

# News Briefs

## Computer Action Alert System Launched

HSUS launched a new Action Alert system earlier this year to prevent neglect of animals in the pet department inventories of the W. T. Grant stores when that chain declared bankruptcy and closed its doors.

The system was developed as part of a new in-house computer service that is making it possible for HSUS to vastly improve the efficiency of its communications to members and supporters. The W. T. Grant Action Alert was put into operation because of reports to HSUS that animals had been mistreated in a few stores after bankruptcy was announced.

HSUS sent its alert, in the form of a small computerized postal card, to all local humane societies, urging them to check on the status and condition of animals in any W. T. Grant stores in their vicinity. Many societies reported their findings to HSUS and expressed their appreciation for being alerted to the situation.

## Dantzer Testifies To Save Horses

HSUS Director of Field Services and Investigations Frantz L. Dantzer, 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.

Dantzer told members of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee that HSUS stands firmly opposed to H.R. 2935 because it would be tantamount to issuing a license to special interest groups and unscrupulous profiteers to finally eliminate the wild horse from public lands. "It is indeed a paradox that, since the use of mechanized vehicles to capture horses drove these animals to the brink of extinction, use of these methods would once again be considered," he said.

Dantzer reminded the Congressmen of a 1973 incident in southeastern Idaho in which ranchers used snowmobiles and aircraft to chase many wild horses over a cliff to their death.

## Animal Control Agents Hear HSUS Staffers

Several HSUS representatives participated in the Second Annual Animal Control Personnel Development Conference held recently at Texas A & M University. More than 130 animal control personnel heard addresses from President John A. Hoyt, Gulf States Field Representative Bernard M. Weller, 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.

## HSUS Policies Compiled—Free Copies Available

HSUS has compiled a booklet of policy statements on many aspects of animal welfare with which it is concerned. Copies of these booklets may be obtained free of charge from HSUS headquarters.

## HSUS Participates in Dog and Cat Control Meeting

Several members 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, Colo. Conferees 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.

Copies of the speeches, conclusions, and recommendations are now being printed. Information on how they can be obtained will be included in the summer issue of *The Humane Society News*.

## HSUS Testifies on Movie Cruelty

Frantz L. Dantzer, HSUS director of field services and investigations, was invited to testify before the California and Massachusetts legislatures earlier this year on bills aimed at preventing cruelty to animals in the motion picture industry.

In January, Dantzer appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee of the California State Legislature in support of Senate Bill 788, which specifically prohibits any person from killing or abusing an animal for the purpose of making a motion picture for entertainment. The bill also calls for a state commission that would investigate and prosecute violators of the proposed law. At the request of the legislature, HSUS provided information for drafting the bill. The bill has been approved and voted out of committee.

Dantzer testified in March before the House Judiciary Committee of the Massachusetts State 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.

## NAAHE Publishes New Manual—"Humane Education: An Overview"

A definitive manual on humane education is now available to educators and local humanitarians through the National Assn. for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE).

"Humane Education: An Overview" was compiled by Eileen Whitlock, Ed.D., NAAHE assistant executive secretary, from her 2 years of extensive research toward the first doctoral dissertation on humane education in the nation. It includes information on the definition, rationale, history, and philosophy of humane education and its relationships to environmental, conservation, outdoor, and humanizing education.

Copies are available for \$3 to members of NAAHE and for \$4 to non-members from NAAHE, The University of Tulsa, 600 S. College St., Tulsa, OK 74104.

## Dog Standards Book Available

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.

HSUS has mailed copies of the book to all animal shelters on its mailing list. Other shelters and municipal animal control agencies may obtain a free copy by requesting it from HSUS headquarters on their letterhead. Individuals and other organizations may purchase the book for \$10.

## Fight to the Death With Shark is Planned by Film Producer

America's "Jaws" hungry public is snapping up tickets to 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 promoter 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.

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 bullet 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."



**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.

Wide World Photos

## Become a HSUS Member!

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(Make checks payable to HSUS.)

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