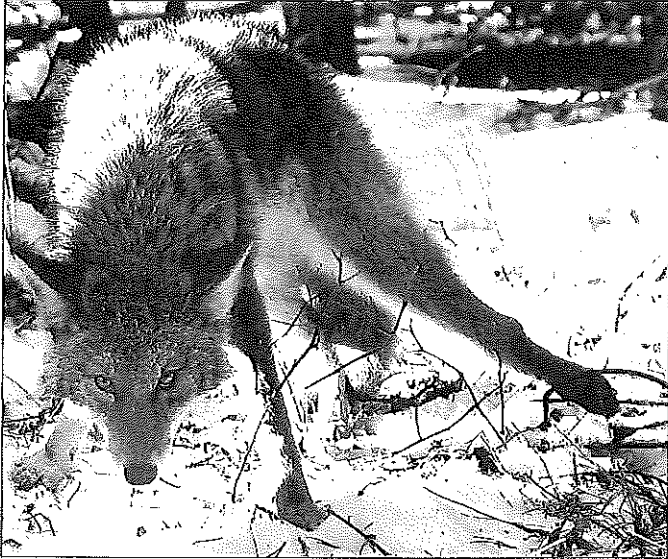


# FEDERAL REPORT



The USDA's Animal Damage Control program kills or injures millions of predators, such as this coyote in a leghold trap.

## ADC PETITIONS FLOOD CONGRESS

Each year the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Animal Damage Control (ADC) program, kills over 4.5 million wild animals using lethal methods (see the article on page 16). We believe that such methods, which include leghold trapping, poisoning, denning, neck snaring, and aerial hunting, are cruel and barbaric. Many others agree with us.

Alerted by The HSUS last year to the ADC program's cruel policy of extermination, our supporters sent Congress tens of thousands of petitions and letters calling for changes in the program.

Dr. John W. Grandy, HSUS vice president for wildlife and habitat protection, and Dale Didion, vice president for government relations, took the petitions to Jo Ann Smith, USDA assistant secretary of marketing and inspection services, who is responsible for the ADC program.

The HSUS asked that the ADC's Environmental Impact Statement be withdrawn and redrafted to include nonlethal methods of predator control, that nonlethal methods be made a priority, that lethal methods be used selectively and only as a last resort, and that a larger percentage of the program's funds be spent on researching and applying nonlethal methods.



HSUS vice presidents John W. Grandy (left) and Dale Didion present petitions to USDA assistant secretary Jo Ann Smith.

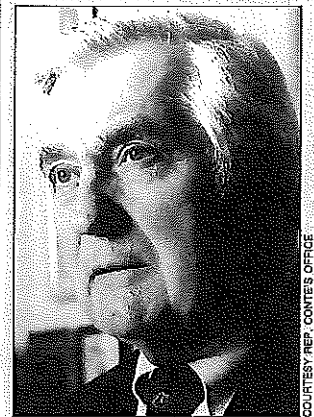
The HSUS will continue to ask Congress and the USDA for changes in the program and monitor it closely.

## FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR THE AWA

Within the USDA is a relatively new department, Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care (REAC). Its sole responsibility is to enforce the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). For years The HSUS and other groups have pressed the USDA and Congress to increase the funds spent on the inspection of research facilities, animal exhibitors, and the wholesale pet trade.

Congress has increased its funding of the REAC program itself from roughly \$6.6 million in 1988 to \$9.6 million in 1991. Yet the agency has increased its staff by only 10 people (from 166 to 176) in the same period.

That meager staff increase has taken place even though the number of sites that the inspectors must visit has increased by an average of 400 a year. REAC officials say that they expect the



Rep. Silvio O. Conte

## REP. SILVIO O. CONTE DIES

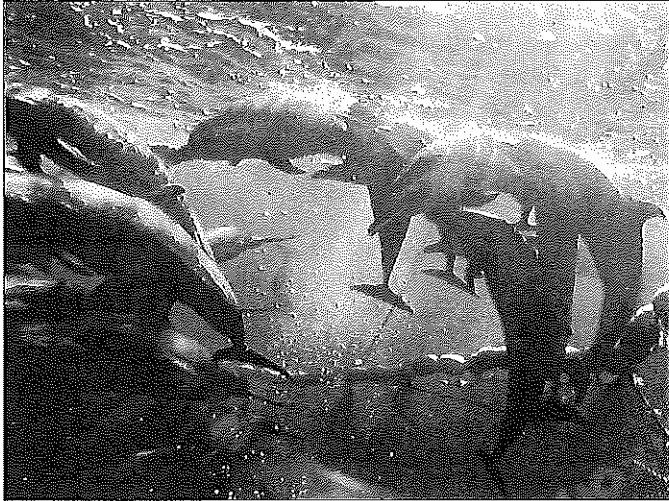
Congress recently lost one of its most respected and distinguished members, Rep. Silvio O. Conte of Massachusetts, who died on February 8.

Representative Conte was receptive to the interests of The HSUS when we and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) testified before Congress on the need for funding that would promote the development and use of nonanimal testing methods. The HSUS is proud to count itself among the many who will miss Silvio Conte. ■

number of sites to continue to grow, in which case REAC inspectors will be forced to perform more (and less thorough) inspections every year.

The 1992 budget that President Bush sent to Congress recommends \$9.3 million—but no increase in staff—for REAC.

The HSUS will use strong language in urging the USDA to increase REAC's staff so as to improve conditions for animals.



*The Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act, passed in 1990, set the standard for the "Dolphin Safe" label.*

## NEW LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

Six animal-protection bills have been introduced in Congress during 1991:

- H.R. 252, which would provide protection for veal calves, was introduced by Rep. Charles Bennett of Florida.
- H.R. 585 and S. 58, which would establish a national policy for the conservation of biological diversity, were introduced by Rep. James Scheuer and Sen. Daniel Moynihan, both of New York.
- H.R. 330, which would stop recreational hunting and trapping on wildlife refuges, was introduced by Rep. Bill Green of New York.
- H.R. 261, which would end the practice of purse-seine fishing for tuna by 1993, was introduced by Rep. Barbara Boxer of California.
- H.R. 744, which would prohibit the importation of Australian kangaroos and kangaroo products into the United States, was introduced by Rep. Robert Mrazek of New York.

Representative Green's bill had seventy-two cosponsors

when the 101st Congress ended and is being given special attention by The HSUS, which is part of the Wildlife Refuge Reform Coalition, fifty-nine organizations that oppose sport hunting in national wildlife refuges.

The Boxer bill follows on the heels of the success achieved in 1990, when Congress passed the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act, spon-



*H.R. 744 would prohibit the importation of Australian kangaroos and kangaroo products; it was introduced by Rep. Robert Mrazek.*

sored by Representative Boxer and Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware. That legislation set the standard for the "Dolphin Safe" label currently seen on tuna cans nationwide. Now that Congress and the major tuna processors have responded to our call for dolphin protection, it is time to end the onerous practice of purse-seine fishing altogether.

## CONGRESS RECONVENES

The 102nd Congress, which began on January 3, 1991, is getting off to a slow start, in part because of the war in the Persian Gulf and in part because Congress traditionally moves slowly at the beginning of its two-year session. January and February were organizing months, and Congress began to get down to business in earnest in March.

In February Congress made its final decisions on committee and subcommittee chairmanships. The appointment of Rep. Charlie Rose of North

Carolina as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's department operations subcommittee was one of the more significant changes from the standpoint of animal-protection advocates. Formerly chaired by Rep. George Brown of California, the subcommittee is responsible for the oversight of USDA programs, including the enforcement of the AWA. Like Representative Brown, Representative Rose has been a much-appreciated supporter of animal protection on the Agriculture Committee. He has sponsored bills mandating a moratorium on the patenting of genetically engineered animals and granting standing to sue on behalf of any animal protected by the AWA. He has cosponsored many other animal-protection bills.

## AWA STANDARDS RELEASED

In February the USDA issued new AWA standards for dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates. The standards cover the care, treatment, handling, and transportation of those animals by laboratories, dealers, exhibitors, and carriers.

The new standards are the final installments of new and revised regulations that the USDA has issued in the aftermath of congressionally mandated AWA amendments passed in 1985.

The HSUS is glad that the USDA has finally finished translating the 1985 amendments into regulations. The latest standards will significantly improve the plight of dogs, cats, and primates. However, the USDA regulations fall short in providing exercise for dogs and creating environments that promote the



The HSUS has asked Congress for additional funding for the USDA so it can inspect puppy mills more frequently.

psychological well-being of primates.

"The USDA essentially lets the researchers develop their own plans for exercise and well-being," notes Dr. Martin L. Stephens, HSUS vice president for laboratory animals.

### FOSTER PET PROGRAMS

The HSUS has learned that many members of the military were forced to give up their pets when called to duty in the Persian Gulf. Because

animal shelters are not equipped to keep such animals until their owners return, The HSUS has suggested to approximately 3,000 shelters nationwide that they consider setting up programs that match the pets with foster homes. Shelters could solicit donations of pet food and supplies to be made available to households that must consider giving up their pets because of hardship stemming from the deployment of a family member to the Persian Gulf. Programs are also be-



Animal shelters and veterinarians are assisting those forced to consider giving up pets owing to hardship caused by a family member's deployment to the Persian Gulf.

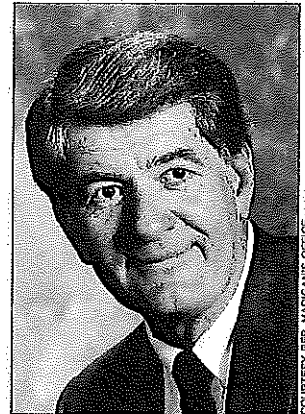
ing established through veterinary clinics on military bases across the country. The HSUS has informed members of Congress that a number of shelters are setting up such programs, and, when possible, we are helping members of Congress inform their constituents of participating shelters in their jurisdictions.

### HSUS SEEKS APPROPRIATIONS

The HSUS is focusing on obtaining appropriations for a number of ongoing federal programs.

We will be testifying before Congress to seek appropriations for enforcement of the AWA. We will ask Congress to give special attention to two areas: the continuing need for the development and use of nonlethal means of animal damage control and the need for additional appropriations that would enable the USDA to conduct more frequent and more stringent inspections of puppy mills.

The HSUS has exposed puppy-mill abuses locally and through national television programs such as ABC's "20/20" and CBS's "Face to Face with Connie Chung." On Capitol Hill, we are asking that funds be specifically targeted for inspections of puppy mills. The HSUS is also working with the MSPCA in asking Congress for increased funds for the National Toxicology Program (NTP), whose mission statement directs it to seek out alternatives to animal research. Last year we lobbied successfully for additional funds for NTP. We will continue to press for more funds to be specifically used for the validation of non-animal tests.



COURTESY REP. MADIGAN'S OFFICE

Rep. Edward Madigan

### THE NEW SECRETARY

In January President George Bush nominated Rep. Edward Madigan of Illinois to succeed Clayton Yeutter, the outgoing secretary of agriculture. In March Representative Madigan's nomination was confirmed by both houses of Congress.

As the top Republican member of the House Agriculture Committee, Representative Madigan had jurisdiction over agricultural programs involving food safety, agricultural research, conservation, wetlands protection, food labeling, and animal welfare. He was also the top Republican on the House Energy Committee's subcommittee on health and the environment, which handles, among other issues, environmental protection legislation.

Representative Madigan received strong support for the agriculture post from leaders of both political parties. We plan to meet with him to discuss the many animal-protection issues that involve the USDA.