To Save Horses

News Briefs

Dantzler Testifies

HSUS Director of Field Services and Investigations Frantz L. Dantzler, testified before a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives last January in opposition to legislation that would reduce restrictions on the use of mechanized vehicles for the purpose of capturing wild horses. Dantzler told members of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Interior that HSUS has received many reports to its field office in Arizona of a large increase in the number of vandalism and thefts of wild horses in the vicinity. Many societies reported their commitment on Public Lands of the Interior to protect and conserve the wild horses.

System Launched

Several HSUS representatives participated in the Second Annual Animal Control Personnel Development Conference held recently at Texas A & M University. More than 100 animal control personnel heard addresses from President John A. Hoyt, Gulf States Field Representative Bernard M. Welle, and Director of Animal Sheltering and Control Phyllis Wright. Objectives of the week-long conference included providing training for animal control personnel in human relations, pet population control, better recognition of animal diseases, and improved animal control administration.

Dantzler Testifies on Movie Cruelty

HSUS Testifies on Movie Cruelty

Several of the HSUS staff, including President John A. Hoyt, were among more than 150 people attending the National Conference on Dog and Cat Control held last February in Denver. Col. Conferences focused their attention on programs that would result in more responsible pet ownership, such as education on the values and limitations of pet ownership, strict animal regulations and laws, reproduction control, and animal control officer training. The conference was co-sponsored by HSUS, the American Kennel Club, the American Veterinary Medical Assn., and the American Humane Assn. It was a follow-up to the National Conference on the Ecology of the Surplus Dog and Cat Problem held in 1974 in Chicago.

Hear HSUS Staffers on Movie Cruelty

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Copies are available for $3 to members of NAAHE and for $4 to non-members.

Fight to the Death

America's "Jaws" hungry public is snapping up the closed-circuit TV telecast of a live fight to the death between a 3,000-pound great white shark and an Australian skin diver. Preying upon the public's enthusiasm for the movie "Jaws," Hollywood film producer Bill Sargent told HSUS that the sales for the May 3 telecast are "great." The fight will be transmitted via satellite to public entertainment arenas throughout the world.

Dantzler testified in March before the House Judiciary Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature in support of House Bill 1587. The bill would prohibit the distribution and exhibition of motion pictures in which the actual killing or abuse of animals took place during production of the film.

Dog Standards

HSUS is making available free of charge to all animal shelters and municipal animal control agencies a copy of the hardbound book "Dog Standards Illustrated." The 320-page book contains illustrations and descriptions of the 121 American Kennel Club-recognized breeds.

INHUMANE WHALE CAPTURE -- The capture of five killer whales in Puget Sound, Wash., for exhibition by Sea World brought a surge of public protest and legal action that resulted in the release of all whales earlier this spring. HSUS and other organizations protested the use of cherry bombs and other inhumane means of rounding up the whales, as well as the taking of a species whose population is threatened. Sea World, which operates commercial aquariums in three locations, settled out of court with the federal government and the state of Washington by agreeing to release the whales and to never attempt the capture of others in Puget Sound.

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Sargent has promised diver Ben Cropp a $1 million payday if he manages to kill the shark during the fight, which will take place in an underwater sea cage off Western Samoa. Cropp plans to starve the shark for 48 hours prior to the fight, then stun it with a rifle bolt before moving in for the kill with a spear gun.

After Sargent received official approval by the Western Samoan government to stage the fight, HSUS President John A. Hoyt sent a formal letter of protest to the Samoan chief of state asking him to prevent the cruel event. The HSUS investigations and legal departments are also exploring every possible means to keep the fight from being staged. But HSUS fears a predicted multi-million-dollar profit from the event virtually assures it will take place.

When asked why he was staging the fight, Sargent said, "I know this is a sick thing, but someone's going to do it if I don't, so I may as well be in on the money."

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