TORTURED FOR ITS FUR—This bobcat was tortured and killed for its fur. Last year millions of animals died a slow, agonizing death in the powerful jaws of steel jaw traps such as this one.

The season when stores display fur coats is rapidly approaching - the products of cruel fur ranches and the steel jaw trap. But fur sales are declining despite propaganda from the fur industry. More and more people are deciding against wearing furs. Among the reasons for this decline, though not the sole reason, is that much of the cruelty is being exposed to the public by humanitarians. The Humane Society of the United States has a number of publications that you can use to help us continue the fight against cruelty for profit.

TRAPPING: FACTS and FALLACIES is a 24 page booklet priced at 50¢ that describes the cruelties of trapping. Please help us to inform the public. Send your name and address to: "Don't Buy Furs," The Humane Society of the United States, 1713 J Street, Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95814. We shall send you 50 informative flyers free of charge. Additional copies are $1.00 per 100.

Let’s Stop Pound Seizure

The Humane Society of the United States is categorically opposed to animal shelters releasing unwanted animals to research laboratories, pharmaceutical houses, training institutions, and other facilities that use animals for experimental, teaching or testing purposes. The Society is convinced this practice contributes to a breakdown of effective animal control programs through abandonment of animals by owners who rightfully fear such animals may be subjected to painful use. The HSUS also believes animal shelters should not be a cheap source of supply for laboratories, and will oppose any measure, administrative or legislative, that would make this practice mandatory.

Pound seizure will be a major issue in California in the months ahead. In June of this year, the city councils of San Juan Capistrano and the city of Placentia voted unanimously to halt the sale of live impounded pets from their cities to research facilities. Humanitarians are becoming more upset over shelters that release animals to research and ordinances requiring them to do so. Mercy Crusade, a humane organization based in Los Angeles, has just called on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to repeal the county ordinance requiring the LA County Department of Animal Regulation to release animals for laboratory experimentation. During the last session of the legislature, Assemblyman Henry Mello authored AB 3165 to outlaw such practices in California. However, the bill was amended due to pressure from researchers and some animal control agencies. Animal shelters in California must advise citizens surrendering animals that the animal may be used for research if that shelter releases animals for research. At the present time, eight states actually prohibit "pound seizure". In addition, researchers often find animals from pounds or shelters to be unreliable research subjects and therefore unsuitable for use.

The HSUS and other animal welfare organizations were recently instrumental in getting the pound seizure law repealed in New York where the Metcalf-Hatch Act (enacted 1952) required tax-supported shelters to turn unwanted cats and dogs over to laboratories. Mercy Crusade is also starting a petition drive for state legislation to outlaw this practice in California.

The West Coast Regional Office receives calls daily from people who don’t want to take animals to shelters for this reason. Pet owners cannot be reunited with their pets unless people have enough confidence in their shelters to take an animal there.

Is your animal control agency releasing unwanted pets for research? Call your County Board of Supervisors or City Council. This office is now compiling data on numbers of animals released and revenues earned by this practice across the state. Unless the people who care stand up and fight, legislation will not be passed. Express yourself. Write to your legislators. If you don’t know who your representatives are, contact this office for a list.
GOVERNOR BROWN'S SIGNATURE NEEDED!

As we go to press, AB 475 by Assemblyman Jack Fenton has passed both houses and is waiting for the Governor's signature. On this bill is signed, it will outlaw the importation of Rocky Mountain Elk for commercial purposes. A legal case filed by The Humane Society of the United States and the Marin County Humane Society is still pending. The Western Mandate calls for the California Department of Fish and Game to require Environmental Impact Reports prior to issuing permits, such as the one it issued to Jung T. Wang. Mr. Wang is going to import and raise Rocky Mountain Elk in order to amputate the antlers while in the extremely sensitive velvet stage. The horns would have then been powdered and sold for aphrodisiac purposes. Our thanks to all of the humane officers, directors, and local humane organizations who supported this legislation. It is needed now if we are to accomplish the goals we’ve set for the coming year. Please renew your membership today. Won’t you ask your friends to join? If you send us names and addresses of people who care about animals, we’ll send them information.

This year one of my priorities has been meeting HSUS members face to face. If you’d like to host a membership meeting in your community, do let me know. When HSUS members get together in groups of 15 or 20, I’m able to tell them more fully about the work we are doing. It’s also an opportunity for you, our members, to tell us your thoughts and concerns.

Remember your donations are tax deductible and HSUS has clearance from the National Information Bureau, the toughest charity clearance agency. I’m personally grateful to every one of you who is willing to help.

Carol Drennon
DIRECTOR

ANIMAL SHELTERS IN THE NEWS

KINGS SPCA
A study with recommendations was conducted at the SPCA sheltering facility in Hanford, California, by Eric Sakach of this office.

DON'T FORGET
The 1979 HSUS Animal Conference will be held November 8-10 in Orlando, Florida. For conference information write to: HSUS Conference 2700 1st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.
The 1979 California Merit Awards were presented at a banquet held in Sacramento. Many organizations and prominent people were on hand to congratulate the students and their faculty advisors. Char Drennon and Judi Kukulka were in attendance to personally meet the winners and offer HSUS/NAAHE's appreciation for their outstanding programs.

The HSUS/NAAHE animal awareness awards went to the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade class of Yosemite Elementary School and the fourth grade class of Chadbourne Elementary School in Fremont.

The Yosemite children, under the direction of their faculty sponsor, Dolores Doyle, addressed the problem of people visiting the park and being uninformed about animal life there. The students designed and produced a slide tape show to tell visitors the ways in which they can share the park with the animals without harming or being harmed by them. The slide program ran all summer in the visitors' center.

The Chadbourne class was concerned with the disappearance of the sperm whale and learned jojoba wax, made from jojoba beans, could be a viable substitute for sperm whale oil. Under the guidance of their teacher, Pat Borer, they contacted numerous agencies and gathered information and samples of jojoba wax products for their displays. They planted jojoba seedlings on the school grounds and succeeded in getting local farmers to agree to look into growing jojoba as a crop. The children became quite expert on the subject of jojoba wax versus sperm whale oil; they entered and won first prize of $100 for the project at a local Mentally Gifted Minors Fair. They were also invited to put on a short course at a science meeting at Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley. Through their presentations and the newspaper coverage they received, many people, young and old, were educated about the importance of jojoba and the sperm whale to our future.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office is proud to have been involved in this program and urges others to encourage their states to offer a similar learning experience to their young children.

**Hearing Dog Bill Signed**

Governor Jerry Brown has signed legislation giving deaf people with hearing or “signal” dogs all of the same legal advantages now afforded to people with dogs trained to guide the blind. Senator Milton Marks, (R), San Francisco, introduced SB 548 at the request of the San Francisco SPCA. The SFSPCA trains signal dogs to alert the deaf to specific sounds. Formerly unwanted and abandoned at animal shelters, the dogs are placed at no charge with individuals who have severe to profound hearing disabilities. This legislation becomes effective on January 1, 1980.

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**The Humane Society of the United States**

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