

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Enlarging Our Vision, Extending Our Outreach

For more than twenty-five years, The HSUS has participated actively in international efforts to protect animals. Our earliest involvement in such activities was undertaken in association with the World Federation for the Protection of Animals in the mid-sixties, and more recently as one of the leading member societies of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), its successor.

The HSUS has, for the past several years, also been a regular and active participant in meetings of international bodies such as the International Whaling Commission, the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the International Livestock and Environmental Accounting Program. We have sponsored numerous other animal-protection activities and projects that are international in character and scope. All of these activities taken together have helped to establish The HSUS as one of the leading animal-protection organizations in the world today.

More recently we have become actively engaged in seeking to influence actions being considered by the European Community, actions that will undoubtedly affect the welfare of animals throughout Europe—and beyond. This activity is being directed by our European director, Betsy Dribben, who currently resides in Bonn, Germany.

Through its Alice Morgan Wright-Edith Goode Fund, The HSUS is directly assisting twenty-eight animal-protection organizations in countries outside the United States. Through one of these organizations, the Deutsche Tierfreunde of Munich, Germany, and its director, Hans Jurgen Weichert, The HSUS has been able to assist animal-protection efforts in Thailand, Singapore, and China.

As a consequence of our extensive involvement in these kinds of international endeavors and our continuing commitment to extending a helping hand to those in other countries needing and wanting our assistance, the board of directors has approved the establishment of Humane Society International (HSI), which will serve to oversee and coordinate the work of The HSUS

beyond our national borders.

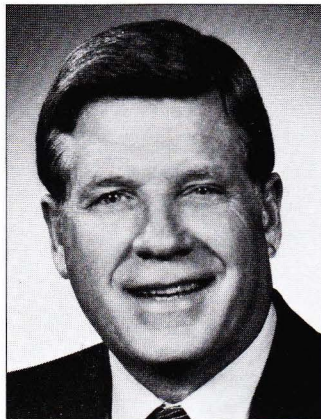
Several staff members of The HSUS already engaged in international activities will function as the staff of HSI, including Ms. Dribben, Patty Finch, Michael Fox, Janet Frake, John Grandy, Murdaugh Madden, Patricia Forkan, and David Wills. I shall serve as president. It is our intention to identify people such as Hans Jurgen Weichert with the work of HSI, and we hope in the near future to establish a few offices in other areas of the world where the involvement and influence of HSI is needed and welcomed.

HSI is currently engaged in three major projects in partnership with WSPA, two in Costa Rica (see page 18) and one in Bogota, Colombia (see page 21). We are exploring other joint endeavors with WSPA, especially in eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union, where animal-protection activities are virtually nonexistent.

It is not intended that HSI will be a membership organization apart from The HSUS but rather the international extension of our program and activities into this larger arena. Support for these endeavors must come from within the HSUS family itself and, we hope, from a few outside sources willing to sponsor specific projects and activities.

Animal-protection activities can no longer be viewed in the context of national boundaries. Whether it is the slaughter of elephants in Africa, the capture and export of exotic birds from Central and South America, the destruction of dolphins and other marine mammals by the fishing industry internationally, or the suffering of dogs and cats in developing countries of the world, we are of necessity involved.

It is my hope that, even as The HSUS has become a leader among the animal-protection organizations of our own country during the past thirty-seven years, so shall HSI become a leader among the organizations of the world whose mission it is to relieve the suffering of our fellow creatures everywhere. Our goal is to help to mold a society in which the needs and rights of animals will be provided for and respected wherever they may exist upon the face of the Earth. ■



John A. Hoyt, President

A handwritten signature of John A. Hoyt in cursive script, written in black ink.