HSUS SEeks 1993 Appropriations

The HSUS is gearing up for the Fiscal Year 1993 appropriations cycle and will target a number of federal agencies with specific programs affecting animals. We will testily on a number of ongoing, animal-related federal programs. We will continue our vigil for substantial increases in funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including additional funding that will enable the USDA to conduct more frequent and rigorous inspections of laboratory and commercial dog-breeding facilities covered by the AWA. We will also strongly support the development and implementation of nonlethal animal-control methods under the USDA's Animal Damage Control program.

The success of our lobbying efforts for '92 will give us increased incentive to once again win funding for several programs. Last year The HSUS successfully lobbied Congress for first-time funding for the National Organic Standards Board, the key to a national organic-labeling program. We will be seeking additional funding.

Animal efforts were instrumental in the development of the new mandatory registration system for our nation's wild horses, which includes a humane method of contraception. We will remind Congress of the necessity for and value of this management plan. Together with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Humane Association, The HSUS will seek additional funding for the National Toxicology Program, an interagency program within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that establishes new toxicology validation of nonanimal alternatives to research. We will also seek funding for the Biological Models Materials Resources program, which is administered by NIH and offers monetary grants to scientists for research that uses alternatives to animals. Such efforts on alternatives will be enhanced by specific provisions of H.R. 2507, the NIH reauthorization bill, introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman of California. H.R. 2507 contains language promoting the use of animal alternatives in research through NIH, it passed in the House in July 1991. Efforts are being made to reconcile it with a similar bill in the Senate.

Animal-Facility Break-In Bills

Late last year, at the request of the chairman of the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, Kika de la Garza of Texas, H.R. 2407, the Farm Animal and Research Facility Protection Act, was transmitted to the full committee from the House Agriculture Department Operations Subcommittee. H.R. 2407 has almost 250 co-sponsors, and a similar bill, S. 544, sponsored by Sen. Howell Heflin of Alabama, has already been passed by the Senate. The HSUS has opposed these bills and continues its efforts against them because specific provisions would impede legitimate investigations and prevent the exposure of animal cruelty and misuse outlined in the AWA. We will continue to press Congress for assurance of protection for legitimate whistle-blowers who witness animal cruelty.

Thank You!

The HSUS extends its thanks to the following members of Congress who have recently taken the lead in promoting legislation on behalf of animals:


Sen. Albert Gore, Jr., of Tennessee, president of GLOBE International, and Rep. Gerry Sikorski of Minnesota, president of GLOBE U.S., for their continued leadership on environmental issues in both the Congress and the international arena.

Rep. Jolene Unsoeld of Washington, for her continued leadership, in both the Congress and international organizations, on the effort to ban large-scale driftnet fishing worldwide.

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Running Afowl

Last May two major cockfighting busts in Ohio, the result of a months-long undercover investigation by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, netted nearly 500 arrests and the confiscation of 700 game fowl. The HSUS played a major role in this effort (see the Fall 1991 HSUS News). Although the raids were a huge success, things went downhill once local officials got involved. Charges against some individuals were dropped in one jurisdiction because the sheriff had failed to notify the paperwork. The judge hearing a case against other individuals was unconvincing the confiscated game cocks were intended for use in fighting and ordered the birds returned to their owners.

In another jurisdiction, officials were forced to return some game fowl to owners and auction off others. A lower court had ordered the birds, which were intended for fighting, to be euthanatized. However, the Ohio Gameand Breeders Association appealed the court's decision, and the birds were returned to their owners.

A Felony Cockfighting Bill has been introduced by State Rep. Dean Conley, who, if passed, would make sure such outcomes would not recur.

A CRushing Blow to Kiser Lake

Information obtained by the Great Lakes office recently led to a recommendation for denial of a drug license for a USDA-licensed dog dealer and, subsequently, to that dealer's surprising withdrawal of his application. The Ohio Board of Pharmacy learned that Kiser Lake Kennels was operating without the necessary license for obtaining, storing, and using dangerous drugs after a complaint was lodged by pro-profit coordinator Robin Weirauch. Ms. Weirauch's complaint alleged unlicensed possession of sodium pentobarbital by an Ohio dog warden, who reportedly received it from Kiser Lake Kennels. Kiser Lake Kennels applied to the Ohio Board of Pharmacy for the long-overdue license but the board recommended that the application be denied.

Kiser Lake requested a hearing on the matter. However, it withdrew its application after Ms. Weirauch's testimony and cross-examination were heard by the board.

Kiser Lake Kennels has for many years provided euthanasia services to county animal facilities, retaining some live dogs for resale to research facilities, in contradiction of Ohio law. Now that it is clear the kennel lacks the proper license to utilize euthanasia drugs, the practice may stop.

Societies Seek HSUS Help

Program coordinator Robin Weirauch traveled to Jefferson and Hancock Counties in West Virginia; Floyd, Posey, and Hancock Counties in Ohio; and continues its observance of Ohio's Game and Fish Laws. Dogs in the Gibson County, Indiana, animal shelter eye The HSUS's Robin Weirauch as she reviews the shelter's operations.
NEW DAY FOR DEER?

An $80,000 grant from the USDA to Rutgers University has spurred new interest in immunoncontraception birth control to manage the New Jersey deer population.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office has for decades tried to expose the mismanagement of the white-tailed deer population by the state Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife. The HSUS has been working on our own contraception program, a vaccine that essentially feminizes a Doe against sperm.

The vaccine is being developed by Jay Kirkpatrick, associate professor at Eastern Montana College, and several other academic investigators (see the Fall 1991 HSUS News). It has been successfully used in tests on deer and wild horses.

and on zoo animals, but it requires two shots from a dart gun administered one month apart. Dr. Kirkpatrick is trying to develop a one-shot vaccine.

Regional director Nina Aus­tenberg was interviewed for a national radio segment for “Down to Earth” with CBS-TV’s Harry Smith about the 500,000 deer killed by auto­mobilists on the nation’s highways.

GREAT SWAMP PROTEST #18

The protest of the deer hunt at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was the first such protest at a national wild­life refuge and for years the only one. In December, for the eighteenth year, demonstrators raised their voices in protest at the Great Swamp in Passaic Township, New Jersey. The group, led by Nina Austenberg, carried signs against hunting in a refuge, as well as against using hunting as a means to control population.

COLLECTOR FOUND GUILTY

On June 1, 1991, New York State Police and animal-protection officials executed warrants at the Estherville Animal Shelter in New York.

A dog sits impassively in a weedy enclosure typical of those found at the Estherville Animal Shelter in New York.

The HSUS’s Allen Ratberg (left) and Nina Austenberg (second from right) join Rep. Dick Zimmer and HSUS member Karen Cor­ton to discuss immunoncontraception as a possible method of controlling New Jersey’s deer population.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Among bills introduced for action in the region’s legislatures are those that would establish new spay neuter programs (Connect­icut, New Hampshire); institute restraint re­quirements for animals in open vehicles (Con­necticut, Massachu­setts, and Rhode Is­land); and mandate rab­ies inoculations for dogs and cats (Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Ver­mont). The HSUS sup­ports all of the measures.

A poodle seems to blend into the rubbish found at the Pleasant Valley Kennels during a raid in October.

A fainting-goat organization was one of the exhibitors at the Inter­national Goat Days festival in Tennessee.

BAER ADDRESSES FAIR ASSOCIATION

On January 18 New England Regional Director Arnold Baer participated in a panel discus­sion on animal issues at county fairs, sponsored by the Vermont/New Hampshire Fair Association.

Association-pulling events, animal-driving exhibi­tions, livestock transport and housing, and selling companion animals at fairs were discussed.

“IN AMERICA” AVAILABLE

Last fall the nationally syndi­cated television show “In America” featured a segment on animal collectors, to which the New England office con­tributed video footage and still photos. For a copy of this ex­cellent program, contact the New England Regional Office at PO Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423.

GETTING THE GOAT IN TENNESSEE

Recently the International Goat Days festival was held in Mil­lington, Tennessee. Among many activities planned were goat chariot races, goat milk­ing, and a goat barbecue con­tent. A “fainting goat” contest, in which goats suffering from a genetic disorder called myoc­tonia congenita are frightened into “fainting” for the amuse­ment of onlookers, was can­celed after protests from The HSUS and the Animal Protec­tion Association of Memphis.

Representatives from both organizations monitored other festival activities. The HSUS discou­rages events that exploit and endanger animals.

PUPPY MILL RAIDED

When John and Sandy Boone of the Taylor County (Kentucky) SPCA visited Pleasant Valley Kennels in rural Green County, they showed dogs of a variety of breeds. Most were overweight, filthy, and suffering from various ailments. Several cages held decomposed dog carcasses.

The Boones con­tacted the State carefully monitored the SPCA, Jefferson County Department of Animal Control and Protection, the Kentucky Humane Society, and local law­enforcement and rescue squad personnel confiscated more than 150 dogs and puppies and five cats. Approximately a dozen dead dogs were found, The owners were charged with cruelty to animals and volun­tarily surrendered the animals to the SPCA.

MILITARY ABUSES

A roll of film developed at a Tennessee photo lab depicted scenes so disturbing that the photographs were turned over to the Sullivan County Humane Soci­ety. The photographs show young men apparently torturing and decapitating a small kitten. Carol Bennett, society pres­i­dent, contacted the south Central Region Office.

The man who had left the film for processing is a U.S. Marine stationed at Camp Le­june, North Carolina. He claimed the photographs were taken a year previously in Okinawa and that the other men pictured were also Marines.

Regional director Phil Snyder sent the photos and the police report to the base commander at Camp Lejune with a request for an investigation. At least one of the participants has re­ceived nonjudicial punishment.

In another incident, the office received a complaint that steel­jaw leghold traps were being used to control a raccoon prob­lem at the base stables at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. We deter­mined that the stable manager had allowed a local trapper to trap inside the barn. It was stopped immediately. According to Col. John Smith, “Trapping is prohibited through­out the installation.” The HSUS group praised excellent cooperation from the military in both cases.

THE PROTEST OF THE DEER HUNT AT THE GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WAS THE FIRST SUCH PROTEST AT A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND FOR YEARS THE ONLY ONE.
The request was rejected. An attempt was made to convince the Florida Game Commission to prohibit the killing of black bears before the 1991 hunting season. The commission refused. Sixty bears were tracked down by dogs and shot at close range, one by none other than state game commissioner Ben Row. The ensuing outcry prompted editorials in newspapers statewide calling for a ban on hunting black bears. A bill has been filed in the legislature that would make it a third-degree felony to kill a bear.

In early 1992 there were four confirmed cases of intentional dog poisoning in the small community of Rock River, Wyoming. The Northern Rockies Regional Office immediately offered a $2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect.

The reintroduction of black-footed ferrets, an endangered species, is planned in a Montana wildlife refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks are considering a well-planned, safe, and effective reintroduction project.

Wyoming Dog Poisonings

Wyoming Dog Poisonings

A CALL FOR LICENSING

The West Coast Office has turned its attention to the problems of wolf hybrids in the region. The California Department of Fish and Game has issued a ruling that all second-generation wolf hybrids are dogs and, therefore, no special permits are required for their possession or sale. The HSUS, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, is attempting to change this ruling. Several cities and counties, including Placer County, are investigating ways of controlling hybrids.

A licence on all cats: that's the goal of California's animal-welfare task force.

The bill would have made it all but impossible to prosecute cockfighters in California since they could have claimed they were merely raising and testing the birds. The bill was defeated in the California Assembly Ways and Means Committee, partially thanks to the well-timed raid. "The legislators voting on this bill came home to nightly news stories about the realities of cockfighting. It made it pretty hard to vote for the bill," said Ms. Drennon.

Controlling Hybrids

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Please Say No, Shreveport

An attempt was made to convince the delegation requested in conjunction with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to reconsider the proposed reintroduction project. The attempt was successful; the agency withdrew the proposal.

California cockfighting charges and convictions of illegal weapons and dog paraphernalia, the California legislature was blocking an attempt to give a paucity of respectability to the inhumane blood sport.

A Fortuitous Raid

Recently, while California's Sutter County sheriff's office, assisted by West Coast investigator Eric Sakach, was arresting more than 200 illegal practitioners in states that do not have a specific law against the practice. Many Wisconsin animal-protection groups opposed to the measure were represented at the hearing. Mr. Dantzler told the committee, "Passing [the bill] would be disastrous. While aiding a small and self-serving industry, it would promote cruelty to animals in other states and be a disservice to the citizens of Wisconsin."