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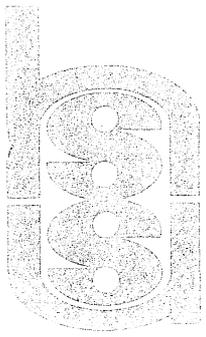
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West Coast Report

Winter 1975-76

The Humane Society of the United States

**By Charlene Drennon, Director
HSUS West Coast Regional Office**



Help Us Help the Animals

In humane work there is often frustration and anger. Many humanitarians get discouraged and say, "What can I as one person do?" In our experience, what one person can do to effect change is unbelievable. Toward this end, we want to give you some ideas that you as an individual citizen can act upon to help us help the animals.

First of all, be alert. When you see or read something that you know is exploitation or cruelty, report it to your local SPCA or humane society. Put it in writing and send a copy to the HSUS West Coast Regional Office. This office can't always move ahead on all things at once, but by informing us you give us the ammunition we need to follow-up. In this report you will see how one person here and one there started the ball rolling to bring change to a bad situation.

Get involved. If you can't stand to be involved in the unhappy side of humane work, then work on the positive side. Promote public information programs and humane education in your schools. Contact your local librarian, teachers, or school board officials and find out what they are doing about teaching children reverence for all forms of life. Let them know about the humane education materials that are available. We will be happy to provide you with a handout that describes our KIND (Kindness in Nature's Defense) program at no cost to you. Send us the names and addresses of teachers and other educators that are interested in receiving help toward integrating the humane ethic into their curriculum. We will add them to our mailing list to receive information on our latest humane education seminars and resource material. We can supply you with small quantities of our publications list for your local library or school reference library. Arrange for your local school official to preview our new films. See the announcement in another part of this report where you may borrow them for preview.

Bring our Special Reports to the attention of your local newspapers. Ask them to do an article about our new Special Report on Controlling America's Pet Population. Do you recycle HSUS newsletters and reports? Perhaps your doctor or

dentist would let you leave a copy in his office. When you see a humane issue, use the information in our publications to write letters to the editor. Send us clippings about animal problems, animal control, and humane society activities. Professional newspaper clipping services are expensive.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office talks with people throughout the five western states. We can serve as a great communication center both to gather information you may need and to disseminate information you think others should be made aware of. Let us know. Let us know, too, if we can help you with something or if you have an idea. **You are HSUS!** We are here to help you help the animals. All of us working together can move ahead to solve many of the conditions and problems that exist. As your new HSUS West Coast Regional Office director, I pledge to work with anyone who sincerely wishes to improve the plight of our animal friends.

California Dog Fight Law Bolstered

California dog fighters are shaking in their boots nowadays. A new state law calling for a felony conviction for anyone caught promoting dog fights is the cause of their trepidation. Gov. Jerry Brown signed Mike Antonovich's legislation (AB 614) into law last August increasing the penalty for engaging in dog fighting from a misdemeanor to a possible felony, punishable by a 1 year jail sentence or a \$50,000 fine.

The legislation passed the state assembly after being amended, but was almost defeated in the Senate Judiciary Committee when dog fighters appeared before committee members to convince them that their so-called sport is really a delightful pastime; a rather unusual occurrence considering those testifying were admitting they were breaking the law already in force. Even stranger was the fact that a new lobbying organization had taken on the dog fighters as a client and appeared on their behalf. Nevertheless, thanks to Antonovich's strong urging, the bill was passed.

At Antonovich's request, HSUS provided background infor-

mation and testimony while the legislation was being considered. Unfortunately, in order to get the bill out of committee, the bill was amended to exclude cock fighting. Cock fighting remains a misdemeanor.

We would like anyone having information on either cock fighting or dog fighting to contact the HSUS West Coast Regional Office. Dog fighters move the location of their fights frequently. Therefore, it is important to verify where the fights are taking place as early as possible in order to allow law enforcement officials enough time to raid them. All information will be held in confidence.

HSUS Foils Animal Control Scheme

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office, with the help of many California humanitarians, has stopped a scheme initiated by a private corporation to take over the operation of animal control facilities in more than 20 counties in California.

A profit making corporation called California Animal Control (CAC) recently approached city and county officials throughout the state offering contracts to do their animal control work without sufficient funds to carry the agreements out. CAC told the officials that they would conduct their animal control programs without cost other than licensing and impounding fees.

HSUS learned of the scheme after receiving numerous complaints about CAC's parent facility in Huntington Beach, Calif. The Huntington Beach shelter operation was under fire in local newspapers for being poorly maintained and managed. With such adverse publicity, it seemed unusual that city managers in other communities were negotiating animal control contracts with the firm.

After learning that CAC had approached 17 cities in the San Gabriel Valley, I met with Sueanne Lewis, deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County, and asked her to conduct an investigation into complaints received by HSUS. Thanks to Ms. Lewis' persistence, the district attorney lodged civil charges against CAC for fraud, misuse of drugs, and mishandling of animals. A temporary restraining order was also issued by the district attorney prohibiting CAC from establishing further business contracts in the county. Soon after the district attorney's action, CAC lost their contract with Huntington Beach.

While the District Attorney's Office was acting on HSUS's information, I issued a statewide press release calling for a full investigation of CAC to determine whether the corporation was qualified to handle its animal control contracts. I was extremely concerned because CAC had signed contracts with 7 cities and had another 20 pending with other communities. It seemed likely that other cities and counties would sign contracts with CAC throwing the animal control situation into statewide confusion.

A Napa, Calif., radio station broadcast the new release almost immediately. The following morning a representative of CAC called Napa city officials to inform them that the director of CAC was ill and unable to continue negotiations on a pending contract with the city. Several state officials representing areas in which CAC was negotiating other contracts also learned of the news release.

Later, Napa and El Monte city officials asked CAC to post a \$25,000 bond before agreeing to sign a contract with them. CAC did not post the bond, apparently being unable to do so. CAC also failed to carry out promises to build animal shelters in several California communities. Without the El Monte contract, CAC will have a difficult time staying afloat financially.

I offer my sincere thanks to the many humanitarians throughout the state who brought the truth about CAC to the surface. I am also thankful that HSUS was able to help bring this matter to public attention in time to avoid a major animal control disaster.

Films Available for Preview

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office will lend you the following films and materials to show to your local school officials, librarians, media centers, or humane society for preview prior to purchase.

Animal Career Filmstrips—A series of 6 filmstrips with sound covering topics on the following careers: canine control officer, kennel worker, pet shop worker, groomer, zoo helper, veterinarian, veterinarian aide, park naturalist, obedience trainer, conservation officer, and humane educator.

Sharing: You And The Animal World—A series of 3 multi-media programs. Each unit contains a filmstrip, teachers guide, and spirit master book. Titles are: (1) Pets (2) Wildlife in Your Community (3) Animals of the Forest.

Both filmstrips and multi-media programs are recommended for elementary school students.

HSUS Testifies on Movie Cruelty Bill

Frantz L. Dantzler, HSUS director of field services and investigations, was invited to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee of the California State Legislature on Jan. 13 in support of legislation aimed at preventing cruelty to animals in the motion picture industry.

The legislation, Senate Bill 788, introduced by Sen. David A. Roberti (D-District 27), specifically prohibits any person from killing or abusing an animal for the purpose of making a motion picture for entertainment purposes. The bill also calls for a state commission that would investigate and prosecute violators of the proposed law. Roberti requested information from the HSUS West Coast Regional Office while he was drafting the legislation.

Dantzler told committee members that HSUS strongly supports the principle and purpose of the legislation. "It is common knowledge to everyone here today that the vast majority of all domestic motion pictures are a product of the state's movie industry, and, further, that most of these pictures are produced within this state," he said. "Therefore, it is most appropriate that the bill before you today be given very serious consideration. Its enactment would be a tremendous step forward in eliminating the increasing incidents of animal abuse that are now taking place in the industry—an industry that has demonstrated its unwillingness or inability to regulate its own practices."

The bill was approved and voted out of committee. Chances for approval by the Senate look good.

Workshop Date Changed

HSUS's leadership development workshop planned for June 11 and 12 in Portland, Oregon has been postponed to Oct. 1 and 2. The workshop is designed to aid municipal officials, animal control officers, animal shelter workers, and local humane society leaders in solving animal control problems and conducting animal welfare programs. For further information, write The HSUS West Coast Regional Office.

GSGA Dog Racing Initiative Looms

The Golden Greyhound Assn. (GSGA) is busy collecting signatures from California voters in order to qualify an initiative for the November general election that would permit parimutuel wagering on greyhounds in the state. George Hardie, president of the GSGA, a well financed lobbying organization committed to establishing greyhound racing in California, predicted that he would have "no difficulty" in obtaining the 312,404 signatures needed to validate the initiative. HSUS feels there is little reason to doubt Hardie's prediction.

With the help of many concerned California humanitarians, GASA lost its bid last April to push a bill through the state legislature that would have legalized betting on greyhound racing. GSGA's present initiative campaign represents a last ditch effort by greyhound racing interests to establish the cruel sport in the state.

The initiative proposes legalizing betting on greyhound racing in California's largest population counties: Los Angeles, Alameda, San Diego, Orange, and Santa Clara. The initiative also proposes the addition of other counties voted on by zone. Should this measure be endorsed by the voters, dog tracks could be built in Fresno, San Bernardino, Riverside, Sacramento, and San Mateo or Contra Costa counties. A total of eight tracks could be built immediately.

It will take the combined efforts of many humanitarians to defeat this upcoming initiative. I urge all HSUS California members to help publicize the cruelties of greyhound racing and its negative effects on community environment to the state's voters. The HSUS West Coast Regional Office will provide assistance and information on greyhound racing to individuals or groups upon written request.

A group of citizens in San Francisco have formed a committee working against the establishment of greyhound racing in California. Members and friends who would like to learn more about the committee should write Californians Against Greyhound Racing Committee, P. O. Box 22262, San Francisco, CA 94122.

HSUS Assists Regional Shelters

Phyllis Wright, HSUS director of animal sheltering and control, and I recently conducted a study of the Solano and San Bernardino (Calif.) animal control programs at the request of county officials. We spent several days inspecting animal shelters, records, and interviewing personnel. Later, Miss Wright submitted detailed reports to county officials specifying recommendations to make their animal control operations more efficient and humane.

I invite any humane society, animal control, or local government official who would like similar help with their animal control program to contact the HSUS West Coast Regional Office. Among other subjects, we can help you with local ordinances, legislative information, and shelter programs.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance should be addressed to Charlene Drennon, West Coast Regional Director, 1713 J St., Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916-447-3295). All contributions made to the HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.

and

about GREYHOUND RACING



How do you train an intelligent greyhound to chase a mechanical rabbit around an oval track? Use live rabbits or hares. Allow the dogs in training to catch the little animals and maul them. The taste of blood and flesh will make them vicious.

What do you do with a greyhound that isn't a winner? Destroy it. Why invest in housing and food for an animal that can't pay its own way?

Shouldn't the obvious cruelty to animals be overlooked when one considers the positive effect of greyhound racing on the tax burden of people? Does the end justify the means?

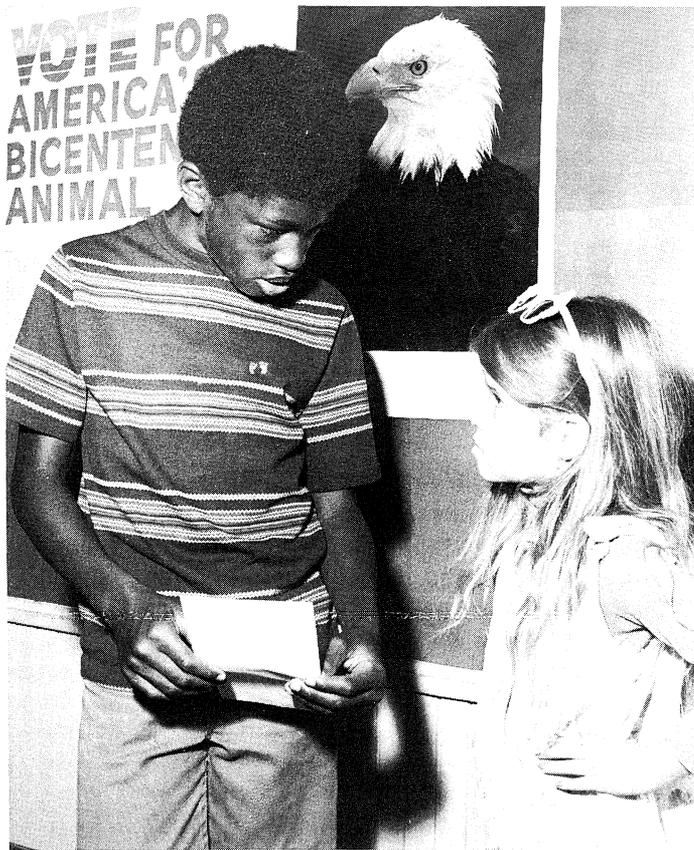
Will impressionable young people be adversely affected by watching greyhound racing and training?

Probably more so than by watching violence and crime on TV.

In this day and age when our government leaders are searching for new revenues, greyhound racing is often viewed as an attractive new source of funds. Few politicians know about the behind the scenes cruelties. And still fewer lack an understanding of the moral decay represented by the exploitation of animals. Help spread the word about this vicious so-called SPORT.



HSUS has produced this flyer (reprinted in its actual size) to combat the establishment of greyhound racing in the United States. The flyer may be used as a postcard, handout, or photographed for use as a newspaper advertisement. HSUS will provide 10 free copies of the flyer to regional members upon request. Additional packets of 100 may be purchased for \$5.00. Write to: West Coast Greyhound Flyer, HSUS, 2100 L St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20037.



VOTING DECISION—Rodney Morris, 9, and Kelly Doane, 5, discuss their choices for a bicentennial animal at the San Diego Zoo. Thousands of children were able to participate in the bicentennial animal election sponsored by HSUS's KIND program with the promotional help of many regional humane organizations. The horse placed first in the balloting as the animal that had contributed more to the development of the United States than any other animal.

Bicentennial Animal Races

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office has been receiving reports about various promotions using the bicentennial celebration as an excuse to promote races and rides using horses, oxen, and other animals. HSUS feels the potential for abuse

of animals exploited in this manner is very high because many people are not familiar or concerned with their proper care and handling.

For example, a group calling itself Pony Express '76, Inc. is distributing flyers promoting pony express type races over long distances in the western states. The flyer states "Strict safety measures will be enforced by the American Humane Society and the American Veterinarian Medical Assn. (AVMA)." However, there is no national organization called the American Humane Society, and the AVMA has expressly denied giving Pony Express '76 its endorsement. Such false claims by Pony Express '76 give HSUS little reason to believe that they will be concerned with enforcing safety measures.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office sent a West Coast Alert Bulletin on this issue to all humane organizations in the region. The Alert outlines measures to combat this problem. Members and friends who would like to obtain a copy should write us, enclosing a self-addressed envelope.

Education Seminar Announcement

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office will co-host two academically accredited seminars designed for teachers and humane society education directors on the following dates:

March 26 & 27, 1976—Fresno, Calif.—Co-hosted by the Central California SPCA at the Sheraton Inn—Accredited by the University of California at Fresno for one semester unit

April 2 & 3, 1976—Seattle, Wash.—Co-hosted by PAWS at the Double Tree Inn—Accredited by Highline Community College for one teaching unit

John Dommers, director of the HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education Center, and Charles Herrmann, HSUS director of education, will be featured speakers at both seminars. Specialists in humane education from throughout the West will attend the seminars. Attendance will be limited. Make your reservations early through the HSUS West Coast Regional Office. Anyone wishing to invite a teacher or education administrator to the seminars should send his name and address to the regional office. We will send him an advance invitation.



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