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ANIMAL SHELTER CHARGED WITH CRUELTY TO ANIMALS — HSUS CALLED TO DO STUDY —

The West Coast Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States was besieged by telephone calls and letters of complaint from outraged citizens last September when an ABC television station in Los Angeles ran a week-long expose' reporting neglect of animals in animal shelters of the Los Angeles Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, also known as the Southern California Humane Society. Unfortunately, many humanitarians incorrectly believed that these shelters were affiliated with or under the supervision of The Humane Society of the United States. However, HSUS has no control over any local, incorporated humane society.

Reports from HSUS members alleged the shelter had inadequate facilities and sub-standard animal care practices. In October, 1977, Eric Sakach, WCRO investigator, conducted a preliminary inspection of the Hawthorne Shelter, met the city officials, and witnesses. As a result of Mr. Sakach’s observations, most of the cities which contracted with the Los Angeles SPCA formally requested The HSUS to conduct a detailed study of all the shelters. The cities also asked The HSUS to evaluate these conditions and tell them whether or not they should continue their contracts. In addition, The HSUS opened an intensive investigation to determine if legal action would be appropriate.

One of the services of The Humane Society of the United States is to assist local humane groups. Mr. Sakach said, “All they have to do is request help. If an animal shelter is having problems, we want to know about them immediately and help them to correct them. There’s no excuse for an animal to suffer, especially in an animal shelter. It is the goal of The HSUS to provide the best possible care for all animals.”

In November, HSUS investigators met with officials of the cities contracting for services by the Los Angeles SPCA, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, and concerned citizens.

On December 8, 1977, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office filed a civil lawsuit against the Los Angeles SPCA alleging that animals were not properly fed and watered; impounded in unsanitary, unhealthy and overcrowded conditions; not provided adequate veterinary care; and not euthanized in accordance with state law. The suit seeks an injunction by the court against the SPCA’s neglect and failure to provide humane and adequate care and treatment of the animals over which the Los Angeles SPCA has control.

Early this year, HSUS Washington staff members, Phyllis Wright and Philip Steward joined Eric Sakach in conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the Los Angeles SPCA’s Hawthorne, Southgate and Main animal shelter facilities. The report and recommendations will be sent to the Los Angeles area City Managers that are currently contracting with the Los Angeles SPCA.

The HSUS-WCRO will continue to keep its members informed of what action is taken in this matter.

“The most inexcusable and pathetic cruelty to animals is when their suffering is caused behind the walls of an animal shelter.”

E. Sakach - 77
was yearly. Mr. William Radtkey of the Bureau of Land Management is to report to the federal government notice that the Tule Elk had reached a population of several hundred thousand. When only about 3,000 people showed up instead of the expected 10,000, Monsignor Val Fanguesden said, "Whether we do it again is something to which I’ll have to give a lot of long, hard thought." Eric Sakach, Field Representative for The HSUS, wrote letters to Bishop Alden J. Bell and Archbishop John R. Quinn citing the Roman Catholic Church’s long history of abhorring cruelty to animals and the devastation of bullfighting. "There’s nothing wrong with a religious celebration," said Sakach, "until an animal is exploited in this manner. There are many other ways to celebrate a festival without the abuse of life."

Officials of The HSUS-WCRO, Monterey County SPCA, and Santa Cruz Animal Welfare Association were succeeded in their efforts to keep the last Elk of Santa Cruz when spectators began throwing rocks at the animals.

**IN THE NORTHWEST**

A merger may take place between the Oregon Animal Control Officers Association (O.A.C.O.A.) and the Oregon Animal Welfare Agencies. O.A.C.C. is an animal control federation with legislation and education as primary goals. O.A.W.A. is an animal welfare agency (HSAW) federated with similar goals. Both organizations exert statewide influence. According to Doug Fakemara, President of the Oregon Association of Animal Control Officers and the new control council and the Oregon Animal Welfare Association of Animal Control Officers, "Whether we do it again is something to which we are a member of a local organization, remember the WCRO is happy to help us in this way."

**BULLFIGHT EXEMPTION SHOULD BE REMOVED**

The Humane Society of the United States will seek to have the exemption allowing bullfighting held in conjunction with religious festivals removed from the California Penal Code. Although efforts by The HSUS-WCRO and Peninsula Humane Society to stop the recent bloodless bullfight at the San Francisco Cow Palace were unsuccessful, the criticism from humane groups has been far greater than its anticipated selling to the public.

"The response to the public’s needs is the key issue," says Sakach, "and the larger the public’s needs, the more humane in its approach, and as humane society operated shelters become more aware of the necessity of contract monies to keep financially sound, the differences between the two types of organizations becomes less and less."

**SEATTLE COLLECTS OVER $100,000 FOR SPAY CLINIC**

Thanks to local citizens over $100,000 has been collected to build a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Seattle. Seattle’s Federation of Animal Welfare Groups has done, however, the City Council must go ahead with a new animal control facility. The City Council must go ahead with a new animal control facility that they have put off for a number of years. If you live in the Northwest, contact City Council members such as Charles Royer, Mayor or Sam, President, Seattle City Council, at the Municipal Building, Seattle, Washington, 98104, and urge them to go ahead with the animal control facility. The WCRO has already written its support.
HSUS WORKSHOPS

A Solving Animal Problems in Your Community Workshop sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States and co-hosted by Peninsula Humane Society was held on January 20-21, 1978 in Burlingame, California. Featured speakers included: John Hoyt, President of The HSUS; Frantz Dantzler, HSUS Director of Field Services and Investigations; Phyllis Wright, HSUS Animal Control Specialist; Richard Ward, Executive Director of the Peninsula Humane Society; Dr. Sheila Shannon, PHS Clinic Veterinarian; John Tiernan, Executive Director of the Monterey County SPCA; and others. Topics and discussions at the workshop included recommended techniques in: Investigations, Improving Animal Control, Spay and Neuter Programs, Euthanasia, Fund-raising, Community Needs, and more.

COMING UP . . .

A People, Animals, Attitudes, and Life Humane Education Seminar will be sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States and co-hosted by the Monterey County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on April 21-22, 1978 at the Monterey Holiday Inn. This workshop is especially designed for: humane educators, humane society and animal control personnel, teachers and administrators. Contact The HSUS-WCRO for registration information.

HSUS Speaker At Third Annual CEEA Convention

Over 350 teachers and administrators attended the Third Annual Convention of the California Elementary Education Association on December 2-3, 1977 in Sacramento, California. Featured at the convention were publisher’s exhibits, demonstrations, make it-take it workshops, and 52 special guest speakers. Eric Sakach of The HSUS-WCRO was invited to be one of the guest speakers. Sakach’s topic dealt with animal care in the classroom and attendees were introduced to The HSUS’s KIND (Kindness In Nature’s Defense) and new NAAHE (National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education) programs, as well as the do’s and don’ts of caring for an animal in the classroom.

ATTEMPTS MADE TO GET CALIFORNIA INITIATIVES ON ’78 BALLOT

Californians Against the Steel Jawed Trap. P.O. Box 2457, Escondido, California 92025. This ballot measure calls for a change in the California Fish and Game code making use of a steel jawed trap to take birds or mammals a misdemeanor upon first conviction and a felony upon second conviction. 400,000 signatures are needed in order to qualify it for the ballot in 1978. Contact above address for further information.

Citizens to Abolish the Decompression Chamber. 201 Ocean Avenue - #807 P, Santa Monica, California 90402. It prohibits use of high-altitude decompression chambers to kill dogs and cats. Contact above address for further information.

Due to our deadline date on this WCRO News Report the above initiatives may be qualified by the time you receive this. We will keep HSUS members informed.

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.