

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy

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### WCRO Winter / Spring 1980

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# REPORT

WINTER/SPRING 1980

## LET'S OUTLAW POUND SEIZURE

The time has come to do away with pound seizure—an outdated practice where dogs and cats are released from animal shelters at minimal cost to be used in research.

Since the Metcalf-Hatch Act was repealed last year in New York, almost every state has had an uprising of citizens tired of animal control being used as a cheap or free source of animals for dealers and research institutions. Animal control is for the protection of the health and safety of the public. It was never intended as, nor should it be, a source of cheap animals for scientists.

HSUS members in Spokane and Seattle, Washington have been in touch with the WCRO to seek their help in doing away with pound seizure in their state.

In Oregon citizens are trying to stop universities from relying on this method of obtaining animals.

In California Senator Paul Carpenter introduced SB 1270 to outlaw the release of animals from shelters to research. The bill was defeated in the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee. Not one of the committee members was willing to move to pass this bill.

All of us worked hard on this legislation. Obviously we will have to publicize this problem to educate all of the public. Senator Ayala said he received more mail on this bill than any other except Proposition 13.

The HSUS has been working diligently to upgrade animal control programs with free expertise and advice on everything from funding to how to build a proper shelter. People do not want to turn animals into shelters that supply them to research.

The excuse that animal control needs the money from selling these animals is ludicrous. In a survey completed recently, only 14 shelters out of 116 in California were releasing animals. In 1978-79, 17,855 dogs and cats were released. Over 5,000 of them went to a single dealer who purchased them for \$2.50-\$3.00 each. He also got over 3,000 free. These animals were then sold for \$32-\$40 to universities and hospitals. The 14 shelters that released impounded animals received only \$116,000 compared to a combined total budget of over 15 million dollars.

Let your state legislators know your feelings about pound seizure. The public needs to be educated and letters to the editor of your local paper will help inform them.

If you'd like to know the cities and counties in California that are releasing animals for this purpose and

the dealers and research labs they are going to, send a SASE to the WCRO.

## The Hidden Cost of Factory Farming

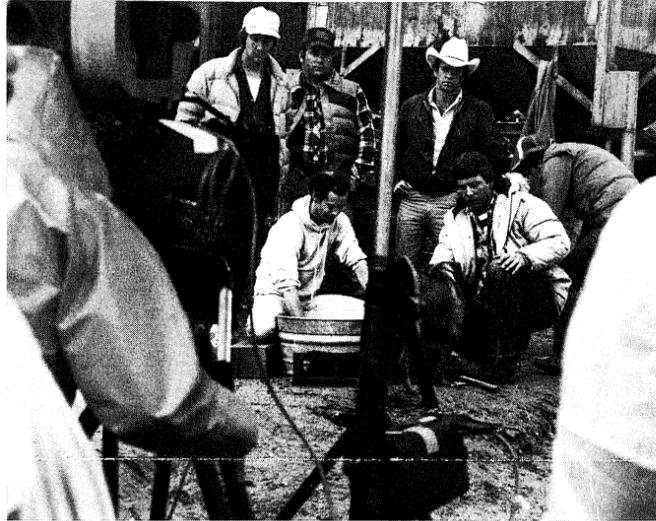


**Most veal calves are kept immobile and in darkness (except at feeding time) in order to prevent them from "wasting energy."**

What the eye doesn't see, the consumer doesn't grieve: rows of eggs in styrofoam cartons, cuts of meat in neat plastic containers, and shelf after shelf of packaged food without the price paid in animal suffering stamped on the label. Each year this country produces 3.3 billion broiler poultry, 85 million pigs, 112 million beef cattle, 9 million sheep; and our milk and eggs come from a total of 11 million dairy cattle and 280 million battery hens. The level of unnecessary suffering and cruelty inflicted on these animals is difficult to conceive and accept. The Humane Society of the United States is fighting these abuses.

There are solutions. Find out what the solutions are and help us to inform the public by sending your name and address to: "Factory Farming," The Humane Society of the United States, 1713 J Street, Suite 305, Sacramento, CA 95814. We will send you an informative report free of charge. Additional copies are ten cents each.

## Dogfighting Exposed By Popular Television Series



In March CBS Television's popular series, *The Lou Grant Show*, starring Ed Asner and Robert Walden, exposed the brutal and illegal business of dogfighting in an episode entitled "Dogs." The HSUS worked closely with the producers of the show to ensure an accurate portrayal of this brutal activity and a member of The HSUS investigations team served as a technical advisor during filming. Although no animals were actually fought or abused in the making of this show, the realism of the cruel activity and its impact was tremendous. Thanks to their willingness to take a stand on this issue, all who worked in the production of "Dogs" helped to educate millions of viewers about a bloody and clandestine activity that is on the increase.

The West Coast Regional Office hopes all members who saw this episode will take a few moments to write a letter of thanks to the producer with a copy to the network. We need more shows of this type to help inform the American public about this and many other animal welfare issues. Please address letters to:

Mr. Seth Freeman Producer The Lou Grant Show 4024 Radford Avenue Studio City, CA 91604	The Lou Grant Show CBS-TV 51 West 52nd Street New York, NY 10019
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## Animal Shelters in the News

### San Francisco SPCA

San Francisco SPCA Director Richard Avanzino was recently responsible for the rescue of two baboons and 45 rhesus monkeys from the research division of Letterman Army Medical Center. Avanzino said, "Our investigation revealed the two baboons spent the first year and a half of their lives literally strapped to chairs. Then they were put in cages that were inadequate. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) had notified Letterman that

the cages were barely one-third of the required minimum dimensions according to USDA standards. Letterman ignored this for more than a year. During the initial visit with Letterman officials, representatives of the San Francisco SPCA were told that new cages fulfilling USDA requirements had been ordered immediately after the USDA inspector's warning more than six months ago. In fact, SFSPCA investigators learned that the order for cages was not placed until December 4, 1979 and that those cages were barely two-thirds the size required by USDA. Avanzino succeeded in getting the primates transferred to the breeding colony at Pensacola, Florida for rehabilitation.

The WCRO has gathered all the information on this and has forwarded it to The HSUS Southeast Regional Office in Orlando, Florida, for follow up.

Anyone having information on animal welfare violations in research facilities should report it to the West Coast Regional Office. The person may remain anonymous.

### Mendocino County Animal Control

A study was made by Field Investigator Eric Sakach of sheltering facilities in Ukiah and Fort Bragg, California for Mendocino County's Division of Animal Control. The WCRO received a formal request to do the evaluation from Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Roberto A. deGrassi. Following the impromptu inspections, Sakach's report and recommendations were sent to area officials.

Note: Along with its many other programs and services for local humane societies and animal control agencies, The HSUS will perform studies on sheltering facilities upon request from concerned officials. There is no charge for this service. Requesting such studies is a way in which community leaders can show they care about conditions for impounded animals and the community's animal control program. HSUS members may wish to inform their city managers, mayors, county supervisors, or other officials about this service.

### Peninsula Humane Society

The Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo reports finding two family pets caught in cruel steel jaw traps in a period of one month. In the first case, a Labrador was found dead in the trap; and in the second, the unfortunate dog stepped in the trap while being walked on a leash by its owner. PHS has begun a petition drive aimed at showing local legislators the strong support that exists for outlawing this trap.

### Amador County Animal Control

A new totally enclosed animal shelter with equipment is the culmination of a three year project in Amador County initiated by the Amador Pet Adoption League. APAL contacted the WCRO for assistance and was supplied technical advice and architectural plans. Eric Sakach was a guest speaker for APAL on several occasions and he met with officials to discuss their animal program. Opening ceremonies for the new facility were held in March.

## DIRECTOR'S DESK



### Encouragement for Government Inspected Facilities

#### USDA GETS TOUGH

"Marine Mammal Standards for Housing" has been added to the Federal Animal Welfare Act.

This spring a Marine Mammal Training Session was co-hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior, and USDA-APHIS in San Diego.

Dr. Dale Schwindaman set the tone of the meeting when he told the compliance officers, "These standards do give you a latitude on interpretation. When you see something in your good conscience that is wrong, be positive about doing something for the animal.

Animal welfare includes behavioral needs. The authority is there for you to use it in the Animal Welfare Act. Society is calling for the raising of standards from minimum for a better protection of animals. We will review the present standards and propose amendments to raise them this spring."

The Humane Society of the United States was the only humane organization represented at this training session. I attended classroom sessions ranging in topics from "How to Inspect an Exhibit" to zoo nutrition by Dr. Phil Robinson of the San Diego Zoo.

Many of the compliance officers made suggestions for higher standards of care and housing to be added to the Animal Welfare Act Amendments.

This meeting was one of the best organized and educational I've ever attended. It was encouraging to hear compliance officers being told that they must do more, not less, for the animals.

The WCRO routinely conducts inspections of zoos, and seeks admission to research establishments.

**Note — As we go to press — SB 1751, California which would have given the Department of Fish and Game control of burros was luckily defeated in the Senate Agriculture Committee. Write your thanks to Senator Walter Stiern, c/o State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, for opposing this bill at the committee hearing.**

*Char Drennon*  
DIRECTOR

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 1980 HSUS Annual Conference will be held October 15-18 in San Francisco, California.

For Conference information write to:  
HSUS Conference  
2100 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

## California Animal Control Task Force Formed

Char Drennon, Director of WCRO, several months ago invited a group of the most progressive animal control and humane society directors who run such programs to meet to discuss their problems. This group has formed The California Animal Control Task Force.

At a meeting in San Francisco, they met with a consultant from CAL-OSHA to try to get safety standards mandating humane handling of animals by employees in animal shelters.

Taking the consultant's advice, the group then put together an outline of standard operating procedures for shelter use in developing a safety program.

The Preamble of this outline says, "Employee safety is best accomplished by the application of humane and proper animal handling techniques calculated to minimize stress in animals."

Copies of the outline are available from the WCRO.

## Animal Fighting Ventures Subject of Presentation Before LAPD

By invitation, a member of The HSUS investigations team gave a presentation on the investigation of animal fighting ventures before detectives of the Los Angeles Police Department in January. The program was well attended. Interest was high and topics included intelligence gathering, objectives in undercover operations, interstate transportation of animals for fighting purposes, and evidence.

The HSUS is happy to conduct programs of this nature when local law enforcement agencies are concerned enough to request input to develop better cases. This cooperation will go a long way toward eliminating these cruel spectacles.

## The Needs Of The Animals Will Continue . . .

The Humane Society of the United States is committed to the goal of ending animal cruelty and suffering. Your membership increases the Society's ability to stamp out cruelty through legal, legislative, and educational avenues. Unfortunately, man's cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end during your lifetime. But a bequest through your Will will be a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

Your request for information about Wills will be treated in the strictest confidence by our General Counsel. Please write to: Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

# WHEA Meeting in Santa Barbara . . .



**Charlotte Moore** hostess of the WHEA meeting with **Barbara Westerfield**, H. E. Director of Central California SPCA.

In-service teaching or "How to Teach Old Teachers New Tricks" was the format for the Western Humane Educators' Association meeting in Santa Barbara in February.

Barbara Westerfield and Joyce Malone from Central California SPCA presented a mock five hour in-service teaching program for the humane educators.

Liz Kaye, Humane Education Director of the Oregon Humane Society in Portland, came the furthest distance to share with the group the new programs at OHS, including using prisoners on probation for volunteers.

Kathi Prevost, new Information Officer from Sonoma County Animal Control, attended with her supervisor, Mike McFarland.

Another addition to humane education on the West Coast, Pat Kampe from Marin County Humane Society, came to get acquainted with her new West Coast colleagues.

The day prior to this meeting, a Steering Committee met to plan the October 15, 1980 meeting at the Golden Gate Holiday Inn in San Francisco. WHEA will host the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education on the first day of The HSUS National Con-

ference. Featured speakers will include John Dommers and Kathy Savesky from NAAHE. Humane educators from all states in the West Coast Region will be hosts and hostesses.

The program will include presentations by the most professional of the humane education directors in the West Coast region. Topics will vary from "The Effective Way to Use Volunteers" to "How Animal Control Organizations Accomplish Humane Education."

Because of space restrictions, this WHEA meeting will have to be limited to the first 100 who sign up. Humane education directors, teachers, administrators and animal control personnel shouldn't miss it. Mark the date and let the WCRO know if you want to attend.

## Opposition to Decompression Chamber Growing on West Coast

The cities of Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, have stopped using the decompression chamber for killing of unwanted animals thanks to local humanitarians. Nevada will have a bill in the coming session of the legislature to outlaw the device statewide and the WCRO will help. The Nevada Humane Society in Reno has offered to donate a carbon dioxide chamber for euthanasia of small animals and train Reno animal control personnel to inject sodium pentobarbital at no cost to the city. The WCRO has also supplied information about the decompression chamber and more acceptable methods to Spokane, Washington, and Anchorage, Alaska. Decompression has been banned in Idaho most recently.

**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 305, 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.**

## The Humane Society of the United States

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