WCRO Winter 1975-1976
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 materials. 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-
motion and testimony while the legislation was being con-
sidered. Unfortunately, in order to get the bill out of commit-
tee, the bill was amendmented to allow cockfighting. Cock-
fighting remains a misdemeanor.

We would like anyone having information on either cock fighting or dog fighting to contact the HSUS West Coast Regi-
onal Office. Dog fighters move the location of their fights fre-
quently. Therefore, it is important to verify where the fights are taking place as easily as possible in order to allow law en-
forcement 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 concerned California animal protectionists, has thwarted an ini-
tiated 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 Con-
trol (CAC) recently approached city and county officials throughout the state offering contracts to do their animal control work without state funding to carry the agreements out. CAC told the officials that they would conduct their animal control programs without cost other than licensing and im-
pounding fees.

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

After learning that CAC had approached 17 cities in the San Francisco and San Diego areas, CAC, which had been the city district attorney for Los Angeles County, and asked her to conduct an investigation into complaints received by HSUS. Thanks to Ms. Lewis’ persistence, the county attorney lodged civil charges against CAC for fraud, misuse of funds, and mis-
handling of animals. A temporary restraining order was also issued by the district attorney prohibiting CAC from establish-
ing 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 corpora-
tion was qualified to handle our animal control contracts. I was extremely concerned about the possibility of a private corporation being entrusted with the care and protection of little animals. Help spread the word about this vicious and deadly business.

**HSUS Testifies on Movie Cruelty Bill**

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

The legislation, Senate Bill 78, introduced by Sen. David A. Roberti (D-Los Angeles) would allow 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 this legislation.

Dantzler told committee members that HSUS strongly sup-
ports the measure and support its goals. “In today’s world, mon-
monic knowledge to everyone here today that the vast majority of all domestic motion pictures are a product of the state movie industry, and, further, that most of these pictures are produced within this state,” he said. “Therefore, it is most ap-
propriate that the bill before you today be given very serious consideration.”

Dantzler signed contracts with eight tracks in Solano and Alameda, San Diego, Orange, and Santa Clara. The initia-
tive also proposes the addition of other counties voted on by county voters. The bill’s first reading was last April 2 and its second reading would be on Aug. 15. The bill’s second reading is as yet undetermined.

The initiative proposes legalizing betting on greyhound racing in California’s largest population counties: Los Angeles, Alameda, San Diego, Orange, and Santa Clara. The initia-
tive also proposes the addition of other counties voted on by county voters. The bill’s first reading was last April 2 and its second reading is as yet undetermined.

It will take the combined efforts of many humanitarians to defeat this upcoming initiative. I urge all HSUS California members to help get the cruelties of greyhound racing and its negative effects on community environment to the state’s voters. The HSUS West Coast Regional Office will pro-
vide attendees and interested individuals or groups upon written request.

A group of citizens in San Francisco has formed a com-
mmittee to educate the public against the establishment of greyhound racing in California. Members and friends who would like to learn more about the committee should write California Anti Greyhound Racing Committee, P. O. Box 22662, San Fran-
cisco, CA 94122.

**HSUS Assists Regional Shelters**

Phil Byd, HSUS director of animal welfare 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 Wirthly, HSUS Regional Shelter Liaison, will write to county officials recommending their make animal control operations more efficient and humane.

I invite any humane society, animal control, or local govern-
ment official who would like similar help with their animal con-
trol program to contact the HSUS West Coast Regional Of-
fice. We will help you with ordinances, legislative information, and shelter programs.

**Workshop Date Change**

HSUS’s leadership development workshop planned for June 12-13 in Portland, Oregon has been postponed to Oct.

**GSJA Dog Racing Initiative Looms**

The Golden Greyhound Assn. (GSJA) is busy collecting signatures from California voters in order to qualify an initia-
tive for the November general election that would permit pari-
mutuel betting on greyhound racing in California. Hardie, president of the GSJA, a well financed lobbying or-
ganization committed to establishing greyhound racing in California, predicted that he would have “no difficulty” in ob-
taining the 312,404 signatures needed to validate the initia-
tive. HSUS feels there is little reason to doubt Hardie’s prediction.

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

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**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 mamal 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?*

Would impressive young people be adversely affected by watching greyhound racing and training?

*Probably more so than by watching vio-

cence 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 would be inclined to support the behind the cameras operation of the greyhound racing industry.

And still fewer lack an understanding of the moral decay represented by the exploitation of ani-

mals. Help spread the word about this vicious so-
called SPORT.

**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 Filmsstrips**

A series of 6 filmsstrips with sound covering topics on the following careers: canine control of-

icer, kennel worker, pet shop worker, groomer, zoo helper, veterinarian, veterinarian aide, park naturalist, intelligence officer, conservation officer, and humane educator.

**“Spring: You And The Animal World—**

A series of 3 multi-

media programs. Each unit contains a filmsstrip, teachers guidance and spirit master book. Titles: (1) You and (2) Wild-

life in Your Community (3) Animals of the Forest.

Both filmsstrips and multi-media programs are recom-
mended for elementary school students.

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The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for as-
sistance should be addressed to Charlene Drennen, West Coast Regional Director, 171 St. L St., N. White Sulphur Springs, 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.
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 KINO 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.