

GEORGIA CRUELTY

A Georgia man has been charged with cruelty to animals for his operation of a "dog farm."

More than 150 dogs were on the eighty-eight-acre property when HSUS and local humane society staff members, state agricultural officials, and local law-enforcement officials raided the site on January 26. The animals, mostly hunting dogs, were allegedly being fed only stale

bread and the carcasses of deer, cattle, and pigs.

Nineteen dogs and three opossums were confiscated. Humane agents obtained custody of 6 of the dogs immediately. The others were held as evidence, but one of them was in such poor condition that it died soon after being rescued.

Raymond David Cook was charged with cruelty to animals and illegal possession of wildlife.

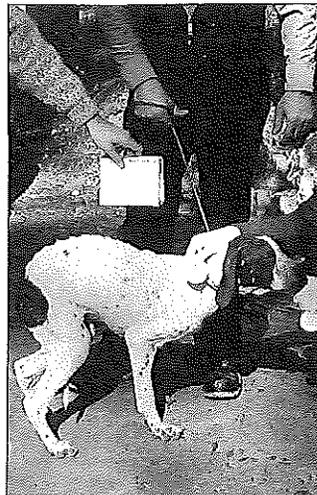
PET-FOOD TAX FOR FLORIDA?

A new source of funding for animal-control and spay/neuter programs is under consideration by the Florida legislature.

A proposed law would create a pet-food tax to be collected from wholesale suppliers. The 2 percent tax would mean only a slight price increase for pet owners. However, it could translate into a substantial income boost for animal-control departments. For some rural counties, it would provide the seed money needed to begin



Humane agents hold two of the nineteen dogs confiscated on the Raymond David Cook premises during a raid early this year.



animal-control programs.

The legislation calls for a large percentage of the tax revenues to be earmarked for sterilization programs. We believe that such a provision is necessary to ensure that the new funds will not only benefit existing programs but also be used to fight the state's pet-overpopulation problem.

MISSISSIPPI'S COCKFIGHTING TEN

A raid by The HSUS, the Mississippi Animal Rescue League, and the state highway patrol has led to the conviction of ten people for cockfighting.

Thirty-one roosters and a large assortment of fighting paraphernalia were confiscated

when law-enforcement officers and humane agents raided a cockfight near Prentiss, Mississippi, last November. One rooster died at the scene, and another was destroyed soon after the raid because of fight-related injuries.

In Mississippi, cockfighting is only a misdemeanor. Those convicted received \$50 fines and avoided jail time altogether.

ANIMAL CRUELTY A FELONY?

Georgia legislators are deciding whether to add felony penalties to the state's animal-cruelty laws. A bill filed by State Rep. Frank Redding calls for stiff penalties in instances of extreme abuse, including the sacrificial killing of animals.

The legislation is based on The HSUS's model felony animal-cruelty bill. It was first introduced last year, in response to the torture and killing of seventy-seven cats and kittens by a Dekalb County man. ■

NO BEARS IN BARS?

Efforts to ban live animal acts in food-service establishments have been boosted by L. D. Thurman of the Texas health department. He responded to Gulf States Regional Director James Noe's investigation of the enforcement of rule 229.168(h)(6) by stating that "a complete separation should be made between any animal act and any area where food is stored, prepared, displayed, or served."

The broad interpretation of

the rule by some local health inspectors had frustrated the efforts to prevent taverns and restaurants from using wrestling bear acts and other live animal acts as gimmicks. The clarification allows The HSUS to demand uniform compliance throughout the state.

GUIDING THE CURRICULUM

Regional program coordinator Dorothy Weller and Willow Ann Soltow of the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education are helping the Lewisville (Texas) Humane Society create guidelines for using animals in high school, vocational agriculture

classes. The guidelines will be similar to the ones used in biology classes.

EXPOSÉ LEADS TO LEGISLATION

After HSUS Investigator Bob Baker's November exposé of puppy mills in Oklahoma on KFOR-TV, State Reps. Howard Cotner, Sid Hudson, and Gary Bastion introduced H.B. 1154, which calls for kennels to be licensed and inspected by the state. Strict penalties for animal-care violations would be provided. State Sen. Ben Brown has sponsored S.J. Res. 2, which calls for a committee to study puppy mills. ■

NEW PET-STORE LAW

In 1990 the California legislature debated five bills aimed at correcting problems in the retail pet trade. One of those bills, A.B. 4300, has passed into law and will provide some protection for consumers that purchase a pet from a retail pet store. The new law requires that purchasers be provided with a standardized form that shows who the breeder of the animal is, what vaccinations and other veterinary treatment it has received, and whether it is free of diseases and illnesses that might require hospitalization or surgery. The law also strengthens the penalties for violations, which can include a pet store's being prohibited from selling animals for periods ranging from thirty days for the first offense to one year for the fourth offense.



A 1989 Columbia County, Oregon, raid on the Charlie Blake Pearce premises resulted in more than 300 arrests and a racketeering lawsuit against the promoter.

Civil penalties of up to \$10,000 can also be imposed.

OREGON PROMOTER FOUND GUILTY

An Oregon cockfight promoter has pleaded no contest and been found guilty of one charge relating to an illegal cockfighting operation run on his property west of St. Helens in Columbia County. A racketeering lawsuit against him stemming from the same case was settled out of court.

Under an agreement with the Columbia County district attorney's office, Charlie Blake Pearce was fined \$1,085; he will not receive a jail sentence unless he violates the terms of his probation. Mr. Pearce also agreed to pay \$62,500 in the out-of-court settlement of the racketeering lawsuit, which had been brought by the Oregon Department of Justice.

A raid was held after West Coast Regional Investigator Eric Sakach provided the Oregon state police with information about a major cock-

fighting derby on Mr. Pearce's property (see the Fall 1989 *HSUS News*). That raid resulted in the arrest of more than 300 people, including Mr. Pearce, for illegal animal fighting and in the seizure of almost \$90,000 in cash at the scene.

Trials for others arrested have begun and are expected to continue through the spring months.

TWO SUCCESS STORIES

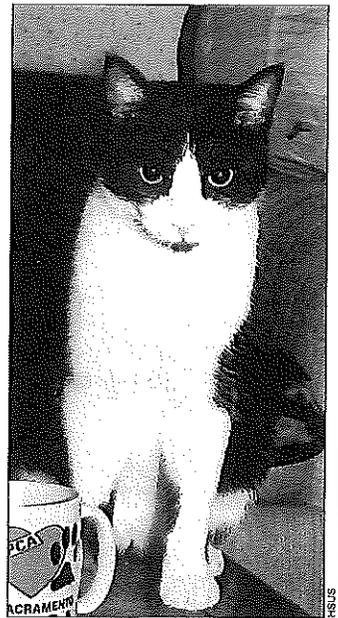
A new Sacramento, California, ordinance was the result of West Coast Regional Investigator Kurt Lapham's efforts on behalf of his daughter's three-year-old cat, Cicero, the victim of a steel-jaw leghold trap.

In September 1990 Cicero escaped from the family's home. Mr. Lapham found the cat in a neighbor's yard, a steel-jaw trap clamped tightly on his leg. Fortunately, Cicero received immediate veterinary care and recovered.

Mr. Lapham went to his city councilwoman and asked that she sponsor a citywide ban on steel-jaw traps. On January 15, 1991, the city council voted approval unanimously, making Sacramento one of the few California cities to have enacted such a progressive ordinance.

Information from The HSUS helped one of our California members to succeed in promoting a pound-seizure ordinance in her county. Armed with the information, she contacted county officials and drafted and circulated a petition. On January 22 her persistence and hard work paid off. The board of supervisors of Tuolumne County unanimously voted to adopt ordi-

nance #1813, whose effect is "to prohibit the sale or donation of dogs and cats to anyone for research purposes." Copies of the ordinance are available from the West Coast Regional Office.



Cicero survived a close encounter with a leghold trap thanks to his owners' vigilance.

BERKELEY OUTLAWS DRAIZE

Last fall the staff of the West Coast Regional Office eagerly offered its assistance to the city council of Berkeley, California, after learning that the council was willing to consider outlawing the Draize test and skin-irritancy tests. Such an ordinance was passed, and it became effective on January 1. Anyone violating or contributing to the violation of the ordinance is guilty of an infraction. West Coast Regional Director Char Drennon said, "As far as we can determine, Berkeley is the first city to take such action to stop these cruel and unnecessary tests." ■

SHAMEFUL HARVEST

An investigative report on puppy mills, "Shameful Harvest," was aired in November on NBC affiliate WGAL-TV in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. WGAL staff members went undercover with HSUS investigator Bob Reder to bring the overcrowded, unsanitary conditions at a Lancaster kennel to the attention of viewers. The station reported that over 95 percent of the hundreds of viewers who called or wrote to comment on the series approved of it.

The Humane League of Lancaster County, the Chester County SPCA, and the York County SPCA also contributed to the story.

PUPPY-MILL BOYCOTT URGED

In press conferences held in the Philadelphia and New York City areas in December, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office asked consumers to boycott pet stores that sell animals bred in Pennsylvania puppy mills.

Dr. Stephen M. Kritsick, HSUS staff veterinarian, joined HSUS Investigator Bob Baker and Mr. Reder, who shared their observations of more than 600 mass-breeding kennels in the Midwest and Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania State Sen. Stuart Greenleaf pledged his support of the HSUS boycott and said that he intended to introduce legislation that would help end the misery of puppy-mill animals.

Two New Jersey lawmakers, State Sen. Carmen Orechio



Bob Baker, Maureen Ogden, and Carmen Orechio (left to right) announce plans for stronger legislation in New Jersey.

and State Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden, spoke in support of The HSUS at the well-attended Madison press conference and said that they would introduce stronger sale-of-animals legislation.

The combined media coverage reached millions of people in the nation's most expensive

advertising markets. "CBS Evening News" aired portions of the press conferences the following week. The success of the press conferences is due in no small part to The HSUS's dedicated staff and volunteers and the many people who assisted in planning the two media events. ■

IMPROVING TENNESSEE

Recently Adelia Wyner, president of Tennessee's newly formed McMinn Regional Humane Society, asked the South Central Regional Office for assistance in establishing realistic goals and setting a course for change. An initial goal was to see improvements in the Athens, Tennessee, animal shelter.

Bill Kervin, Athens public works director, requested a detailed

evaluation of the shelter's animal-control program. South Central Regional Director Phillip Snyder's thorough evaluation was submitted to the Athens city council for consideration. It was accepted in its entirety, and many of the shelter's problems are being corrected.

Such cooperative efforts between humane societies and local government agencies can benefit all parties involved.

A COMPLAINT NOT SO ROUTINE

In responding to a routine noise complaint, officers from the

Onslow County, North Carolina, sheriff's department found themselves caught up in a dog-fight raid. Six arrests were made and twenty-one pit bull dogs were confiscated by the animal-control department. Gail Whipple of the Carolina Animal Protection Society contacted the South Central Regional Office for advice on how to proceed with the case.

Of primary concern was the wellbeing of the confiscated animals. The HSUS recommended that the animals be held, but when the prospect of returning them to their owners became inevitable, the court required that they be tattooed and photographed prior to release.

Charges against four of the defendants were dropped because of insufficient evidence. Of the remaining two defendants, one pleaded guilty to charges of cruelty to animals and failing to provide necessary sustenance. The other was convicted of possessing a dog for the purpose of fighting.

CLASS B DEALER PROTEST HELD

On January 25 Project Underdog, a committee of the Humane Society of Eastern North Carolina, held a candlelight vigil in Burlington to protest alleged abuse by licensed North Carolina class B animal dealers making sales to Carolina Biological Supply Company and other parties. More than 150 concerned citizens heard a statement of The HSUS's positions on pound seizure, classroom dissection, and inhumane methods of destruction issued by the South Central Regional Office.

The South Central office will continue its involvement in such protests. ■

PUPPY-MILL PROJECT

The Great Lakes Regional Office has asked humane societies in the region to send it all pet shop and puppy-mill complaints so that the centralized information can be used to justify a call for legislation addressing the pet industries of Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia, and Michigan. The Great Lakes office has prepared an information packet to help consumers, humane organizations, animal-control agencies, and others right some wrongs in the puppy-mill trade. We recommend that the puppy-mill problem be attacked from all angles. We hope that if consumers file complaints with small claims courts, state consumer-protection divisions, Better Business Bureaus, state departments of revenue, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more attention will be drawn to the problems in the pet industry. Improvements may then be possible.

Recently an Indiana puppy mill voluntarily shut down when the owner was faced with the prospect of meeting USDA licensing requirements in order to continue running his previously regulation-free business. The testimony of disgruntled consumers will be instrumental to the passage of an Ohio bill expected to be introduced within the next few months. The bill would impose regulations on animal shelters, commercial kennels, grooming shops, and pet shops to protect both animal and consumer welfare.



A miserable puppy-mill pup is on its way to a Great Lakes pet store. The HSUS hopes to see pet-industry problems addressed through legislation in all states in the region.

REGIONAL FARM NOTES

The Great Lakes Regional Office, the Northeast Ohio Greens, the Sierra Club, and the Food Co-op will cosponsor an appearance by Jim Hightower, former commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture, as keynote speaker at the annual conference of the

Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association.

In an effort to promote The HSUS's Humane Sustainable Agriculture program, Great Lakes Regional Director Sandy Rowland has spoken to several farm groups. She has discussed the goals of the program and attempted to allay their fears about proposed amendments to Ohio's anticruelty statute. (The



Farm-animal welfare and the HSUS Humane Sustainable Agriculture program have been examined in the region.

Great Lakes office has worked to change the Ohio statute by adding neglect of animals as a violation. At least one farm publication unjustly criticized that effort and attempted to incite farmers into opposing reintroduction of the amendments.) The amendments will be reintroduced during this session.

A WELCOME VETO IN OHIO

The Great Lakes Regional Office welcomed Gov. Richard Celeste's veto of a so-called hunter-protection bill that had been rammed through the Ohio legislature during the session's final hours in 1990.

S.B. 317 had been intended to halt protests near fur stores. When it became evident that legislation prohibiting the picketing of retail stores had no chance of passage, the Ohio-based Wildlife Legislative Fund moved in to ram through what it referred to as its hunter-harassment bill.

The bill would have made it illegal to occupy any location in which one's presence might affect the behavior of a wild animal being hunted, fished, or trapped, provided that one knows or should know of that effect. It would also have prohibited noise or conduct that would frighten the animal or diminish a hunter's ability to kill the animal and would have made it unlawful to release a pet animal from an illegally set trap.

Ms. Rowland and lobbyist Bill Long appeared on radio talk shows to discuss the flaws in the bill, particularly its restriction of speech.

Unfortunately, the Wildlife Legislative Fund has managed to have the bill reintroduced in the 1991 session. ■

LEGISLATURES RESPOND

In May 1990, when The HSUS urged consumers to stop buying dogs bred or brokered in six midwestern states, President John A. Hoyt stated that the boycott would stand until those states enforced current laws or enacted legislation regulating the puppy-mill industry.

State Sen. Merton L. Dierks of Nebraska recently introduced L.B. 282, aimed at regulating and licensing commercial breeding facilities.

Four bills introduced in Missouri are intended to raise the health-care standards for pet shops, commercial breeding facilities, and animal shelters. They are S.B. 14, sponsored by State Sen. John Scott; S.B. 65, sponsored by State Sen. John Schneider; S.B. 127, sponsored by State Sen. Harry Wiggins; and H.B. 46, sponsored by State Rep. Patrick Dougherty.

BILL TO BE WITHDRAWN

Senator Wiggins recently introduced a bill that would require all public animal shelters in Missouri to surrender unclaimed strays to research facilities, a practice known as pound seizure.

Regional director Wendell E. Maddox met with Senator Wiggins and pointed out that the use of shelter animals in research could destroy the public's confidence in humane societies and animal-control programs. He also reported that an HSUS telephone survey of over fifty Missouri shelters had re-

vealed that only one shelter would be willing to turn over its animals to a research facility.

Senator Wiggins agreed to withdraw the bill.

KENNEL OWNERS CHARGED

On October 31, 1990, agents from the Kansas attorney general's office, the state's animal-health department, and the Miami County sheriff's depart-

ment raided Dee's Toy Kennel and seized more than 106 malnourished dogs. Officials said that the dogs were being housed in decrepit, filthy cages.

The kennel owner was charged with one count of cruelty to animals, a one-count violation of the animal dealers act for not holding a state license, and a one-count violation of the animal dealers act for cruelty to animals. In January the owner pleaded

guilty to charges of cruelty and operating without a license.

The owner of a kennel in Madrid, Iowa, was charged with three counts of animal cruelty for failing to provide veterinary care for 3 dogs. In January the facility was investigated by agents from the Boone County sheriff's department and the state highway patrol, Tom Colvin of the Iowa Federation of Humane Societies, and Dr. Russell Carrier of the Iowa Division of Disease Control. The USDA has revoked the owner's license.

HOYT TO SPEAK IN ST. LOUIS

On May 10 HSUS President Hoyt will be the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Missouri League for Humane Progress, which is being cosponsored by The HSUS. For more information, contact the HSUS Midwest Regional Office, Argyle Building, 306 East 12th Street, Suite 625, Kansas City, MO 64106. ■



An HSUS boycott targets Midwest puppy mills such as this one.

KAREN WOOD SIGNS HERE

Red signs reading "Posted in Memory of Karen Wood: No Hunting, No Trespassing" are available from the New England Regional Office.

In November 1988 Karen Wood of Hermon, Maine, was shot to death by a hunter while she was in her backyard. Last fall a jury found the hunter innocent of manslaughter.

Maine resident Lorraine Tedeschi recently

established the Karen Wood Memorial Fund and began selling the signs, with all of the proceeds going toward the education of the Wood children. The New England Regional Office purchased \$500 worth of signs and is reselling them to HSUS members. The money collected will also go to the children's fund.

The price of each sign is \$2.00 for fewer than six, \$1.75 for six to twenty, or \$1.50 for more than twenty. Signs can be ordered from the HSUS New England Regional Office, PO Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423. Include a check made out to the Karen Wood Memorial Fund.

CORRECTING THE IMBALANCE

In the wake of the Karen Wood tragedy, associate regional director Arnold F. Baer testified before the Connecticut general assembly's environmental committee to support the passage of legislation that would increase the permissible rifle- and shotgun-firing distances from dwellings. Calls for similar legislation have been issued in Maine and New Hampshire.

Mr. Baer maintained that past concessions to hunters need to be reviewed and noted that New England residents are calling for a change. ■