Lawmakers Dump Greyhound Bills

Two legislative proposals that would have legalized betting on greyhound racing in California and Washington were defeated in committee votes last April.

The California Assembly Governmental Organization Committee rejected Assembly Bill 455 by a 5-4 vote, after nearly eight hours of emotional testimony, in two hearings. The bill was sponsored by Assemblyman Leon Ralph of Los Angeles who worked closely with the Golden State Greyhound Assn. (GSGA) in a major effort to get the legislation passed. The GSGA recently mounted a well-financed campaign to get greyhound racing established in California.

Ralph produced a flurry of compromise amendments to make the bill acceptable to his colleagues. Included was a provision he had previously declared as unenforceable. The amendment stipulated that no greyhounds would be allowed to race in California if they had been trained on live animals.

HSUS West Coast Regional Director Frantz Dantzler countered Ralph's amendment by pointing out that most greyhounds in the United States are trained in Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas because of weak anti-cruelty laws and high rabbit populations. He speculated most greyhounds raced in California would be imported from those states.

Last November the HSUS West Coast Regional Office produced a special alert bulletin outlining the GSGA's plans to have the greyhound legislation introduced in the California legislature. The bulletin was sent to all California humane societies and HSUS members. The humane movement responded with hundreds of letters to the regional office. This reaction was reported by HSUS to Governor Brown, members of the Governmental Organization Committee, and Assemblyman Ralph. Numerous representatives from animal welfare (Continued on page 2.)
Dogfighting's Destiny With the Law

By Franz L. Dantler, Director
HSUS West Coast Region

No one really knows when dogfighting was first introduced into this country, although it seemed to become an organized activity during the early 1800s. This was about the same time that the Staffordshire bull terrier was imported into the United States. The breed was the starting point for the development of the American pit bull terrier, which was bred expressly for fighting capable of extended combat for several hours.

During the mid-1800s, dogfighting was gaining in popularity and, as a result, several states passed laws prohibiting the cruel practice. Several sanctioning organizations dissociated themselves from the activity, and a sport was organized. Dogfighting from the mid-1800s, dogfighting was increasing and seemed to be a sport even supports its capability of an organized activity and a reputable into the United States. The thor, currently at the Staffordshire Cruel Practice. Several Coastal Regional Office...

The news media quotes the GSGA as saying that they are at the HSUS's peer-to-peer youth teaching program. This program is designed to help children to teach other children basic concepts in humane education. In this program, for example, a high school student can earn HSUS material into an approved school and teach such subjects as basic pet care or the reasons wild animals don't make good pets.

Many teachers have become so enthusiastic about their HSUS programs. The HSUS has become the nation's leading provider of HSUS humane education and animal-related resources. The HSUS is designed a program using visual aids and the film "Why Protect Animals," which the graduating seniors presented to more than 8,000 students in Sacramento County, California.

From the Director's Desk

Spokane to Sell Shelter Animals

The Spokane, Wash. city council has voted to sell unclaimed dogs and cats at the city's animal shelter to universities for research purposes. The animal control would provide a minimum of 1,000 dogs and cats per year to the University of Washington and Washington State University. Dogs would be purchased for $15 each, and cats for $5.

When Mrs. M. G. (Joyce) Sutherland learned of the council's action, she organized 200 volunteers and formed the Interested Citizens Committee to fight the decision. Petitions calling for an initiative to overturn the council's decision are now being circulated by the Committee. Six thousand signatures are needed.

The committee contacted the HSUS West Coast Regional Office for help in their project. Franz L. Dantler, director of the HSUS West Coast Regional Office, said he will offer assistance to the committee. Dantler said that the committee is opposed to selling any surplus animals to research facilities because of the inhumane treatment to which many laboratory animals are subjected. He also said such a practice destroys the public confidence in animal control programs.

The Spokane City Pound has been under severe criticism recently because of alleged inconsistencies in its operation. Recently the facility's poundmaster was indicted by the Spokane grand jury on charges of illegally selling animals. The grand jury is currently investigating this and other charges.

Greyhound Continued

Greyhound groups throughout the state appeared to testify against the legislation.

Earlier in April a Washington state senate committee soundly defeated a similar bill, SB 2888.

Californians interested in keeping greyhound racing out of their state cannot rest with the defeat of Ralph's bill. The news media quotes the DGA as saying that they will attempt to qualify an initiative for the June 1976 ballot. Be cause of the low probability of the last general election, California proponents of greyhound racing will need fewer signatures than last year to qualify the initiative.

Photography by C. Dantler

Frantz Dantler, director of the HSUS Regional Office (right), discusses the provisions of California's proposed dogfighting bill with its author, Assemblyman Mike Antonovich.

Marta York, a member of Weinstock's Trendsetters, shows a hamster to elementary school children during a student teaching session. The Trendsetters are members of Sacramento's Weinstock Department Stores youth board. The board recently chose humane education as their community service project. HSUS designed a program using visual aids and the film "Why Protect Animals," which the graduating seniors presented to more than 8,000 students in Sacramento County, California.

Humane Education's Chain Reaction

By John J. Dommers, Director
HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education Center

Animals are a number one attraction for children. Educators know this and attempt to peak students' interests by exposing them to animal-related subjects as often as possible. But many teachers want to give their students more than dry facts about the animal kingdom. Increasingly, they are attempting to expose their students to educational material that evokes or involves direct animal contact in order to create more positive and humane attitudes toward animals.

Teacher interest in humane education is growing rapidly in the United States. After only two years of operation, the Norma Terris Humane Education Center has become the nation's education resource center for the nation's educators. Innovative outdoor animal education programs and instructional materials on a variety of animal subjects including career education, responsible pet ownership and protection of endangered wild animals have attracted hundreds of teachers to Norma Terris Center workshops.

Many teachers have become so convinced of the quality of HSUS humane education programs that they have volunteered to explain them to interested teachers attending our workshops.

Projector Needed

Because of expanded education programs in the region, the HSUS West Coast Regional Office has an urgent need of a "front" projector for demonstration purposes. Asking to donate a projector is kindly asked to contact the regional office.
Dog Tattooing (AB 260, Ralph)—permits dogs to be tattooed in lieu of wearing dog license tags.

Animal Fighting (AB 614, Antonovich)—requires a veterinarian to report to local law enforcement officials if he observes of animal cruelty.

Dog License (AB 312, MacDonald)—requires dog license for all dogs, including those in the possession of non-residents.

MD of Animals (AB 489, Brown)—part of this bill makes molesting an animal sexually a misdemeanor.

Veterinarian Report of Animal Cruelty (AB 1043, McVittie/Goggins)—requires veterinarians to report to local law enforcement officials if they have reasonable cause to believe an animal's death or injury resulted from participation in a staged dogfight.

Humane Investigators (HB 2027, Byers)—sets up a 3-member board nominated by humane societies and appointed by the governor to designate state humane investigators.

Animal Control Statutes (HB 3129, Whiting)—revokes Oregon animal control, dog leash, and running-at-large laws; establishes minimum $5 dog license fee with at least a 3-to-1 differential for spayed and neutered animals.

Confinement of Animals (HB 2821, Whiting)—prohibits confinement of animals in vehicles when it endangers the health of the animal.