Protection for Mountain Lions One Step Closer

The efforts of approximately 5,000 volunteers, donating more than 100,000 hours of their time, have placed the California Wildlife Protection Act on the June 1990 state ballot.

The act would make illegal the killing of a mountain lion for reasons other than protection of life or property (including livestock); appropriate $20 million per year for the next 30 years to protect wilderness areas for rare and endangered species; and appropriate an additional $10 million per year for 30 years specifically to protect habitat for mountain lions, deer, and native oak.

By creating a minimum funding floor, the Act would force the state to make wilderness purchases a priority. In the last 40 years, California has lost more than 4.8 million acres of wilderness to urban encroachment and continues to lose this critical land at an alarming rate, threatening nearly one-third of California’s mammals with extinction.

Opposition to the initiative by the Cattlemen’s Association and other groups has already started, so extensive volunteer help and donations will be crucial for a victory in June. The WCRO is helping to gather much-needed endorsements and making every effort to see that word of this important issue reaches large segments of the public. If you would like to help, please contact: California Wildlife Protection Committee, 1012 J Street, #202, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 444-2287.

The California mountain lion would receive specific protection from hunting under the Wildlife Protection Act. This initiative is on the June 1990 state ballot.

Join in the Earth Day Celebrations

April 22, 1990, will mark the 20th anniversary of Earth Day and begin a long-term global commitment to build a safe, just, and sustainable planet. John A. Hoyt, president of The HSUS, has joined Earth Day’s prestigious board of directors and pledged The HSUS’s help to promote and observe this important event.

Commitment to strive for environmental healing is a personal one, and each of us can choose from among a myriad of Earth Day activities to become personally involved. Your first step may be to take the Earth Day 1990 pledge (contact the WCRO for a copy) to affirm your desire to recycle and conserve energy and water; to buy and use those products least harmful to the environment; and to support political candidates who demonstrate an abiding concern for the environment.

Earth Day 1990 will feature many demonstrations and resolutions, including the introduction of the Valdez Principles, a set of broad standards for evaluating continued on page 2
**DIRECTOR'S COMMENT**

by Char Drennon

A new decade is an outstanding opportunity for redirection to old goals and for setting new ones. The HSUS, founded for the purposes of developing and promoting solutions to pet overpopulation, invites you to become part of the pet-overpopulation solution.

Many of the West Coast Regional Office Report offers several clues for our members to get involved: Earth Day 1990 activities; the California mountain lion and the gift net initiative; and the HSUS’s “Be a P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter” campaign; and our regular legislative letter-writing campaign. In addition to these activities, the HSUS will offer this poster and other materials at Earth Day festivities in Washington, DC.

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**The HSUS Promotes Humane Sustainable Agriculture**

Humane sustainable agriculture (HSA) is farming with compassion and consideration for the land and both wild and domestic animals. It joins together productivity, economic efficiency, and the related goals of more emphatic husbandry of crops and livestock; environmentally sound stewardship of resources (soil, water, and air); and protection of wildlife and wildlands.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is identifying and supporting farmers who choose humane and ecologically sound production systems that avoid dependence upon antibiotics and hormones, growth promoters, pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, and inappropriate technologies.

In particular, The HSUS, with the National Save the Farm Coalition (NSFFC) and other concerned groups, is actively campaigning against the use of bovine growth hormone (BGH), which stimulates greater milk production in dairy cattle. Side effects such as infected udders, increased likelihood of disease, and lower rates of reproduction are associated with the use of BGH. To ensure the consumer’s freedom of choice to purchase hormone-free, antibiotic-free food, the campaign seeks the incorporation of descriptive labels on dairy products. Labeling could also designate other farm products as “free range” (as opposed to intensive-confinement systems) and “organic.”

The HSUS encourages our members to support humane sustainable agriculture whenever possible. The California Mountain Lion (CML) coalition, a group of California citizens formed by HSUS director of data and information; two staff members from Nixalite of America (which donated all materials); and HSUS members and volunteers. The group was formed for two days installing throaty strips of metal on fence posts and rails. OREGON—In August, 1989, the Oregon State Department of Justice filed a racketeering charge against Gary Blake in connection with an illegal cockfighting operation on his property (see HSUS’s “Be a P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter” kit). For more information on the anti-BGH campaign or humane sustainable agriculture in general, contact: The HSUS/HSA Program, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037; (202) 452-1100.

**Earth Day continued from page 1**

Corporate ecologist conduct. Local governments are encouraged to join the Global Cities Project to promote Earth Day festivities and activities. Earth Day organizers have created an innovative curriculum for teachers and youth leaders.

The HSUS will be a major participant in Earth Day festivities to be held in Washington, D.C., April 19-22. Our participation will help raise public awareness of the environmental threats to our planet and the animals with whom we share it. We hope to build a strong base of public support to force environmental changes in the workplace and our daily habits. The HSUS tent will display the banner “It’s Their World Too” and distribute posters, literature, T-shirts, and other materials.

For more information on Earth Day and to learn of activities in your area, please contact: Earth Day 1990, PO Box AA, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305; (415) 321-1990.

**AROUND THE REGION**

**CALIFORNIA—HSUS staff traveled to the Mojave Desert last November to install bird barriers along the 40-mile perimeter of the Fort Irwin National Training Area (see the Fall 1989 West Coast Regional Office Report). The barriers will help keep prey animals from poisoning facilities where the target species are located.**

**BE A P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter**

Every time people decide to let their pet have “just one litter,” they add to the problem of pet overpopulation. Even people who plan on finding homes for each of their pet’s offspring contribute to the pet surplus with “just one litter.” The sad truth is, only one in five puppies or kittens will find a good home—the rest will die. The Humane Society of the United States invites you to become part of the pet-overpopulation solution.

For our national effort to combat the problem of pet overpopulation, our most ambitious and comprehensive campaign to date, “Be a P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter” is still in need of assistance; please contact Doug Fakkena, Executive Director, Santa Cruz SPCA, 2307 Seventh Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

Disasters like Hurricane Hugo and the October earthquake graphically point out the need for all shelters to have a fully prepared emergency plan ready to take effect. In the recent earthquake, shelters with existing emergency plans were able to provide adequate shelter and protection of wildlife and the environment; Guy Hodge, FCHS, executive director of the SPCA for the Desert Tortoise Natural Area as part of a unique joint venture involving naturalist, wildlife and both wild and domestic animals. It joins together productivity, economic efficiency, and the related goals of more emphatic husbandry of crops and livestock; environmentally sound stewardship of resources (soil, water, and air); and protection of wildlife and wildlands.

Disaster preparedness for the individual can start today with two simple steps: 1) get proper identification for your dog and your cats and make sure they wear it at all times (even indoor pets); and 2) post a conspicuous card or sign in your front window listing the number and type of pets inside to facilitate their rescue in case of fire or other emergency.

This issue of the West Coast Regional Office Report offers several clues for our members to get involved: Earth Day 1990 activities; the California mountain lion and the gift net initiative; and the HSUS’s “Be a P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter” campaign; and our regular legislative letter-writing campaign. In addition to these activities, the HSUS will offer this poster and other materials at Earth Day festivities in Washington, DC.

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LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

The following list is a brief synopsis of recently passed and current California state legislation.

NEW LAWS

SB 756: (Sen. Milton Marks) This new law mandates strict licensing and identification when using steel-jaw traps and calls for such traps to be checked on a daily basis.

SB 892: (Sen. Dan McCorquodale) This new law is designed to help protect captive elephants by outlawing the use of such disciplinary measures as deprivation of food, water, or rest; the use of electricity; and punishment that results in scarring or breakage of an elephant’s skin.

AB 1842: (Assemblywoman Jackie Speier) This new law makes it a misdemeanor for any person to possess, import, sell, give away, etc., any animal commonly kept as a pet or companion for the sole purpose of using that animal for food. It covers animals such as dogs, cats, guinea pigs, etc., and exempts livestock, fish, and other “agricultural commodities.”

BILLS PENDING

AB 786: (Assemblyman Richard Polanco) Introduced as a regulatory measure for the pet shop trade, this bill is in fact sponsored by the pet industry and has halted the passage of stronger legislation. It does not provide for veterinary reimbursement for sick animals beyond the cost of the diagnosis and does not solve the problem of sick puppies entering the state. Write your senator and urge his/her opposition.

SB 1110: (Sen. Milton Marks) Mandates that veal farmers allow enough room for their calves to stand up, lie down, turn around, and make other normal postural adjustments. Write your assemblymember and urge his/her support.

SB 1587: (Sen. David Roberti) Will make it a felony to possess a fighting cock or other animal intended for use in a fighting exhibition. Write your assemblymember and urge his/her support.

AB 2461: “The LD-50/Draize Acute Eye-Irritancy Tests Ban” (Assemblyman Jack O’Connell). Due to heavy opposition, the LD-50 Test has been amended out of the bill; it will now cover only the Draize test used in testing cosmetics and household products. Write your senator and urge his/her support.

AB 2524: (Assemblyman Rusty Areias) This bill is an apparent effort to halt passage of SB 1110 (see above). It calls for a study to determine whether veal crates adversely affect the health and well-being of the calf. Write your senator and urge his/her opposition.

The Marine Resources Protection Act of 1990: (Assemblywoman Doris Allen) The Act would prohibit the use of gill nets inside a three-mile limit from south of Point Arguello to the Mexican border, thereby protecting sea otters, seals, whales, dolphins, and “non-target” fish. Signatures are now being collected to qualify the Act for the November 1990 ballot. If you would like to help with this very important issue, please contact: Committee to Ban Gill Nets, PO Box 2323, Cypress, CA 90630; (714) 828-9269.

NOTE: If you do not know who your state senator or assemblymember is, please contact your local library or League of Women Voters for information. All California legislators can be reached at: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 322-9900.

Reflect for a moment…

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you’re gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name
Address
City State Zip code
Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

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The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. All contributions made to The HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax deductible.

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