HSUS Opens West Coast Regional Office

The Humane Society of the United States has opened a West Coast Regional Office to serve California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, announced HSUS President John A. Hoyt.

Primary objectives of the new office, one of four in the United States, are to provide better assistance to state and local humane societies and to carry out HSUS programs in all areas of the nation.

Regional directors and their staffs will provide counsel and technical assistance to persons interested in organizing humane societies or animal shelters and to societies or shelter personnel interested in improving their operations. They will assist local groups and individuals in convincing municipal officials to adopt adequate animal control programs and regulations.

The regional staff will also implement appropriate aspects of national programs in their regions, including educational and legislative projects. In addition, they will investigate and prosecute major cruelty cases.
The West Coast Regional Office will give us an opportunity to better serve individuals and organizations on the West Coast," said HSUS President John A. Hoyt, who was instrumental in establishing the regional structure. "Most important, it gives us another link in our efforts to prevent cruelty to animals throughout the United States."

The many programs and activities formerly conducted and promoted by the California Branch are being continued under this new auspice," Hoyt continued. "Former Branch members can be assured there will be no concern for animal welfare throughout California will go forward with the same dedication and commitment as before.

Martin comes to the regional directorship from 17 years of professional work in all aspects of national, state, and local humane activities.

Working with Martin will be Field Representative Michael D. Smith, who is the former director of services for the California Branch, and Education and Information Director Charles Drennon, who was office manager of the California Branch.

During the first weeks of operation, the staff has been concentrating on learning the issues that are most crucial to all areas of the four-state region. They have met with the Navy’s animal supervisors and their counterparts, on-farm animal welfare staffs of two counties and the humane societies of several other communities to assist in developing improved animal control programs.

"We are available to counsel both governmental and private groups in the management of animal welfare, including building of facilities and establishment of spay and neuter clinics," Martin said. "We will be glad to help anyone, as staff availability permits."

The staff will also investigate and assist in prosecuting cruelty cases, however careful mistreatment of exotic animals in captivity.

"We very much need the help and encouragement of all humanitarians who are aware of animal welfare problems in the region," Hoyt said. "We welcome the support of everyone."

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West Coast Legislation

(Abbreviations: SB=Senate Bill; AB=Assembly Bill; HB=House Bill.)

California

Penal Code Revision (SB 39, Gruensky)—Judiciary Comm.

Experimentation in Public Schools (SB 112, Rodda)—prohibits experiments on animals in secondary schools: signed by Governor on June 1.

Exotic Animals (SB 187, Moscone)—prohibits importation and sale of exotic mammals: passed Natural Resources Comm.; pending in Finance Comm.

Spay Incentive (SB 335, Nejedly)—provides $7 license fee for unspayed dogs and cats, $3.50 for spayed: passed Local Government Comm.; pending in Finance Comm.

Citation Authority (SB 499, Gregorio)—gives animal control citation authority to employees of humane groups providing municipal animal control service: Judiciary Comm.

Ban on Sale of Cat or Dog Skin (SB 766, Roberti; AB 461, Boatwright)—prohibits selling any dog or cat for purpose of setting skin: Senate Judiciary Comm., House Ways and Means Comm.

Legalize Dog Racing (AB 70, Powers)—authorizes greyhound racing (which HSUS opposes) in state: Government Organization Comm.

Pet Birth Control (AB 77, Cullen)—gives $50,000 to University of California for research of ingested type contraceptive (no longer stipulates that money is to be raised by a tax on pet food): passed Agriculture Comm.; pending Ways and Means Comm.

Spay Clinic Financing (AB 1056, Arnett)—would provide $3 million to set up low-cost municipal spay clinics: pending Task Force Study Comm.

Animal Control Commission (AB 2100, Arnett)—sets standards, establishes Commission on Animal Care and Control, creates Animal Control Officers' Training Fund: Criminal Justice Comm., to be heard in August.

Veterinary Assistants (AB 2101, Arnett)—provides licensing and regulation of veterinary assistants: pending, Task Force Study Comm.

Breeders Licensing (AB 2271, Berman)—creates Animal Breeders' License Board: held until completion of Task Force Study Comm. report.

Abolition of Bounties (AB 2405, Boatwright)—passed Natural Resources Comm.

Fox Protection (AB 2406, Boatwright)—bans taking of foxes for profit: pending Natural Resources Comm.

Restriction on Running at Large (SB 529)—authorizes county commissioners to enact and enforce ordinances licensing dogs and prohibiting animals from running at large: signed into law, effective since March.

Fish and Game Authority (AB 466)—permits Fish and Game Dept. to protect property threatened by any wildlife species: signed into law, effective July 1.

Multiple Humane Societies (AB 533)—permits more than one humane society in a county: signed into law, effective July 1.

Nevada

Restriction on Running at Large (SB 529)—authorizes county commissions to enact and enforce ordinances licensing dogs and prohibiting animals from running at large: signed into law, effective since March.

Fish and Game Authority (AB 466)—permits Fish and Game Dept. to protect property threatened by any wildlife species: signed into law, effective July 1.

Multiple Humane Societies (AB 533)—permits more than one humane society in a county: signed into law, effective July 1.

Oregon

Cockfighting (SB 201, Fadeley et al.)—bans and provides penalties for promoting animal fights: Agriculture Comm.

Cruelty Code Revision (SB 212, Browne et al.)—redefines cruelty, at request of Oregon Humane Society.

Steer Busting (SB 213, Browne)—defines torture in animal cruelty statutes to include steer busting: Agriculture Comm.

Police Power (SB 223, Howard et al.)—takes police power from attorney general's office and gives humane officers status of peace officers: Agriculture Comm.

Spaying Incentive (HB 2167, Densmore)—allows exemption on personal state income tax up to $100 for spaying dogs and cats.

Steel Jaw Trap Ban (HB 2544, Willits): tabled.

Bounty Repeal (HB 2593, Whiting).

State Pet Animal Control Act (HB 2734)—creates state advisory committee: Agriculture and Natural Resources Comm.

Bounties on Predators (HB 2812, Whitting et al.)—authorizes Director of Agriculture to establish bounties for predatory animals in areas where they threaten livestock or crops.

Washington

Revision of Cruelty Law (SB 2554, Murray, Metcalf)—to revise state laws on prevention of cruelty to animals.

Ban on Steer Busting (SB 2545, Scott, Francis).

Ban on Steel Jaw Trap (HB 701, Rable, Nelson).

Ban on Wild Animal Skins (HB 439, Bluechel).

HSUS West Coast Regional Office
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I enclose $__________ to support continuing programs to combat cruelty in the West Coast Region.

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 groundbreaking research, while others are aimed at protecting human health and safety. The legislation covers a wide range of issues, from animal welfare to public health and safety. For instance, the Spay Incentive bill provides $7 license fees for unspayed dogs and cats, $3.50 for spayed animals, which is a significant financial incentive for pet owners to spay or neuter their pets. This bill is aimed at reducing the number of stray cats and dogs, which can be a source of zoonotic diseases and warranting of municipal animal control services.

Similarly, the Spay Clinic Financing bill would provide $3 million to establish low-cost municipal spay clinics, which is a significant financial resource for municipalities to reduce the number of stray pets in their communities. This bill is also aimed at reducing the number of stray cats and dogs, which can be a source of zoonotic diseases and warranting of municipal animal control services.

On the other hand, the Experimentation in Public Schools bill prohibits experiments on animals in secondary schools, which is a significant step towards protecting animal welfare and reducing the use of animals in research. This bill is aimed at protecting animal welfare and reducing the number of animals used in research.

Another bill of interest is the Bill that creates the Animal Control Commission, which sets standards and establishes a commission on animal care and control, creating a much-needed regulatory framework for animal welfare. This bill is aimed at protecting animal welfare and reducing the number of stray pets in their communities.

Overall, the West Coast Legislation highlights the importance of protecting animal welfare and reducing the number of stray pets in their communities. The bills cover a wide range of issues, from animal welfare to public health and safety, and aim to create a more compassionate and responsible society towards animals.