HSUS Helps Rescue OR Cattle

The heavy rainfall that descended on the Pacific Northwest last November led Oregon's Tillamook County Department of Emergency Management to request that The HSUS deploy disaster services staff to the area. The HSUS, accompanied by the Tillamook County Sheriff's marine division and an animal control officer from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, assisted with locating missing cattle and moving them out of harm.

Initial reports suggested that close to 200 cattle were stranded as floodwaters rose. After assessing the area and meeting with local cattle owners, it was determined that less than 15 cattle were in need of immediate assistance. "We were pleased that the majority of cattle owners had moved their animals out of the area or to higher ground prior to the flooding," said HSUS's Drew Moore. "In years past, flooding in the Tillamook area has caused serious damage and many cattle were lost. We commend the Tillamook County Department of Emergency Management and Sheriff's Office for their assistance and concern regarding the animals' safety."

HSUS's Drew Moore and Lincoln County Sheriff's ACO Jackie Beckstead with a cow aided during Oregon floods.

Canned Hunts Get Canned in Oregon

The HSUS and concerned citizens applauded when the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved an administrative rule in 1999 that banned the unethical and despicable practice of "canned" hunting of exotic and game mammals, sending a strong message that canned hunts have no place in Oregon.

Canned hunts involve confining animals to cages or fenced-in enclosures and shooting them at point blank range. These animals are bred in captivity with little or no fear of humans, which make them easy targets for these guaranteed hunts.

After the regulation went into effect, Oregon's only known canned hunt operation, Clover Creek Ranch, flouted the Commission's rule by continuing to operate, drawing in clients from all over the country, including members of Safari Club International.

However in 2001, the Jefferson County District Attorney's office charged Clover Creek Ranch operator Clark Couch with 51 violations of Oregon fish and game laws stemming from the unlawful possession, sale, and hunting of several species of exotic deer kept on an enclosed, private game farm.

Shockingly, the court dismissed all charges, reasoning that non-native exotic deer could not be considered "wildlife" subject to the Commission's control. The Court of Appeals affirmed that reasoning. Finally last November, after more than five years in legal limbo, the Oregon Supreme Court upheld the Commission's authority to prohibit the canned hunting of captive, non-indigenous deer. The Oregon Supreme Court stated with an unqualified "yes" that whether captive deer are "wild" or not, deer clearly fall within the regulatory authority that the Commission has been given over game mammals, defined to include antelope, black bears, cougar, deer, elk, moose, mountain goats, mountain sheep, and silver.

Although Oregon's Supreme Court prohibited canned hunting of several species, some—such as this ibex—were not included and still face being hunted.

gray squirrels.

Since The HSUS filed an amicus brief in support of the Commission's rule prohibiting canned hunting, we hailed the Oregon Supreme Court's important and long-awaited decision. However, the ruling did not reference the Commission's ability to regulate canned hunts of other exotic mammals, such as ibex goats, exotic sheep, Russian boars, and other "trophy" animals.

Until this past November, Clover Creek Ranch had been in full operation, offering a full menu of captive, pen-raised animals to shoot and kill, ranging from $600 for a Corsican ram to $2,000 for a yak. Although the Oregon Supreme Court ruling was strong, it likely will not put a stop to the cruel killing of animals on Clover Creek Ranch. Not surprisingly, Clark Couch has threatened to continue on page 2
**Running A Fowl of Cruelty Laws**

For the second time in as many years, officers of the Amador County Sheriff’s Department, aided by Amador County Animal Services, The HSUS, and other local animal control departments, raided a property near Fiddletown, where they discovered drugs, cockfighting equipment, and more than 130 gamebirds.

**WCRO Director Eric Sahach (left) examines a bird rescued during a cockfighting raid in Amador County, Calif.**

**Buddy Recovers from Beating**

T he HSUS posted a reward for information relating to a cruelty case involving two transients who beat a dog (above) with a baseball bat in the Auburn area of King County, Wash. According to King County Animal Services, our reward led to one of the suspects turning himself in. King County Superior Court Judge Jay White sentenced both men to nine months in jail and prohibited them from owning or residing in any home where animals are present. The HSUS commends King County Animal Services, the King County Prosecutor’s Office, and Judge White for their swift and serious prosecution of this case. Although Buddy did sustain lasting brain damage from the incident, he has since been adopted into a loving home.

Please call your local animal control agency or police if you suspect animal abuse or cruelty in your area, or call our office for more information.

**Coast Guard Comes to Rescue**

W hile HSUS teams were busy aiding the stranded cattle in Tillamook County (see page 3), the U.S. Coast Guard was rescuing people and animals from the same floods in both Washington and Oregon.

In Tillamook, Ore., crew from Stansia Tillamook Bay evacuated 31 people, four dogs, and eight rabbits from rising flood waters in downtown Tillamook. A Jayhawk helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Astoria also rescued seven adults, seven children, and two dogs from areas in Tillamook that were unreachable by boat or vehicle. In La Push, Wash., a dolphin helicopter crew from Port Angeles rescued an elderly couple, their two dogs, and two cats after floodwaters from the Bogachiel River claimed their home. The crew also rescued four people and two dogs trapped in a van near Ortiz, Wash. The HSUS commends the U.S. Coast Guard for including pets in evacuations and rescues.

**Legislators Praised for Positive Record on Animals**

Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) receives his award as a Legislative Awardee from HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle (right). Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) were all recognized for their work to strengthen the federal law to combat illegal dogfighting and cockfighting. Ensign also led the effort to stop horse slaughter, and Blumenauer also worked to improve funding for the enforcement of animal welfare laws. Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) was a leader on two important animal welfare bills: one to stop the sale of “downer” livestock, who are too sick or injured to walk to slaughter, and another to stop Class B dealers from trafficking in stolen pets for research. Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) successfully passed legislation requiring state and local agencies to have policies in their disaster planning. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) led an effort to create animal welfare standards for meat, dairy, and egg products purchased by the federal government, and Rep. Sam Farr (D-Calif.) led efforts to crack down on abuse.

From left: HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle, Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Calif.), and HSUS President Michael Markarian at the presentation of Calvert’s Legislative Leader award.

**If you live in Oregon, please contact your state senator, state representative, and Gov. Kulongoski and ask for their support of S.B. 572. To identify your state senator and representative, please visit www.hsus.org/leglookup. To contact Gov. Kulongoski, phone 503-378-4582 or send an e-mail at governor.oregon.gov/Gov/contact_us.shtml.**

**Spring 2007**

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES  
WCRO Regional News
The HSUS is sponsoring an all-day workshop to be held July 27 at the Humane Society Legislative Endeavor (MOU) conference in San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA.

For up-to-date reports of proposed legislation in California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, go to www.hsus.org/legislation.

Click on "State Legislation" in the box in the upper left of the page and you will be taken to a map where you can click on your state.

**California**

The 2005–2006 legislative session was a huge victory for animals in California. Gov. Schwarzenegger signed four major animal protection bills that serve as examples for other states.

- **Felony cockfighting penalties (S.B. 1349),** sponsored by The HSUS and introduced by Sen. Nell Soto (D-Pomona), increased the penalty for a second or subsequent violation of the animal fighting statute to a felony offense. California became the 33rd state to have felony laws for illegal cockfighting.
- **Disaster planning for pets (A.B. 450),** co-sponsored by The HSUS and introduced by Assembly Member Leland Yee (D-12), the Disaster Planning for Animals Bill requires the Office of Emergency Services to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Agriculture to incorporate the California Animal Response Emergency System program into their emergency planning. HSUS is sponsoring an all-day workshop to be held July 27 at the Humane Society Legislative Endeavor (MOU) conference in San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA.

Gov. Schwarzenegger’s leadership, dogs will no longer suffer continuous tethering in California.

Thanks to Gov. Schwarzenegger’s leadership, dogs will no longer suffer continuous tethering in California.

In a move that leads to a more humane treatment of dogs, Senate Bill 1349, introduced by Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), makes it a misdemeanor to tether a dog for more than three hours in a 24-hour period, an improvement over a similar measure passed in 2005.

**Oregon**

- **Dissection choice.** On July 1, 2005, S.B. 383 went into effect, protecting Oregon's K-12 students who wish to refrain from dissection.

- **Tethering of dogs.** S.B. 1578, introduced by Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), makes it a misdemeanor to tether a dog for more than three hours in a 24-hour period, an improvement over a similar measure passed in 2005.

- **Inhumane trapping.** H.B. 278 and H.B. 489 ban the use of leghold, conibear, and snare and body gripping traps in the capture of animals except for use by state, federal, or county officials in protecting public health and safety. S.B. 631 and S.B. 918 also prohibit the use of body gripping traps to hunt game mammals. These bills are working their way through hearings in both the House and Senate. HSUS Position: Support

- **Felony animal fighting.** Gov. Greigorte signed S.B. 1606, which made attending an animal fight a felony.

- **Inhumane trapping.** The HSUS successfully defended Initiative 717, initially passed by popular vote in 2000, that made it a gross misdemeanor to capture an animal with a steel-jaw leghold trap, neck snare, or other body-gripping trap. It is also unlawful to knowingly buy or sell an animal pelt trapped in this manner or to poison any animal using sodium fluoride (Compound 1080) or sodium cyanide.

- **Evict animal regulations.** H.B. 1418 protects the public from the keeping of dangerous wild animals. Under current law, there are no regulations pertaining to the keeping, breeding, or selling of dangerous wild animals. This bill would prohibit such abuses, protecting both public safety and animal welfare. HSUS Position: Support

**support these important bills.**
By Eric Sakach
Director of the West Coast Regional Office

Hawaii: Anything But Paradise for Animals

Imagine a seemingly perfect day in paradise being shattered by the vision of your beloved pet being chased by men with dogs across your own property. Despite your pleas and begging and that of witnesses, the trespassers corner and then stab the frightened animal to death.

It's difficult to believe, but that's just what happened last October to Porky, a family's pet pig, who lived on a lychee farm in Mililani, in Oahu, Hawaii. Porky had appeared in an Island Air commercial and an episode of the popular television series "Lost," according to news reports. As outrageous as it sounds, the man who killed Porky might not have been charged with anything more serious than a misdemeanor had police not been able to charge him with theft of livestock, which is a felony crime.

Unfortunately, acts of brutality and violence against animals seem to be anything but uncommon on the Hawaiian Islands. Other equally outrageous cases include the more recent shooting of another pet pig named Kipu by teenagers on the island of Kauai; the discovery of 17 abandoned and starving dogs and three deceased dogs at an Anahola home last December by local humane society officials, also on Kauai; another case in January 2007 involving three sheep who were beaten, stabbed, and killed, again on Kauai; and the shooting deaths last summer of as many as 12 wild horses by a farmer after the animals allegedly entered his unfenced land and damaged his crops in the Waipio Valley on the big island of Hawaii.

Hawaii is one of eight states that do not have felony penalties for animal cruelty. And existing penalties, if a criminal case is actually filed and prosecuted, are sometimes so low as to be an insult to anyone who cares about animals. For example, there's the 2004 case of a Hilo man who was charged with two misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty after he dragged an injured steer behind his truck to the Hilo dump and abandoned the suffering animal on a pile of rubbish where he was discovered still alive by county workers the following day. Although the charges each carried a penalty of up to a year in jail, the man received a 15-day suspended sentence after one charge was dismissed under a plea agreement and he pleaded no contest to the second.

While dogfighting is a felony crime in Hawaii, it is one of just 16 states where cockfighting remains only a misdemeanor crime and the activity is considered rampant even though law enforcement agencies in Hawaii are reporting a surge in the number of arrests for cockfighting. We are hopeful that these bills can be amended to include all or some of these animals. Perhaps then, Hawaii will be closer to deserving the title of island paradise.

As we go to press, we have learned that H.B. 676 has been stripped of its felony provisions in the House Judiciary Committee. S.B. 1665 has passed the Senate intact, but it too must pass through the House Judiciary Committee.

Contacting HSUS

Write:
HSUS West Coast Regional Office
P.O. Box 417220
Sacramento, CA 95841-7220

Call:
916-344-1710

Fax:
916-344-1808

Web Page:
www.hsus.org/wcro

Celebrating Animals, Confronting Cruelty

The beauty of Hawaii belies the fact that animal cruelty is not treated as the serious crime it is. One of only eight states that do not have felony penalties for animal cruelty, Hawaii needs to strengthen its laws to protect animals.