracks, has cut permanent trails through the marsh by destroying vegetation. This destruction and other disturbance caused by heavy public use has caused the decline of many wildlife species in these areas.

In contrast, Loxahatchee remains relatively untouched. It retains most of its vegetation in a healthy state, making it the last piece of relatively undisturbed northern Everglades habitat in existence. Farther south, the Everglades turns into a river or sea of sawgrass, without the tree islands (dry islands rising above the marsh) and other features that give Loxahatchee its diversity and unique qualities. Because of its health, Loxahatchee still supports an abundance of wildlife.

Long known for their bird population, Loxahatchee’s sawgrass stands, sloughs, wet prairie, and tree islands support 249 species of birds, among them the critically endangered Everglades kite, of which only about 250 remain in South Florida. Eleven percent of the wading bird population of South Florida uses the refuge for nesting, roosting, and/or feeding. Wading birds include herons, egrets, spoonbills, storks, cranes, and many other species that walk through the marsh on their still-like legs. Loxahatchee supports twenty-one species of ducks, and it is an extremely important wintering habitat for the ring-necked species.

Loxahatchee shelters twenty-two species of mammals, including the critically endangered Florida panther, one of the world’s rarest and most elusive big cats. As development takes more and more of its habitat, Loxahatchee will become increasingly important for the panther. A small population of white-tailed deer also inhabits the refuge. Adapted to changing water levels, the deer population varies as the water rises and falls, with larger populations in drier years. Since deer do best in dry, upland areas, Loxahatchee’s population remains small. It also appears to be in balance with the limited food and cover available to it, as it has remained essentially stable in numbers for the last thirty years.

What is one deer worth? G. Ray Arnett thinks he knows the answer: his plan to open the Loxahatchee refuge to hunting will take its toll of white-tailed deer, among other species.

The snowy egret is one of the most common sights in the Loxahatchee refuge.
Loxahatchee is home to forty-four species of reptiles and amphibians, including the threatened eastern indigo snake. A healthy population of Florida panthers' food supply. Further, if the number of deer killed is limited to a number equal to those born into the population each year, as the FWS is proposing, any subsequent taking of deer by panthers would cause the deer population to decline, harming both the deer themselves and the panthers’ food supply.

There are other consequences. Because the hunt is not based on sufficient biological information, hunting may have harmful effects on the deer population as a whole. It may, for instance, disrupt pur-}

**Deer Hunt at Loxahatchee**

Loxahatchee is a symptom of a larger problem affecting all of America's wildlife refuges—this administration is acting to allow more destructive uses of the refuges. Hunting and trapping are chief among these uses—thirty-five refuges have been opened to hunting in the last two years and fourteen are planned for the next five. More than half of all wildlife refuges allow hunting and virtually all accept hunting as a management tool to control population densities. The USFWS, which administers the nation's refuges, has itself set aside only 2 percent of America's population. Pro-hunting groups feel the protection and preservation for all species. Obviously many others think they should be true refuges, as they were originally set up to be—places of protection and preservation for all species.

If wildlife has a right to existence anywhere in the country, it has a right to existence in America's refuges. Pro-hunting groups feel the wildlife has a right to existence anywhere in the country. The following report will focus on the effects of hunting and trapping on America's wildlife refuges. It was written by The Humane Society of America and its first president, G. Ray Arnett. The HSUS and many others—want to see that right protected.
Veterinarians and Humane Societies: Innovative Programs For Future Consideration

by Bill Brothers

My perspective on the question of veterinary/humane relations is perhaps unique. My wife is a practicing veterinarian and I am a career animal shelter administrator. We complement each other in many ways and we have each provided insights for the other in our respective fields.

I am deeply indebted to my wife for not only being willing to listen to my side of an issue but for being willing to challenge me as well and for allowing me to challenge her and certain veterinary viewpoints.

We have achieved a rather high degree of communication and mutual respect for each other’s position on various issues, but we know when we stand and why, and we know where we can be mutually supportive and where we cannot.

I stress our relationship because the analogy is universal. Through a good system of communication and mutual trust we have found there are many areas where we can work together and only relatively few where we must simply agree to disagree and respect each other’s position.

The ability to communicate openly in an atmosphere of trust is fundamental for veterinarians and the providers of other humane services. It has always been troubling to me that many humane groups exclude participation of veterinarians on their governing bodies. I was executive director of the Illinois SPCA in Chicago, Illinois, for six years, and there was no time when there was not at least one veterinarian on our board of directors — often there were two. I believe this relationship led to a stabilizing influence on the society and to a much higher degree of cooperation with the veterinary community. I believe, as well, that a rather high level of cooperation may have been one ingredient in the fact that Tompkins County enjoyed the highest percentage of sterilized dogs in New York state without the presence of a low-cost spay-and-neuter clinic.

I suggest that where humane societies do not presently encourage or even allow veterinary participation on their boards of directors, or at least on their boards of advisors, that they reconsider this stand. And may I suggest to the veterinarians that you not seek to gain access to a humane society board to protect what you feel is a threat to your self-interest, but both to further the welfare of animals and to provide information to the board on how the veterinary and humane groups may be able to work together. You will also be learning about the perspectives and problems of the human society which you should share with your colleagues.

As with any board member, of course, it is the individual who will determine whether the relationship will be a positive one. It is not the fact that he or she is a veterinarian.

Before we examine specific innovative programs for future cooperation, I think it is important to point out that certain dramatic changes are occurring in the veterinary profession that are fundamentally changing the way veterinary medicine is practiced today. To some extent, I assert that it is more the change occurring within the profession that is leading to the disputation being experienced by many veterinarians and less the actual competition in the field by humane societies.

The veterinary profession is becoming more crowded, leading both to a willingness on the part of veterinarians to make a lower net profit and to the emergence of non-traditional ways of supplying and marketing veterinary services. Already veterinarians are taking out paid advertising space in columns designed to look like public service announcements and utilizing other innovative marketing techniques are being tried or are on their way.

Some practitioners will question and complain about the humane societies having an unfair advantage if they have entered the veterinary marketplace, and I would not disagree with this. The tax-exempt status does give the humane society an edge over the tax-paying private practitioner. But I would also argue that this is not as significant an advantage as imagined, as evidenced by the growing number of private clinics which have been started by veterinarians, or even non-veterinary entrepreneurs, and which compete very favorably with the prices of many humane society low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

There is one other point that needs to be made. Every facility competing for veterinary services — whether humane society operated, municipal, or private — employs a veterinarian to provide such services. We cannot legitimately talk about humane society clinics “taking away business from veterinarians” because the humane society clinic has a veterinarian as well. What is happening is a shift in the marketplace from one supplier of services to another — perhaps fairly, perhaps unfairly; but let us be accurate in how we describe what is happening.

So, how do we cope with the changes that are occurring? It seems to me to be a perfect opportunity for veterinarians and animal/welfare groups of good will to work together in innovative and unprecedented ways to further the aims and interests of both groups. I would like to discuss several innovative programs which have been proposed and which seem to me to be worthy of consideration.

The concept of a central hospital modeled on the human medicine marketplace and operated by a humane society was put forth by Dr. John Huckins in the April 1982 issue of Veterinary Medicine/Small Animal Clinician in an article entitled “A Peaceful Solution To The Battle for Control of Pet Health Care.”

“The best answer,” Dr. Huckins asserts, to the public demand for lower fees and top quality care “is the cost-efficient central hospital” which has been ignored by most members of the veterinary profession. This facility could provide twenty-four hour, well-staffed, modern, low-fee, inpatient care while private practitioners would continue to provide outpatient services in their satellite outpatient clinics.

Dr. Huckins asserts that central hospitals are coming and that it would be in the best interests of all if they were operated by humane organizations instead of by private corporations. Just as many charity groups started and operated human hospitals, so, too, can humane societies operate central hospitals modeled on the human hospital system.

It also seems likely that the time is very near when private, profit-making entrepreneurs are going to enter the central hospital marketplace to provide the pet owning public with what they are demanding — low-cost, high-quality, twenty-four-hour care.

It would seem to be in the advantage of both the humane group and the local practitioners to cooperate in establishing a central hospital where all private veterinarians in an area are invited to participate in the formation and operation of the venture. The veterinarians would preserve their ability to pursue outpatient care in their clinics and the humane society would actually run the hospital and enjoy the prerogative of extending charity care to indigent pet owners as they see fit.

While the central hospital program will be most feasible as a cooperative effort in the more populated areas, another innovation has come to light which may hold particip-

The ability to communicate openly in an atmosphere of trust is fundamental for veterinarians and the providers of other humane services.
It is time for the veterinary organizations to bring the important human issues of our time.

26

The larger veterinary associations have made certain decisions in the past which have seriously undermined the credibility of veterinary medicine in general, and humane and caring persons.

The larger veterinary associations have made certain decisions in the past which have seriously undermined the credibility of veterinary medicine in general, and humane and caring persons.
Unfortunately, man’s cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end during your lifetime. But a bequest through your will will be a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

The Humane Society of the United States has been working to improve the treatment of animals for more than a century, and we are never going to achieve our goals if we do not plan our work for future generations.

Write in complete confidence to: Murdough Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.
APHIS Revived

The house and senate agriculture appropriations subcommittees have once again directed USDA to conduct humane killing of animals held in facilities such as laboratories, circuses, aquaria, zoos, and puppy mills. This summer they did not accept the seventy percent funding cut of the Animal Welfare Act proposed by the Reagan administration. The Animal Welfare Act was originally enacted by the Health and Education Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations subcommittees and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. This summer they did not have once again recognized the need to save the animals. The National Park Service, the Department of the Interior has been importing twenty-five thousand creatures. Action Alert Team members may remember last summer when The HSUS asked them to write opposing trapping in the U.S. National Park Service System. In 1983, the National Park Service proposed regulations to ban all unauthor- ized trapping in areas under its jurisdiction. Members were asked to send comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior James Watt and signed to Rep. John Dingell, chairman of the house subcommittee on public lands and national parks, in support of legislation to end unauthorized trapping in at least thirteen parks. Of the 1,721 letters sent, 1,584 supported the ban. A year later, on June 30, 1983, the National Park Service published final regulations banning trapping on its lands where trapping is not specifically authorized in each park’s enabling regulations. Trapp- ing will now be allowed in these parks only when it is necessary to reduce animal populations “detrimental to” the park. These regulations take effect October 3, 1983.

HSUS Protests Dove Hunt

Each autumn, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s permits hunters to shoot nesting mourning doves throughout the United States, primarily to control the number of doves that come into contact with the Department of the Interior decided to go to a permanent ban on the sale and shipping of living mourning doves for athletic shoes and other non- essential uses. The Fish and Wildlife Service has been importing twenty-five percent of the estimated six million kanga­ roos per year. In 1983, a kangaroo-protec­ tion bill that would ban import of kangaroo products into the United States.

Keep the Letters Coming...

Backed by more than one hun- dred cosponsors, Rep. Clarence Long of Maryland has formally re- quested hearings on his bill, H.R. 1797, to end the use of the steel­ jawed, leghold trap. In a letter to Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Resources Committee, he requested hearings on his bill, H.R. 1797, to end the use of the steel- jawed, leghold trap. In a letter to Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Resources Committee, he asked for federal assistance, according to this bill.

On the senate side, Sen. Wil­ liam Proxmire of Wisconsin simi­ larly attached a pets-in-housing amendment to the senate version of The Community Reinvestment Act, S. 1338. It passed out of the banking, hous­ ing, and urban affairs committee and is awaiting a vote on the senate floor.

Kangaroos to the U.S.

Despite the best efforts of The HSUS and many other conserva­ tionists, the U.S. De­ partment of the Interior has decided to lift the ban on the sale and shipping of living mourning doves. This summer they did not have once again recognized the need to save the animals. The National Park Service, the Department of the Interior has been importing twenty-five thousand creatures. Action Alert Team members may remember last summer when The HSUS asked them to write opposing trapping in the U.S. National Park Service System. In 1983, the National Park Service proposed regulations to ban all unauthor- ized trapping in areas under its jurisdiction. Members were asked to send comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior James Watt and signed to Rep. John Dingell, chairman of the house subcommittee on public lands and national parks, in support of legislation to end unauthorized trapping in at least thirteen parks. Of the 1,721 letters sent, 1,584 supported the ban. A year later, on June 30, 1983, the National Park Service published final regulations banning trapping on its lands where trapping is not specifically authorized in each park’s enabling regulations. Trapp- ing will now be allowed in these parks only when it is necessary to reduce animal populations “detrimental to” the park. These regulations take effect October 3, 1983.

Summer Success For Pets

Rep. Mario Biaggi of New York successfully offered an amendment to the housing bill to the much larger legislation, H. R. 1, The Housing and Community Development Act, which passed the full house in July. H. R. 1 now includes language that allows the elderly and handicapped to have pets in federally funded housing. Landlords who deny the elderly and handicapped the right to keep pets would not be eligible for federal assistance, according to this bill.

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Legislation to open up pro­ tected and remote Alaska na­ tional parks land to sports hunting has passed the senate energy and natural resources committee. If H. R. 49, sponsored by Sen. Ted Stev- ens, was to pass the full senate and if its companion bill, H. R. 1480, were to pass the full house, twelve million acres of land accessible only by private plane charters would be opened up to hunters wealthy enough to afford such expensive trips.

Please write to your senators and representatives and urge them not to pass these two bills and to keep this land permanently closed to hunting.

There was no action this summer on S. 457, Sen. James McClure’s “additional lands for Idaho’s National Monument to De-­ e­ $500 million, but it would also block all lab animal progress for at least two years.

The senate version of the NIH authorization, S. 964, contains the Humane Society of the United States temporarily lifted the ban. The U.S. Department of the Interior has been importing twenty-five thousand creatures. Action Alert Team members may remember last summer when The HSUS asked them to write opposing trapping in the U.S. National Park Service System. In 1983, the National Park Service proposed regulations to ban all unauthor- ized trapping in areas under its jurisdiction. Members were asked to send comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior James Watt and signed to Rep. John Dingell, chairman of the house subcommittee on public lands and national parks, in support of legislation to end unauthorized trapping in at least thirteen parks. Of the 1,721 letters sent, 1,584 supported the ban. A year later, on June 30, 1983, the National Park Service published final regulations banning trapping on its lands where trapping is not specifically authorized in each park’s enabling regulations. Trapp- ing will now be allowed in these parks only when it is necessary to reduce animal populations “detrimental to” the park. These regulations take effect October 3, 1983.

Please write to your senators in support of the HSUS amendment.

The Humane Society News • Fall 1983

Thanks to The Hill

The HSUS wishes to thank the following representatives for their dedication and action on behalf of animal welfare:

• Rep. Barbara Boxer for push- ing through amendments to H.R. 49, which would prohibit future expenditures of federal funds for the financing of the Pribilof Isl­ and seal hunt that results in the slaughter of thousands of seals an­ nually.

• Rep. Jamie Whitten and Sen. Thad Cochran for their leadership in restoring funding for the Ani­ mal Welfare Act.

Any member of the Senate may be reached c/o The U.S. Senate, Washing­ ton, D.C. 20510. Any represent­ atives may be reached c/o The House of Representatives, Wash­ ington, D.C. 20515.

30 31
Pound Seizure at Crossroads

The controversy over pound seizure has reached a new level of intensity in California. Assemblyman William Filante introduced a bill that, depending upon its interpretation, could affect a locality's option to decide whether animals in the community should go from shelters for research. The ambiguously worded bill would require that any pound or animal regulating department of a public or private agency whose community does not currently officially prohibit the transfer of animals to a properly certified research facility post a sign saying "Animals turned into this shelter may go to research...." Groups with only an internal policy against sales to research but unprotected by a local statute could be forced to post the sign. Although sixty-five animal-welfare organizations have opposed this bill, at press time, a A.B. 1735 had passed the assembly's water, parks, and wildlife committee. West Coas t Regional Director Marc Paulhus informed the California State Fair Board that horses subject to health and welfare controls in California may be, and will continue to be, sent to the fair for inspection. The fair is investigating complaints concern ing animal dealers and owners. Arrests already have been made in one case in California. Investigations into cruel and illegal animal fighting ventures are also on the increase and our investigator is being called upon frequently to assist local law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys in these cases.

Discovering Rodeo Cruelty

Horse owners and animal rights groups have expressed interest in the issue of rodeo cruelty. Promoters of so-called blood sports have sought to have animal shelters in California Assemblyman Charles Calderon. His A.B. 2160, which would legalize bloodless bull fights for gain or amusement, has already passed the assembly and is expected to pass in the senate unless humanitarians contact their senators immediately. Investigations by the West Coast Regional Office have shown that these events are not as bloodless as promoters would have us believe and that the animals used are often subject to unnecessary danger, harassment, and physical abuse by spectators and participants. The West Coast Regional Office has sent an alert to the legislative network and has made our opposition known to the legislators.

Bloody Passage

Promoters of so-called blood fights for gain or amusement have submitted bills to the California Assembly. Charles Calderon. His A.B. 2160, which would legalize bloodless bull fights for gain or amusement, has already passed the assembly and is expected to pass in the senate unless humanitarians contact their senators immediately. Investigations by the West Coast Regional Office have shown that these events are not as bloodless as promoters would have us believe and that the animals used are often subject to unnecessary danger, harassment, and physical abuse by spectators and participants. The West Coast Regional Office has sent an alert to the legislative network and has made our opposition known to the legislators.

No to Dope Study

The Gulf States Regional Office actively opposes a plan to spend a billion dollars to study the effects of marijuana smoking on rhesus monkeys at the National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson, Arkansas. One hundred and fifty monkeys will be forced to smoke marijuana and others injected with its active ingredient, then killed to study the effects of the drug on the brain. Regional Director Bill Meade reports that The HSUS has opposed the bill and has signed a letter to the Secretary of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857) and urges HSUS members to do so as well.

Texas Victories

The Texas legislature passed a new anti-dogfighting law and defeated the pernicious horse racing bill in session. All of those animal-welfare proponents who contacted their legislators deserve thanks for these important victories.

Humane Speaking

Director Meade was a speaker at a three-week-long course on humane education held at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, in June. More than thirty-five teachers attended. Those interested in next year's course should contact Grady Willingham at the SFA State University.

Roadside Woes

In July, Southeast Regional Director Marc Paulhus and Jeanne Roush of the HSUS captived the wildlife department undertook a week-long inspection of roadside zoos in North Carolina. They observed conditions at several bear dens in Cherokee and found that, although some met the minimum standards as required by the Animal Welfare Act, others appeared to be poorly maintained and uncensed. One bear enclosure, for example, was littered with trash and waste. Mr. Paulhus and Ms. Roush learned that charges had been filed against the owner of this animal and that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) had refused to file charges against the owner. The HSUS staff shared their findings with USDA officials in Raleigh after the trip was completed and planned other action to improve conditions for these animals.

Community Approach

Helping local humane societies and animal control agencies improve their programs is a foremost priority of the Southeast Regional Office. In recent months, Southeast Regional Director Marc Paulhus has visited more than a dozen animal shelters in a four-state area. These personal visits fulfill several needs: they acquaint local organizations with the programs and informational resources available to them from The HSUS; provide much needed recognition of the shelter's noteworthy accomplishments; and address whatever problems require additional attention.

Southern Seminar

A two-day seminar on cruelty investigations was sponsored by the Mississippi Animal Rescue League in Jackson. Those who attended the bill (S.B. 587) has been tabled. Thanks to the efforts of Illinois Humane Society, the proposed legislation has been tabled in both houses. Both dogs were already so badly injured that they had to be destroyed. Officers seized thirty-five other adult dogs and twelve puppies as evidence of animal cruelty and possible animal trafficking. Television and newspaper reporters were along to cover the activities, which made all of the major network outlets as a result. Interested citizens were able to attend a panel discussion on animal cruelty and illegal activity. The legislation doesn't take effect until 1984. Further participants will be charged under other statutes.

Legislative Wrap-Up

Thanks to the efforts of Illinois Humane Society, the proposed legislation has been tabled in both houses. Both dogs were already so badly injured that they had to be destroyed. Officers seized thirty-five other adult dogs and twelve puppies as evidence of animal cruelty and possible animal trafficking. Television and newspaper reporters were along to cover the activities, which made all of the major network outlets as a result. Interested citizens were able to attend a panel discussion on animal cruelty and illegal activity. The legislation doesn't take effect until 1984. Further participants will be charged under other statutes.

Big Catch in Illinois

On Saturday, August 27, a major dogfight raid took place in Greenville, Illinois, as a direct result of HSUS investigative efforts. Sixty-five people from eight different states were arrested during the surprise dawn raid. Seventy-five shelter law enforcement officials, assisted by HSUS investigators Frantz Dantaler and Bob Bobbitt, discovered and confiscated a large, poorly-orchestrated action. So secret was the operation that many of the police officers had no idea what kind of "ring" they were going to find until they arrived on the scene. The first fight was underway when officers arrived, and both dogs were already so badly injured that they had to be destroyed. Offices seized thirty-five other adult dogs and twelve puppies as evidence of animal welfare and controlled substances on the premises. Television and newspaper reporters were along to cover the activities, which made all of the major network outlets as a result. Interested citizens were able to attend a panel discussion on animal cruelty and illegal activity. The legislation doesn't take effect until 1984. Further participants will be charged under other statutes.

Regional Director Marc Paulhus examines a bear in a filthy roadside menagerie during inspection of North Carolina animal attractions in July.
proud of the state’s new felony law against dogfighting. Field Investiga
tion Director Tim Greyhavens said, “We were pleased to see this bill
funded in support of the bill, which was sponsored by Rep. Roger
McAuliffe. It was sponsored by Rep. Roger

Working the Workshops

The Great Lakes regional staff assisted Bill Smith, director of The HSUS’s Animal Control Ac
diency, to correct local animal-con

control workshops held over the sum
er. Animal-welfare workers from the Elkhart and Evansville, In
diana, and Mansfield, Ohio, areas heard Regional Director Sandy Row
land, Investigator Tim Greyhavens, and Mr. Smith discuss prob
lems and potential solutions in animal con

rol. Mrs. Rowland also addressed the annual gathering of animal-con

control workers. She stressed the importance of daily animal-con work was her topic.

Hope For Moose Vote

In cooperation with a group calling itself Save Maine’s Only
Official State Animal, the New England region of The HSUS
launched a major campaign to focus attention on the November 1983 election issue of moose

culture in Maine. That is why we need to work with the governor’s office for this.)
• Make the industry answerable to the public. If there are specific abuses in your area, bring
them to the attention of others concerned about animal welfare, your elected representatives, and the
press. Put pressure on the com

mission to correct abuses.

• Race track veterinarians are employed to protect the health of the racing animals. It is being
demanded that they be employed by the state government, not by the track itself. Ask your
local elected officials if racing is in your community — and tell them about your concern for animal
welfare. Tell them that you will

vote to allow a lottery

commission to make the changes voluntarily.

In horse racing ...

Work for passage of a state law to prohibit the use of any drug
that would have a pharmacologi
cal effect on the horse at the time of racing.

Help The HSUS in our effort to

rid racing of drugs nationwide by

writing to members of Congress and urging them to sup
port S. 1233 and H.R. 1694.

Work to have the racing commission to make the changes voluntarily.

By the time this issue went to press, the racing commission to make the changes voluntarily.

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Spring, Maryland

Taub Conviction Overturned

On August 10, 1983, overturned the conviction of Dr. Edward Taub for cruelty to a research monkey at the Institute for Behavioral Research (IBR) in Silver Spring, Maryland. A Maryland circuit court jury had affirmed the conviction for failure to provide necessary veterinary care to a rhesus monkey named Nero, whose right forelimb had to be amputated after the animal’s seizure from the laboratory by police. Dr. Taub’s conviction was believed to be the first criminal conviction of a laboratory researcher for cruelty to animals in the United States (see the Fall and Winter 1982 HSUS News). The HSUS provided extensive legal and scientific help to Maryland authorities in connection with Dr. Taub’s prosecution.

In a confusing opinion, the Maryland Court of Appeals, the state’s highest court, seems to have ruled that the rhesus cruelty statutes do not apply to actions by researchers who are working under federal grants. Its opinion is that they are, rather, regulated by the federal Animal Welfare Act. However, the Maryland statutes in question do not state or imply any exemption for laboratory researchers or even mention the federal statute or regulations. Neither, conversely, does the federal Animal Welfare Act state that it does not diminish or negate the applicability of state and local laws for the protection of animals.

Timber Wolf Threatened

The HSUS, along with a number of animal-protection and environmental organizations, has filed suit against Interior Secretary James Watt, challenging a change in the Fish and Wildlife Service regulations that would open a sport hunting season on the timber wolf; until now, this species has been protected by the Endangered Species Act. Wide-scale trapping (under the guise of livestock depredation control) is also being allowed. Perhaps most devastating in the long run, the new regulations would delegate wolf management to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, an agency that has long advocated a sport hunting season on this species and continually claimed that it is neither endangered nor threatened in the state. The suit contends that since this wolf is currently on the national endangered species list (classified only as “threatened” in Minnesota and Alaska), it is illegal to subject it to sport hunting and that there is an obligation on the part of the federal government to attempt to increase the population of threatened species. Accordingly, this program which has as its purpose—and surely its effect—a reduction in the population, is illegal.

The HSUS Attacks Glueboards

Glueboards, rodent traps containing a super glue that immobilizes all small animals stepping upon them, cause their victims horrible pain and suffering before they die. Despite industry claims that these traps are clean, quick, efficient, and safe, non-target animals such as kittens, birds, and squirrels have been caught by the super glue. Some manufacturers advertise the traps as sanitary and easily removable if accidental contact is made, but evidence indicates that glueboards are used by use of strong chemical solvents, and sometimes, by surgery. In an effort to expose misleading industry claims which imply glueboards are humane, the General Counsel’s Office has filed a petition with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requesting an investigation of what we believe to be false or deceptive advertising by three of the leading glueboard manufacturers. The HSUS has requested that the FTC order them to admit these devices are neither humane nor painless.

LAW NOTES

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Make This A Colorful Christmas

Our unique HSUS Christmas card will bring a colorful outdoor winter scene to your friends and loved ones this holiday season. This year’s design, by wildlife artist Joy Swan, depicts in full color a collection of gentle creatures enjoying winter’s delights.

Inside is the greeting, “May you and all creatures be blessed with peace at this beautiful season...and always.”

HSUS Christmas Card Order Form

Please send me _ boxes of HSUS Christmas cards at $7 per box OR please send me _ boxes of HSUS Christmas cards at $6 per box.

I enclose $ ______

Send the cards to:

Name ___________________________

Address ___________________________

City State Zip ________________

Make all checks or money orders payable to The HSUS and send this coupon to:

The Law Notes are compiled by HSUS General Counsel Murdrough Stuart Malden and Associate Counsel Roger Kindler.
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