Region Helps Draft Pet Shop Controls

The West Coast Regional Office is providing assistance to the cities of Burbank and Hawthorne, California, in enacting and enforcing ordinances that will regulate pet shops.

The need for such help was dramatized by recent court orders closing a pet shop in each of the two cities. A total of more than 300 animals were found in the two shops, one-half of them dead and the surviving ones suffering from starvation or disease.

"These cases point out the weaknesses in the animal control ordinances of both communities," said West Coast Regional Director Herbert N. Martin. "A strong and well-enforced animal control ordinance will prevent conditions at any pet shop from getting to this advanced stage of neglect."

Martin is working with the police chief and city prosecutor of Burbank and the city attorney and a councilman of Hawthorne to improve all aspects of their animal control ordinances. Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, the officials have eagerly accepted HSUS's offer of assistance.

(Continued on next page.)

City-County Control Aided by HSUS

HSUS is working with officials of Santa Barbara County in California to develop an effective animal control program that will serve both the county and the city of Santa Barbara.

The county recently received $280,000 in federal revenue sharing funds, which it is matching with $50,000 of its own funds. County Animal Control Supervisor Allan Lester asked the HSUS West Coast Regional Office to assist the Santa Barbara County Health Dept. and a private architect in the planning of a modern animal control shelter.

Don Cowling, board member of the Santa Barbara Humane Society, was instrumental in setting up the meetings between HSUS representatives and Santa Barbara County officials. Cowling has offered to assist HSUS Regional Director Herbert N. Martin and Lester during the developmental stages of the project.

Cowling has worked closely with the city and county in recent years to help encourage adoption of pet population control programs. His own society operates a full-time low-cost spay and neuter clinic in its newly remodeled shelter.

(Continued on next page.)

HSUS Conducts Oregon Survey

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office conducted a field survey of Oregon humane societies in September to determine what type of assistance the office might be able to provide.

Regional Field Representative Mike Smith visited 8 of the state's 11 societies and concluded that most societies need assistance in their methods of euthanasia, record-keeping systems for animal shelters, public education programs, and establishment of spay and neuter clinics.

"I was generally pleased with what I found," Smith said. "I found a thriving and aggressive humane community that is pulling itself together for the common good of animal protection."

He was especially impressed with the cooperative efforts of seven societies through recent formation of the Feder-
Naval Bows to Pressure, Delays Burro Killings

Mrs. M. Barling, natural resources specialist for the U.S. Navy, has recommended that the HSUS West Coast Regional Office that no wild burros will be killed this year in the China Lake Naval Weapons Center.

Last February the Navy obtained permission from State officials to kill some of the wild burros on grounds that the animals were starving to death. A thorough investigation by the HSUS West Coast Office indicated that such drastic action was not warranted. HSUS ques­tioned the legality of any management activity under the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

With Mrs. Barling are two outside consultants. One is making a forage survey of the China Lake range area. The other will make a standardized study of the energy-producing capabilities of the land and the energy requirements of the area’s inhabitants.

HSUS Ordinance Used

Snohomish County, Washington, has enacted a strict animal control ordinance that is similar to HSUS’s suggested animal control ordinance.

The new ordinance places responsi­bility for the animals on the owners, as HSUS recommends. Several breeders have been criticizing the ordinance because for the first time they are being held accountable for the thousands of animals they add to the county’s pet population each year.

The ordinances are available without charge from the HSUS West Coast Regional Office. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Regulating Dogs

“How do you regulate dogs?” is a question frequently asked by municipal officials of HSUS. The answer is “You don’t—you regulate people.”

What’s true in this respect about dogs is equally true of cats, horses, cows, chickens, monkeys, parakeets, baby bats, and, by implication, thousands of species of animals that people breed and keep for use, profit, or companionship. All these animals will naturally interbreed and the animal will ever read it or pay it the slightest heed.

Yet thousands of municipalities and counties of the United States continue trying to handle one of the most frustrat­ing problems left in local government with archaic laws that seem to assume that animals can be expected to obey the orders of individuals or a small group of supervisors. A lot of money gets wasted as a result, and, in most com­munities, the “animal problem” gets increasingly more troublesome. In­mutable city and county officers are forced to waste both time and money in arbitration and settling cases up, arresting and paying these animals on a daily basis.

But, even though the animal problem has been roundly neglected for decades, the solution is relatively sim­ple. Let what is done by writing for or against “How Do You Regulate Dogs!” Direct your letters to: HSUS West Coast Regional Office, 1713 S St., Suite No. 1, Sacramento, CA 95814.

City and county officials and legis­lators are invited to consult The Hu­mane Society of the United States about any kind of problem in which animals are involved. No fee is ever charged. In some cities, HSUS has requested to appear, conduct community field sur­veys of animal population and condi­tion of the streets and supply impoundment procedures and costs and send field representatives to confer with local officials.

County Ban Sought on Archery Hunting

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office is assisting Los Angeles city and county officials who are seeking a ban on archery hunting within the entire county. County Supervisor Baxter Ward has proposed the ban as a follow-up to banning of any Los Angeles City ban on archery hunting adopted in 1971. Ward is being assisted in his campaign by City Coun­cilman Robert Stevenson, who intro­duced the city measure.

A representative of the HSUS regional office was scheduled to testify at hear­ings on the measure in November.
California

Euthanasia Problems

By Herbert N. Martin, Director
HSUS West Coast Regional Office

As passed by the 1972 California State Legislature, SB-400 establishes strict new standards for the humane destruction of dogs and cats. Initially proposing to completely outlaw the use of high altitude decompression chambers, provisions of the law now require such devices to be periodically inspected by the County Sealer of Weights and Measures. Furthermore, animals placed in such chambers must be confined in individual compartments or sections. Similar restrictions are placed on carbon monoxide chambers.

In drafting the measure, the author, Sen. Donald Grunsky, had hoped to prevent the crowding or bunching of animals in the chambers. The intention was to insure that all trauma associated with euthanasia be reduced to a minimum, allowing the animals to experience a truly "easy death," as the term euthanasia implies.

On-site inspection of pounds and animal shelters by myself and Regional Field Representative Mike Smith have shown that serious problems have arisen because of misinterpretation of some sections of the law. Rather than confine the animals in individual compartments within the chamber, many shelters have misinterpreted this point to mean that only one animal at a time can be put to sleep. To further complicate matters, animals to be killed are bunched and kept together without water or enough space to move around until their "time" comes. This may satisfy their interpretation of SB-400, but it increases the stress suffered by the animal prior to and during euthanasia, and it actually violates other sections of the anti-cruelty code.

In one particularly barbaric instance, animals were dropped into a carbon monoxide chamber through a hatch in the top. As one animal became unconscious, another live animal was dropped in on top. This particular practice not only violated almost every section of the state's anti-cruelty laws, but also violated federal and state worker safety laws. The agony suffered by the animals, as well as the exposure of workers to lethal concentrations of carbon monoxide gas, are obviously cruel and illegal.

The West Coast Regional Office is working with animal shelters on an individual basis to help remedy these particular problems and others associated with the enforcement of SB-400. Information obtained about related problems not already covered by existing anti-cruelty codes will be made available to Senator Grunsky for possible future remedial legislation.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office is located at 1713 J St., Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95814, phone (916) 447-3295.

Herbert N. Martin is the Regional Director.

Help on Records

Director Herbert N. Martin of the West Coast Regional Office responded to a recent request from the Monterey County (Calif.) SPCA to draft a new system of record keeping. The new set-up will help ease the burden of handling necessary paper work in connection with that society's expanding program, which now includes housing stray animals from several contract cities. The new system, planned specifically for the organization by Martin, is now under consideration by the administrative staff of the SPCA.

A new Management Guide for Improving Animal Shelter Operations, dealing specifically with basic record forms and filing system outlines, is available without charge from the HSUS West Coast Regional Office. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

300 Sea Lions Spared

HSUS played an important role in a recent decision of the federal government to deny a Santa Barbara, Calif., company permission to capture 300 California sea lions.

Sea Lions International had requested an economic hardship exemption from the ban on capturing sea lions that was imposed by the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act. The firm intended to sell the animals to zoos and other organizations outside the United States.

HSUS urged the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is in charge of enforcing the act, to deny the request.