A PERSONAL THANKS

In July, John A. Hoyt, president of the HSUS, presented Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada and Rep. Barbara Boxer of California with baskets of cruelty-free products donated by several companies which produce cosmetics and personal-care items without using animals for testing. Rep. Boxer is the sponsor of H.R. 1876, the Consumer Products Safe Testing Act, and Sen. Reid is the sponsor of S. 897, the Senate version of the bill. The versions would eliminate animal suffering by prohibiting the use of the L.D.50 Test and the Draize Acute Eye-Irritation Test for determining the safety of products. Nearly 100 members of Congress were also given smaller baskets of donated items to thank them for their support of these bills. The HSUS thanks the following companies for providing samples of their products:


BACK-TO-BASICS FARMING BILL

Low-input agricultural systems emphasize a diversity of crops on the land, use less of pesticides, and return nutrients to the land. It would also provide more humane methods of animal husbandry by encouraging smaller farms and simplified farming techniques. The bill has been referred to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. Sen. Fowler's bill would also protect farmers from losing crop insurance when they introduce new farming techniques and would establish a demonstration program to gather, analyze, and distribute information on successful methods of low-input agriculture that does not emphasize pesticides.

Let your senator know that you support this bill and that you believe low-input sustainable agriculture can foster better conditions for farm animals while protecting public health.

HSUS SPEAKS ON VEAL BILL

On June 6, a joint House Agriculture Livestock Subcommittee and Department Operations Subcommittee hearing was held on H.R. 84, the Veal Care Protection Act, sponsored by Rep. Charles Bennett of Florida. Testifying in support of H.R. 84, which now has seventy-four co-sponsors, was Dr. Michael W. Fox, HSUS vice president for farm animals and biotech. Dr. Fox pointed out, "There are no guidelines or minimal provisions for the humane husbandry of any farm animal, including veal calves." Current techniques for raising veal, which include confining calves inside a crate so small they cannot turn around, lie down, or groom themselves. The restriction of movement, plus a purportedly iron-deficient diet, produces the pale, tender flesh demanded by gourmet. The next step toward passage of the Veal Care Protection Act would be for Rep. Charles Stenholm, chairman of the Livestock Subcommittee, to hold a markup session on the bill and report it to the full House Agriculture Committee. Please write to your legislator and ask him or her to co-sponsor H.R. 84 and to encourage Rep. Stenholm to schedule a markup session for the bill at the earliest possible date.

NEW NOBEL PRIZE ASKED

Global warming, ozone depletion, and loss of rain forests are just some of the international crises confronting the planet. In an effort to focus greater international attention on these issues and solutions for these problems, Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee has introduced S. 1392, which calls upon the Nobel Committee to offer a Nobel Prize for outstanding efforts on behalf of the environment. HSUS President John A. Hoyt recently sent a personal note to the senator praising him for this creative idea and expressing our strong support for environmental issues as an international priority.

TUNA: READ THE LABEL

—ach year, millions of dol­phins die in purse seine nets set to catch yellowfin tuna. Until now, all consumers could do to protest this slaughter was to write legislators to oppose the use of purse seine nets or to boycott tuna. Rep. Barbara Boxer of California has now introduced legislation that will provide consumers with a new, more direct way of taking action. The bill has been introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, and co-sponsored by Rep. Charles Bonofer. The Veal Calf Protection Act, offers an effective way of protecting veal calf, its products, and thus provides incentive for the continued slaughter. Rep. Robert Mrazek of Ohio has introduced legislation to ban the importation of any species of kangaroo, its parts, and its products. H.R. 1536, the Kangaroo Protection Act, offers an effective way of stopping the slaughter in Australia by cutting off a major market for these products. Twenty-eight legislators have co-sponsored the bill to date. Please contact your representa­tive to see if she or he is one of them.

PATENTS PENDING ...ON ANIMALS

On September 13 and 14, the House Judiciary Courts Subcommittee was scheduled to hold hearings on bill H.R. 1556, sponsored by Rep. Robert Kastenmeier of Wisconsin. HSUS President John A. Hoyt was to testify on the second day.

The bill would exempt farmers from patent liability on genetically engineered animals. This issue was triggered by an April 1987 ruling of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office stating that patents would be approved in the future on animals changed or altered through genetic engineering techniques. The patent office subsequently issued the first patent in April 1988 to Harvard University and Dupont Corporation for producing any mammal that contains a certain cancer-causing gene. DuPont, the largest U.S. corporation, is concerned about the ramifications of animal patenting and is part of a diverse coalition of other animal-protection groups, environmentalists, public-interest groups, scientists, religious leaders, and farmers expressing concern about the long-term animal and ecological, ethical, and economic, and environmental con­sequences created by the patenting of animals. As part of the coalition, The HSUS supports a moratorium on animal patenting until these potential consequences can be thoroughly examined. Please write your representative and ask him or her to support such a moratorium.

Kangaroo hides are used for running shoes, handbags, and baseball gloves.

PROTECTING KANGAROOS

Australian kangaroos suffer unimaginable cruelty when they are hunted and killed; their hides are used for running shoes, handbags, and baseball gloves and their meat is used for gourmet food (see the article on page 20). The United States is the largest importer of finished kangaroo items and the third largest importer of raw kangaroo products, and thus provides incentive for the continued slaughter. Rep. Robert Mrazek of Ohio has introduced legislation to ban the importation of any species of kangaroo, its parts, and its products. H.R. 1536, the Kangaroo Protection Act, offers an effective way of stopping the slaughter in Australia by cutting off a major market for these products.
DRIFTING NETS OF DEATH

High seas drift nets kill countless whales, dolphins, sea birds and other creatures that become entangled in the nylon filaments. Thirty to forty miles long and thirty to fifty feet deep, these nets are often allowed to drift endlessly, literally strip-mining the seas of marine life.


Secretary of State to secure an immediate international ban on the use of drift nets. As the drift net issue continues to make headlines, it is important that your representative join the list of co-sponsors of this bill. Please contact him or her to urge co-sponsorship of H.R. 2958.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Concern for the environment should be a life-long priority. This basic truth is emphasized by the Honorable Charles Bennett of Texas in his introduction of H.R. 1746, the Wetlands Preservation Trust Act of 1989, which would establish an Environmental Protection Agency. This bill should be a life-long concern for all individuals the right to sue the U.S. Department of Agriculture for failing to enforce the AWA. With these amendments, the legislation would protect legitimate public interest in laboratory animals. Urge your senators and members of the House to seek inclusion of these important amendments. If this bill fails without them, scientific fraud and inhumane treatment of animals could go unchecked.

TIDES TURNING ON WETLANDS

In an effort to halt the elimination of the nation’s wetlands, which provide habitat for fish and wildlife, Rep. Charles Bennett of Florida has introduced H.R. 1746, the Wetlands No Net Loss Act of 1989, to preserve and protect wetlands and help restore those on the brink of being lost to development or other activities. The Bennett bill would establish a national policy on wetlands and a Wetlands Preservation Trust for the purpose of acquiring ownership interests in wetlands and restoring or creating them. The HSUS has been working with Rep. Bennett and his staff on the bill’s phrasing and language to strengthen it and provide maximum protection for wetlands.

Please note: letters to senators should be addressed: The Honorable U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20500.

Letters to representatives should be addressed: The Honorable U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20500.

IS all it takes to write a letter that can save animals’ lives. The newly redesigned Animal Activist Alert supplies all the information you need to publicize or protest against the treatment of animals nationwide—and it’s free to HSUS members upon request.

Please send: Will Information

Name __________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City ____ State ___ Zip __________

Mail in confidence to: Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.