ban on the commercial importation of wild birds to the United States by introducing another bill, H.R. 5013, the Wild Bird Conservation Act.

H.R. 5013 would limit or prohibit imports of exotic birds when necessary to ensure that exotic wild-bird populations are not harmed by the trade and that exotic birds in trade are not subject to inhumane treatment. The HSUS is part of a coalition represented at a House hearing held June 16 on H.R. 5013 and a Senate hearing on July 31.

The bill was approved by two House committees in July and was passed by the full House on August 11. Sen. Max Baucus of Montana will direct the movement of a bill similar to H.R. 5013 in the Senate. The HSUS will be exploring avenues to strengthen the Wild Bird Conservation Act as it moves through the Senate.

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On June 17 the DOI issued the long-awaited regulations governing such transport. The regulations govern care, food and water requirements, handling, temperature and ventilation requirements, enclosure size, and vehicle-stocking density. Issuance of the regulations had been held up since 1988 by the pet industry and other animal traders who profit from animal imports despite the trade’s tremendous mortality rates.

The HSUS and other organizations successfully sued the DOI in 1988 for not issuing the regulations in a timely manner. The regulations became effective September 15, 1992.

**HEARING HELD ON EXHIBITION ANIMALS**

On July 8 the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing on the treatment of animals in exhibition, such as in zoos, aquaria, and circuses, and on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

John W. Grandy, Ph.D., HSUS vice president, Wildlife and Habitat Protection, presented strong evidence documenting the USDA’s inability to enforce effectively the regulations of the AWA in zoos, circuses, and traveling acts. The evidence included specific cases in which exhibition animals suffered and, in some instances, died due to inadequate care. The HSUS recommended establishment of a blue-ribbon advisory committee, including representatives from the animal-protection community, to review and recommend improvements in relevant regulations; establishment of more stringent licensing standards for animal exhibitors; development of more specific space requirements for exhibition animals; and development of more stringent guidelines for the humane handling and care of exhibition animals.

On July 30 The HSUS and other organizations met with USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services Jo Ann Smith and other USDA staff to discuss further the need for stricter enforcement of the AWA’s regulations for exhibition animals.

At least $600,000 was transferred from the AWC to the Rabies Trust Fund. Administrator Barbara Dyer said that “the health department did create the rabies program for law enforcement, the public assistance and pets from animal-protection groups, animal shelters, marches in front of the HSUS mid-Atlantic Regional Office, and other animal-protection organizations worked long and hard to stop the weakening of the current protective regulations for the horses.

**RABIESGATE IN NEW JERSEY**

In May representatives from animal-protection groups, animal shelters, and kernel clubs, as well as private citizens, marched in front of the New Jersey statehouse to protect the health department’s misadvice of the state Animal Population Control (APC) Fund.

The APC Fund was created expressly to provide low-cost spaying and neutering, through a federal program with participating veterinarians, for pets of people on public assistance and pets adopted from shelters. The program was totally funded by a surcharge of $3 on dog licenses.

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**MID-ATLANTIC**

The HSUS has been fighting rabies for over a decade and has gained momentum.

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**LETTERS PROTEST HEGINS SHOOT**

The Fred Coleman Memorial Shoot has been held every Labor Day in Hegins, Pennsylvania, for fifty-seven years. Protested as the largest one-day “flyer shoot” in the world, the Fred Coleman Memorial shoot claims 6,000 to 8,000 pigeons annually.

Mid-Atlantic Program Coordinator Barbara Dyer delivered 11,000 signed protest coupons against the Hegins shoot event to State Rep. George Tauman. The coupons were generated by readers in response to a story on the event in the National Enquirer.

Representative Saumaur, who has sponsored a bill prohibiting pigeon shoots, accepted the coupons after Gov. Robert P Casey declined to meet with HSUS staff.

**SPAY/NEUTER BILL IS IN LATE STAGE**

Connecticut Gov. Lowell Weicker has signed a bill instituting a low-cost spaying and neutering program for dogs and cats adopted from Connecticut municipal pounds effective July 1, 1994. This landmark legislation, which parallels a New Jersey program that the HSUS was instrumental in passing (see above), creates a self-sustaining program that will reduce not only uncontrolled breeding of pets and the risk of rabies, but also the euthanasia of companion animals and the cost of municipal animal control.

The legislation entitles an adopter of a dog or cat from a municipal pound to have the animal spayed or neutered and receive rabies and presurgical inoculations for $10. Funding is provided for the most part, by a license-differential fee for unsterilized dogs.

The bill is the fruit of seven months’ work by a coalition of state and national animal protection groups. After its first meeting at the New England Regional Office, the bill fell, the coalition grew and gained momentum.

Essential to passage was Rep. Mary Mushinsky; her commitment and guidance at key points were invaluable.

The New England Regional Office and the Connecticut Humane Society offer a reward of up to $2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) involved in the recent deaths of two alligators found in Montville, Connecticut. The animals were found with their mouths tagged shut and eyes covered. Investigating officials said that the alligators had been dead for some time when found.

The American alligator has been protected under the federal Endangered Species Act since 1973. The alligator’s status has recently been changed to threatened because of an increase in the species’ population.

The case is under investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Any information regarding this incident should be directed to those agencies.

**CARRIAGE HORSES PROTECTED BY VETO**

Thanks to New York City Mayor David Dinkins, who vetoed Introductory Number 410-A, a horse-carrige bill, the Carriage Horse Protection Act, Local Law 89, remains in effect. The Carriage Horse Action Committee, the HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, and other animal-protection organizations worked long and hard to stop the weakening of the current protective regulations for the horses.

**HUMAN-TRANSPORT REGULATIONS ISSUED**

More than a decade has passed since Congress, in amendments to the Lacey and Trade Act, required the secretary of the DOI to “prescribe such requirements...necessary for the transportation of wild animals and birds under humane and healthful conditions.” The act states that “it shall be unlawful for any person, including any importer, knowingly to cause or permit any wild animal or bird to be transported to the United States...under inhumane or unhealthful conditions.”

On June 17 the DOI issued the long-awaited regulations governing such transport. The regulations govern care, food and water requirements, handling, temperature and ventilation requirements, enclosure size, and vehicle-stocking density. Issuance of the regulations had been held up since 1988 by the pet industry and other animal traders who profit from animal imports despite the trade’s tremendous mortality rates.

The HSUS and other organizations successfully sued the DOI in 1988 for not issuing the regulations in a timely manner. The regulations became effective September 15, 1992.

In July The HSUS documented the USDA’s lax enforcement of the AWA for exhibited animals, such as these African lions.
TRUST HELPS AREA SHELTERS

The HSUS is pleased to announce the completion of 1990 projects funded by the Ruth McDaniel Trust. Mrs. McDaniel was an HSUS member who founded the Nevada (Missouri) Humane Society. Her legacy is a trust fund to help humane organizations finance shelter construction and renovation, humane education programs, spay/neuter programs, and other animal-related projects.

The City of Camerias, Missouri; People for Animal Rights of Kansas City, Missouri; the Heart of Missouri Humane Society of Jefferson City; the City of Garden Plains, Kansas; and the City of Fort Scott, Kansas, benefited from the trust.

S.B. 636 BECOMES MISSOURI LAW

On July 8 Missouri governor John D. Ashcroft signed into law S.B. 636, which regulates puppy mills and catteries. The Animal Care Facilities Act establishes standards of care for animals housed in breeding facilities, boarding kennels, animal shelters, and municipal pounds. Such facilities will be licensed or registered and inspected by the Missouri Department of Agriculture. The law also includes a provision requiring dogs and cats adopted from shelters to be spayed or neutered. Along with the Alliance for Animal Legislation of Missouri, The Humane Society of Missouri, Protect Our Pets, and others, The HSUS worked for nearly six years for passage of this legislation.

TASK FORCE STUDIES COUNTY PROGRAM

A task force has been organized in Jackson County, Missouri, to study the feasibility of constructing an animal shelter and operating an animal-control program. The task force consists of representatives of ten municipalities that had contracted with a private kennel to provide housing and pickup of stray and unwanted animals. The private kennel has been the subject of many complaints of inhumane conditions. Because of these alleged inhumane conditions, all members of the task force have canceled their contracts with the kennel.

Blue Springs, Missouri, a task force member, obtained a grant for the purpose of hiring an evaluation team headed by Nicholas Gilman of the HSUS Companion Animals section.

The team spent four days touring the area and will submit its recommendations soon.

DOG BUNNED: REWARD OFFERED

The Iowa Federation of Humane Societies, supported by The HSUS, is offering a $5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the brutal blinding of an Eddyville, Iowa, family dog. “Bear” was missing for three days and his family searched for him without success. On the fourth day, family member Gary DeMoney found Bear in the woods near his home. The dog had been left for dead with both eyes gouged and encrusted with blood. The veterinarian who removed Bear’s eyes said it appeared they had been gouged out with a sharp object or burned with a chemical. Bear is expected to recover.

Tom Colvin, president of the federation, and Midwest Regional Director Wendell Maddox traveled to Eddyville to offer the reward.

MISSOURI BECOMES AUTHORITY ON RIGHTS OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

On July 8 Missouri governor John D. Ashcroft signed into law a pursuant to a request by the Attorney General of Missouri, Protect Our Pets, and other animal-organization representatives to see whether the county should cancel its contract for pound services with a for-profit business.

When the Great Lakes office learned that Noble County dogs were unprotected by the Ohio dog laws that mandate humane housing and treatment of stray dogs by the county government itself, it was reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the state auditor’s office. The USDA is still investigating the matter and the state auditor and attorney general are manipulating the law.

Great Lakes program coordinator Robin Weinacht visited the facility with media representatives to see whether the county had compiled with the audit report. The resulting press coverage publicly revealed that the report concluded that the county should void its contract with the business and provide sheltering and animal care. The HSUS has offered to help the county create a humane society and to provide technical aid.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT CLOSES PUPPY MILL

The cooperation of nine Indiana animal-protection agencies has made it possible to close another puppy mill in the Great Lakes region. Peculiar circumstances led the Great Lakes office staff to conclude that surrender of the more than 225 animals by the owners would be a better course of action than pursuit of criminal animal-neglect charges based on the facility’s extreme overcrowding and poor living conditions. Great Lakes program coordinator Robin Weinacht met with the county prosecutor and later with the puppy-mill owners. After considerable negotiation, she obtained an agreement from the owners to surrender all animals and refrain from future breeding and selling of animals, in Indiana and elsewhere. Seventy-one dogs were removed in the last phase of this rescue and immediately transferred to shelters willing to take them in for potential adoption.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT CLOSES PUPPY MILL

Large exotic animals and wolf-dog hybrids often suffer at the hands of unskilled people breeding, selling, and keeping them as pets. State Sen. Charles Horn of Ohio has introduced legislation that would require owners of wolf hybrids and other inherently dangerous animals to have a $50,000 liability insurance policy on each animal. In September the bill was pending in the Ohio Senate Insurance Committee.

DOG-POUND DILEMMA

A representative of the Ohio Attorney General’s Office said she wasn’t sure whether it would take “fly swatters or a nuclear bomb” to get Noble County, Ohio, to comply with a state audit report that concluded that the county should cancel its contract for pound services with a for-profit business.

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Great Lakes program coordinator Robin Weinacht visited this Ohio facility being used by Noble County for pound services.

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The Northern Rockies Office has been monitoring the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as this agency and the USDA implement wild-burro adoption programs. We inspected the animals offered for adoption upon their arrival in Billings, Montana; the properties of potential adopters; and the trailers for transportation at adoption days for both horses and burros. We are also researching the viability of using wild burros to deter coyote predation in sheep flocks.

We recently investigated the death of a wild horse on the Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Refuge. The horse had become entangled in a barbed-wire fence near a remote natural spring. His body was discovered months later by a park visitor on horseback. Although the death was accidental, barbed wire should not have been used in the area of the spring. The Northern Rockies office is coordinating several work days for volunteers to remove miles of old barbed-wire fencing and fence posts from horse-management areas.
A mare and foal in Texas await shipment to slaughter; more than 315,000 horses were killed for human consumption in 1991.

**CONFERENCE IN APRIL A SUCCESS**

More than 150 people attended the “Animal Welfare: Outlooks for Success” conference sponsored by the Gulf States Regional Office and the Texas Federation of Humane Societies April 23–25, in Austin, Texas.

Workshops addressing search and seizure and the psychology of cruelty, as well as mock trials, were very popular. Workshops concerning nonprofit administration, grant writing, and newsletters were well attended by board members, executive directors, and shelter managers from the area.

**HORSE SLAUGHTER, THEFT ARE PROBLEMS**

More than 315,000 horses were slaughtered for human consumption in the United States in 1990.

Of twelve U.S. horse-slaughter plants, four operate in Texas. The Gulf States office is investigating the interstate shipment of horses destined for slaughter to determine the care these animals receive in transit.

Also of concern is the theft of horses, many of whom end up in slaughter plants. State Sen. Ted Lyon is expected to introduce legislation to curtail horse theft in Texas.

**REGIONAL POTPOURRI**

In Arkansas, Gulf States Regional Director James Noe and Rick Evans of the Human Society of Pulaski County have met with Gov. Bill Clinton’s staff to discuss the need for minimum operating standards for animal shelters across that state. The HSUS is optimistic that needed changes will take place in the very near future.

In Louisiana, Legislation in Support of Animals has successfully pushed through a bill that criminalizes wrestling–bear acts in the state. The new law provides up to a $500 fine or six-month jail penalty for those convicted.

**SOUTH CENTRAL**

“PONY SWIM” MUST CHANGE

Misty of Chincoteague immortalized the annual Chincoteague (Virginia) volunteer firemen’s cannival, sponsors of the island’s annual pony roundups and swims.

When Acting South Central Regional Director Jim Tedford and other HSUS staff attended the 1992 round-up, they didn’t like what they saw. “Salt-water cowboys” lassoed foals and dragged them from their mothers’ sides; foals were raffled off to tourists; and exhausted mares and stallions were whipped into a rodeo chute and ridden in “wild-pony rides.”

The HSUS has recommended provision of adequate transportation, later weaning of foals, elimination of wild-pony rides, and restricting pony penning to Labor Day, when cooler temperatures are likely.

If these changes are not made, we will seek to end all exploitation of the ponies.

**INCREASED PENALTIES FOR CRUELTY**

A Tennessee bill designed to increase the penalty for animal cruelty has become law. Cruelty to animals was upgraded to a class A misdemeanor, carrying a fine of up to $2,500 and a jail term of up to eleven months.

In Virginia the general assembly passed H.B. 1, which extends the statute of limitations on animal-cruelty offenses from one year to five years. Also passed were S.B. 252, to remove the authority of investigators to sell at auction animals confiscated from unfit owners, and H.R. 196, to establish a special study group to assess the feasibility of mandatory spaying/neutering of pets.

Kentucky’s H.B. 529, to outlaw cockfighting by removing the dogs used in the regulation of “animal” in the state’s anti-cruelty law, was never even heard in committee. H.B. 20, which weakened the already ineffectual cruelty statute by exempting certain practices (including the activities of animals used in hunting, field trials, and dog training), was vetoed by Gov. Brenton Jones, only to have his veto overridden by the general assembly.

**DOGFiGHTERS ARRESTED**

A yearlong dogfighting investigation by the HSUS ended in June with the arrests of two Pensacola, Florida, men.

Nine felony charges were filed against the men after a raid conducted by the Escambia County Sheriff’s Department and the HSUS. Thirty-five dogs, all alleged fighting pit, training equipment, records, and dogfighting paraphernalia were found on their properties.

“It’s sad to fathom that some people get enjoyment from seeing dogs tear each other apart,” said South east investigator Ken Johnson.

Dogfighting is a felony throughout the Southeast.

**GAME COMMISSION KEEPS WILDLIFE HEALTHY**

The Florida Game Commission shocked the HSUS and others earlier this year by rejecting its own staff’s recommendation to stop black-bear hunting.

The black bear was designated a threatened species in Florida seventeen years ago; estimates of the bear’s current numbers range from 400 to 1,500. Although many bears are lost to auto–bear interaction and automobile deaths, 60 were killed by hunters and their dogs during the most recent hunting season (see the Spring 1992 HSUS News).

A bill filed in the past legislative special session would have made it a felony to kill a black bear. Another called for the restructuring of the game commission to shift its focus from managing animals for hunting to wildlife protection.

The game commission has reduced the numbers of black bears to be hunted and killed this winter by requiring a 200-pound weight minimum for any bear killed.

The commission has consistently catered to the small minority of Florida citizens who hunt and ignored the concerns of the majority who do not. If positive action is not taken soon, the black bear will go the way of the endangered Florida panther.

**CRASH TESTS ROADBLOCKED**

The HSUS recently received personal thanks from California Assemblyman Mike Gotch for our help in the passage of A.B. 3691. The bill forbids the introduction of evidence based on live-animal testing in any product-liability action involving motor vehicles.

The law will take effect January 1, 1993. A.B. 3691 was introduced by Assem­blywoman Ellen Corcoran who was responding to news reports that General Motors was conducting automobile crash tests using live animals (GM is the only car manufacturer still conducting such tests; all others use computer simulations or crash dummies). Since GM stated such tests were necessary to protect itself from product-liability claims, A.B. 3691 forbade introduction of evidence derived from such tests, making them useless.

There is no longer any reason for them to be conducted, at least in California, the largest automobile market in the nation.