WFPA—Promoting Animal Welfare World Wide

Note: Because of HSUS' membership and active participation in the World Federation for the Protection of Animals, Dr. Frucht was invited to submit an article explaining WFPA's activities to readers of The Humane Society News. HSUS President John A. Hoyt is currently serving as vice president of WFPA.

By Karl Frucht, Administrator
World Federation for the Protection of Animals

Familiar with the animal welfare situation in most parts of the world, the World Federation for the Protection of Animals (WFPA) has consistently attempted to do what was most useful for the moment and most promising for the future. Founded at The Hague, Netherlands, in 1950, WFPA, with its Secretariat in Zurich, Switzerland, represents today the interests of 275 animal welfare societies in 55 countries and keeps thousands of individual members informed about progress in the various fields of animal welfare and protection.

WFPA, in its efforts towards an international solution of animal welfare problems, proceeds by (1) endeavoring to supply extensive information on animal welfare problems, varying greatly from country to country and closely related to the attitudes of the population in those countries or regions, and (2) basing animal protection on a scientific foundation in order to obtain factual knowledge and to be able to supply data and other relevant assistance to governments and national animal welfare organizations.

Reports in the most important languages are being made available by (Continued on page 19.)

Development Officer and Program Coordinator Join Staff

HSUS President John A. Hoyt recently announced the addition of two staff members to serve in capacities not previously designated. Paul G. Irwin, vice president in charge of development, will work to broaden the impact of HSUS through membership cultivation and financial support. Ms. Patricia Forkan, program coordinator, will direct and coordinate the ever-growing number of humane issues confronting HSUS.

Irwin, a former United Methodist minister, has broad experience in fund raising and membership development projects. He has provided leadership for two YMCA capital fund campaigns and other community action programs. He appeared regularly on two Boston, Mass., radio programs and one of Boston's commercial TV channels. He served on the hospital ship Hope in northeast Brazil and has conducted tours in Israel and Greece.

Irwin will be awarded a doctorate from Boston University upon publication of a professional education project.

Ms. Forkan, for the past 6 years the national coordinator for the Fund for Animals, has a wide range of talents to bring to HSUS. She is knowledgeable in all aspects of the humane movement and has served the cause of animal welfare both in this country and abroad. One of her most successful campaigns was on behalf of saving the whales.

Ms. Forkan was an originator of the boycott against the products of countries which have persisted in slaughtering whales. She has represented the World Federation for the Protection of Animals at the International Whaling Commission's meetings in London since 1973.

Legislation has always been an important aspect of her responsibilities. She has on numerous occasions responded to requests to appear before legislative committees on a wide range of topics including marine mammals, trapping, and greyhound racing. Ms. Forkan believes that teaching and living according to a humane ethic is one of the most valuable contributions anyone can make to all life. These feelings and interests are not surprising, since her parents were the founders of an animal shelter in their hometown.

As part of her work with the Fund for Animals, Ms. Forkan hosted her own radio talk show, "All About Animals" last year in Palm Beach, Fla.

In welcoming Ms. Forkan and Irwin to the HSUS staff, Hoyt said: "I am confident that through the leadership of these outstanding persons HSUS will expand and increase its effectiveness in preventing cruelty and suffering to animals. Both bring to us a rich heritage in helping to create a society in which animal life is accorded a place of respect and compassion.”

HSUS President John A. Hoyt (center) is pictured with new staff members Paul G. Irwin, vice president for development, and Patricia Forkan, program coordinator.
The Secret Life of Animals

THE SECRET LIFE OF ANIMALS, Lorus and Margery Milne, Frank Russell (E. P. Dutton, $29.95)

The Secret Life of Animals is a unique attempt to present a general reading level account of recent discoveries in animal behavior. The authors rely on observations of animals in the wild and supplement their text with over 300 magnificent color photographs. This work covers the behavior patterns of hundreds of animals and offers insights into their courting, mating, communication, feeding, and many other aspects of behavior. It is a readable and, yet, scientific discussion of some of the most interesting recent developments in animal behavior.

G. H.

The Secret Life of Animals

PAWS: A TRIBUTE TO THE LIVING, AND LOST, Iris Fuchs (CIRJ, P.O. Box 8361, Rowland Heights, Ca. 91748, $5.95)

Paws: A Tribute to the Living, and Lost, is a soft yet strong poet's view of "a thousand gentle creatures lost in the shuffle of humanity". Written by Iris Fuchs and illustrated by Becci Beebe, Paws in its hundreds of verses speaks of animals in a tone that is appealing to all those who love and appreciate animals. The words and the illustrations convey a message that neither could do alone—"God loves the animals". Iris Fuchs and Becci Beebe have dedicated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Paws to HSUS. Here's a sampling of the verse:

with massive power
the bison
fought to live.
his great head held high,
he ran the plains
of his world.
he won the wars
against nature,
with her winter weapons
but he was no match
for mounted hunters
and gunfire.
he could not dodge
lightning quick bullets
which filled the air.
and now we care enough
label him endangered,
and give him back
the right to live.

Charles F. Herrmann

FAMOUS HORSES AND THEIR PEOPLE, Edna Evans (The Stephen Greene Press, $7.95)

A collection of stories regarding the relationship between horses and their masters that have brought about astonishing events and, in some cases, even shaped history. Among the famed personalities and their horses discussed are Napoleon and Marengo, Robert E. Lee and Traveller, Buffalo Bill and Charlie, and Tom Mix and his co-star Tony. With the selection of the horse as our bicentennial animal, it is especially fitting that this book recounts the important role of horses throughout history.

G. H.

BIRDING FROM A TRACTOR SEAT, Charles Flugum (Thomas Crowell Company, $8.95)

Birding From A Tractor Seat is a collection of approximately 150 brief essays on American birds. Mr. Flugum's Minnesota farm provided an ideal vantage point from which to observe and study birds. His book contains insights into behavior usually omitted from standard field guides. Enjoyable reading for those with an interest in birding.

G. H.

YOUR DOG: HIS HEALTH AND HAPPINESS, Louis Vine, D.V.M. (Winchester Press, $10.00)

A one-volume encyclopedia of dog care featuring technically accurate but easy-to-understand advice on the selection, training, and care of dogs. This 459-page book includes an excellent and unique section on detecting and interpreting symptoms of canine ailments. Dr. Vine addresses common questions of diet, longevity, and even behavior problems. A comprehensive, carefully prepared book that is among the most authoritative publications of its kind.

G. H.

WFPA Continued

WFPA on most of the essential issues, such as stunning and slaughter methods and humane restriction of stray animal populations. A quarterly publication in three languages, "Animalia," reviews global animal welfare activities and WFPA's share in them. Following an initiative of WFPA, one of the major international publishers of scientific journals, Elsevier in Amsterdam, will soon begin to issue quarterly "Animal Regulation Studies", a multi-disciplinary journal, under the auspices of WFPA, presenting advanced research work in animal control and welfare.

WFPA has additional possibilities to represent animal welfare interests on an international scale and to achieve success in global animal welfare issues. Much of this is done through its consultative status with the United Nations and its specialized agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and the International Office of Epizootics in Paris. Thus, WFPA has been instrumental in the issuance of the "European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport" by the Council of Europe. It has also submitted briefs to the Council of Europe on the humanization and harmonization of rearing systems for farm animals, slaughter conditions in Europe, and experiments with live animals.

While WFPA does not neglect the possibilities of finding legal solutions for animal welfare problems on an international level, it is convinced that humane education is vitally important, not just for the future-well-being of animals, but for society as a whole. Towards this goal, WFPA has contributed through publicity campaigns and study groups.

WFPA will continue to pursue its efforts to achieve an optimum in animal welfare and related issues, in full consideration of the present diverse attitudes toward animals and animal welfare existing throughout the world.

Membership Categories

Individual, Annual .... $ 14
Individual, Life ........ $140
Local Society, Annual .... $ 40

Membership dues and contributions should be made payable to WFPA, Inc., and may be sent to 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.