

# REGIONS REVIEW

SOUTHEAST

## FLORIDA SETBACK

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission recently approved regulations that allow the hunting of foxes and coyotes within large fenced enclosures. The animals are chased—and often torn apart—by packs of hounds that have been released in the pens.

Southeast Regional Investigator Ken Johnson appeared before the game commission and argued that fox/coyote pens should be banned.

In May we launched a campaign to alert animal activists in Florida to the pending regulations. Newspaper articles and editorials denounced the proposed legalization of the pens.

The commission ultimately caved in to pressure applied by a tiny hunting constituency, but our efforts forced it to have the



FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

*The condition of these coyotes, removed from a fox/coyote pen, explains why The HSUS believes that such pens should be banned.*

regulations include provisions that could lessen the cruelty of hunts in fox/coyote pens.

## JACKRABBITS INTERCEPTED

A shipment of fifty-four jackrabbits was intercepted in May by The HSUS and the Florida

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Richard Hoyt Gaines was arrested and charged with cruelty to animals and the illegal importation of jackrabbits into the state. According to some accounts, the rabbits were to be delivered to a kennel in the Orlando area and used to train greyhounds

to race.

The arrest was a result of the Southeast Regional Office's ongoing investigation of the cruelties of the greyhound-racing industry. Coursing (allowing dogs to chase and kill rabbits) is a felony in Florida, but the practice is common there as well as in other states.

Mr. Gaines agreed to plead guilty to the charge of illegal importation in exchange for the cruelty charge's being dropped by a state attorney's office. The Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering is questioning the kennel owner to whom the jackrabbits were reportedly being delivered.

## SEPTEMBER SEMINAR

The Southeast Regional Office and the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia will host an animal-protection seminar September 5-6 in Brunswick. For information, call the Southeast office at (904) 386-3435. ■

MID-ATLANTIC

## DIRECTOR HONORED

Scott McVay, executive director of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation since 1975, has been honored by The HSUS for his dedication in continuing the legacy of Geraldine R. Dodge—her care and concern for animals. Mr. McVay received an award on April 10 at Drew University.

Since 1975 the Dodge Foundation has distributed more than \$6.7 million in grants to nonprofit groups working on behalf of animals.

Grants have gone to Yale University, the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, the veterinary schools at Cornell, Auburn, and Purdue Universities, the Tuskegee Institute, and the University of Illinois.

The National Audubon Society, New Jersey Audubon, the Manomet Bird Observatory, and Tufts University have been among the grant recipients working on wildlife-related issues. The HSUS's *Pocket Guide to the Humane Control of Wildlife in Cities and Towns* was published with the Dodge Foundation's assistance.

Since 1985 the foundation has made eighty-four grants to thirty-seven groups in New Jersey. ■



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPHY

*Tom Kean, former New Jersey governor, and Nina Austenberg, HSUS MidAtlantic regional director, help Scott McVay display the award he received in April.*

## A CRUEL HOAX

Although many concerned HSUS members in Virginia had made telephone calls to oppose it, a bill permitting hunting on a wildlife refuge was passed by the state's general assembly and signed by Gov. Douglas Wilder early this year. The new law allows "limited hunting during the regular hunting season" on the New Kent Wildlife Refuge and Forestry Center in rural Kent County.

An Action Alert sent by the South Central office had urged HSUS members to ask the governor to veto the bill and consider alternative means of animal-damage control. Unfortunately, he allowed a bill that undermined the protection of wildlife on a refuge to become law.

## P.A.L. IN THE SOUTH

Organizations throughout the region observed The HSUS's "Prevent A Litter" Month in April. The Greeneville-Greene County (Tennessee) Humane Society placed HSUS spay/neuter messages on bank and shopping-center marquees and sponsored a billboard that displayed such a message on a major thoroughfare. The South Central office applauds the efforts of that organization.

## LOCAL SOCIETY SEEKS ADVICE

South Central Regional Director Phillip Snyder recently conducted a formal evaluation of

the Knox County (Tennessee) Humane Society's facilities and programs. Among the recommendations made by Mr. Snyder were additional staff members, extended service hours, better record-keeping procedures, and new or extensively renovated shelter facilities.

Many of those recommendations are being implemented, according to the Knox County Humane Society's Vicky Crosetti. "I feel very fortunate to have had input from The HSUS just as I started as executive director," she said.

The assistance of the HSUS South Central office is available to any organization in the region in need of it. ■



*An evaluation of shelter facilities was part of Phillip Snyder's recent review of the Knox County Humane Society's operations. Many of Mr. Snyder's recommendations are being implemented.*

## SWINGING INTO SPRING

Midwinter and spring always bring increased legislative activity in the New England Regional Office. We have been particularly active during the 1991 sessions.

Standards for transporting dogs in open trucks, the Draize test, puppy mills, and rabies were hot issues in Connecticut. In Massachusetts, we concentrated on bills outlawing the use of dogs to hunt bears and increasing the minimum age at which dogs may be imported from out of state to be sold. Banning the steel-jaw leghold trap and, once again, improving the conditions under which dogs are transported in open trucks were our goals in New Hampshire. Having dogs in open trucks be transported under humane con-

ditions was a goal of ours in Rhode Island as well, as were having bounties on animals prohibited and having fines for cruelty violations increased. Vermont legislators debated the Draize and LD50 tests, and we did our best to educate them.

Members of the New England office staff have provided testimony, information, and assistance to various legislative committees and lawmakers, and we await the outcome of our efforts.

## RABIES HITS NEW ENGLAND

On April 3 a raccoon captured in Ridgefield, Connecticut, tested positive for rabies. A week later a second raccoon found within four miles of the first also tested positive.

On April 19 Gov. Lowell Weicker of Connecticut signed S.B. 717, which mandates that all dogs and cats three months of age or older be vaccinated for rabies. As a member of

Connecticut's rabies advisory council, the New England Regional Office, along with veterinarians, state officials, and representatives of interested organizations, is helping to formulate plans, procedures, and policies to be used in combating the disease.

## CONFERENCES ABOUND

In April regional program coordinator Frank Ribaldo teamed up with the New York State Humane Association's Samantha Mullen at the Vermont Humane Federation's annual conference to present a workshop on animal collectors. Mr. Ribaldo will present a similar workshop at a meeting of the New England Federation of Humane Societies. He also took part in a discussion on feral cats at a seminar sponsored by the New England Regional Office and the Rhode Island Animal Control Association. ■

## DRAIZE BILL PASSES TEST

The HSUS has strongly supported a California bill that would prohibit manufacturers from using live animals to test the effects of chemicals. A.B. 110 was passed by the state assembly, and it has been heard in the state senate.

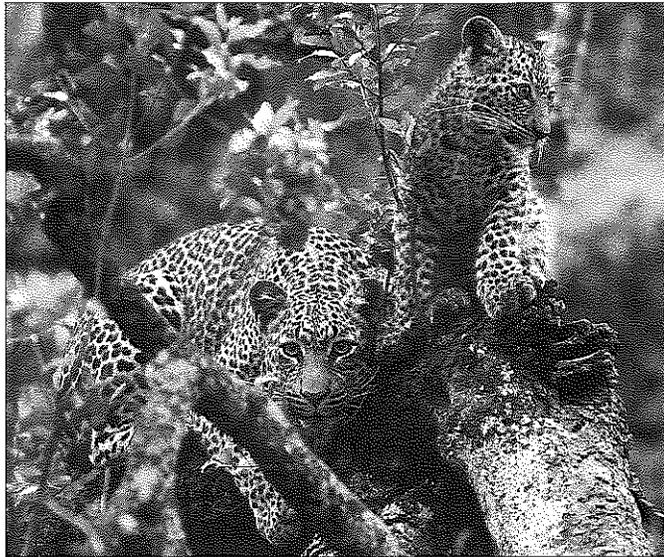
The West Coast Regional Office asks HSUS members to write to The Honorable Pete Wilson, Governor of California, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, and urge

him to support the bill.

## COCKFIGHTING UPDATE

Although the nationwide trend has been to increase the penalties for participating in cockfighting, California is dangerously close to legalizing certain aspects of the cruel blood sport. Introduced by State Assembly Member Richard Floyd, A.B. 2165 would permit game-fowl shows or exhibitions featuring "tests for gameness" and would repeal laws against killing or wounding birds in public cemeteries and minors' attending cockfights, among other things. Cockfighting interests claim that the bill would regulate the raising of game fowl by establishing a breeders' registration program to be administered by the state department of food and agriculture.

A.B. 2165 has cleared the assembly's committee on agriculture and stands a chance of being passed by the assembly in an amended form even more favorable to cockfighting interests. Concerned California



*Leopards are among the species alleged to have been purchased for trophy hunting at a Monterey County man's game ranch.*

residents should urge their state senators to vote against A.B. 2165 if the bill is introduced in the senate. Letters to state senators should be addressed as follows: The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

## GAME-RANCH OWNER CITED

In a complaint filed in April, Floyd Lester Patterson III, the operator of a Monterey County, California, game ranch, was alleged to have purchased a number of animals belonging to endangered species, including leopards and Bengal tigers, that were to be killed by hunters seeking trophies. He has been charged with twenty-seven misdemeanor counts of violating California's endangered species law and permit requirements. Criminal charges have also been brought against Mr. Patterson's wife and a local taxidermist. According to Assistant District Attorney Klar Wennerhohn, two of Patterson's clients are expected to be

charged with misdemeanors as well, and felony charges might also be filed.

The investigation was conducted by state game wardens and agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. West Coast Regional Investigator Eric Sakach has asked Assembly Member Sam Farr's office to try to find out how the exotic animals were imported and where they were obtained. The West Coast office will keep HSUS members informed about developments in the case.

## SEMINAR A HIT UP NORTH

In March The HSUS and PAWS of Lynnwood, Washington, co-hosted an urban wildlife seminar in Seattle. Char Drennon, HSUS West Coast regional director, moderated the morning session. HSUS President John A. Hoyt, the keynote speaker, was honored at a reception hosted by the Washington State Federation. Our thanks go to everyone who helped make those events successful. ■

## PIGEON PROTEST

The shooting of live pigeons at what are known as "flier shoots" seems to be gaining popularity in the North Central region. After being trapped at grain elevators and other locations, such birds are held captive in small enclosures for days, then released as "sportsmen" try to kill them with shotguns.

Although many states outlaw such events, Illinois and Minnesota do not. North Central

Regional Director Frantz Dantzler recently attended a protest held at the scene of a flier shoot near Canton, Illinois. Only a few birds escaped unharmed; most of the pigeons were killed or wounded by the gunfire.

In an opinion that The HSUS had requested in an effort to have the event canceled, the Illinois attorney general's office stated that the shoot could be held because the conservation department had issued a permit for it. A bill outlawing flier shoots had been introduced by State Rep. John Matijevec. Unfortunately, the measure died in committee.

More than 100 gunners had been expected to take part in a similar event held in Minnesota, but only about 20 showed up. Clearly, the negative publicity generated by the Illinois flier shoot was a factor in keeping people away.

"Both events illustrate the need for legislative reform," said Mr. Dantzler. "Fourteen states have specifically outlawed this spectacle. It is time for other states to do the same." ■

## OFFERING ASSISTANCE

In February Great Lakes Regional Director Sandy Rowland assisted officials of the Medina County (Ohio) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals when, equipped with a search warrant, they removed sixty-nine dogs from a kennel. The dogs were being housed in filthy quarters. A thirteen-count charge of cruelty to animals was filed against the kennel owner.

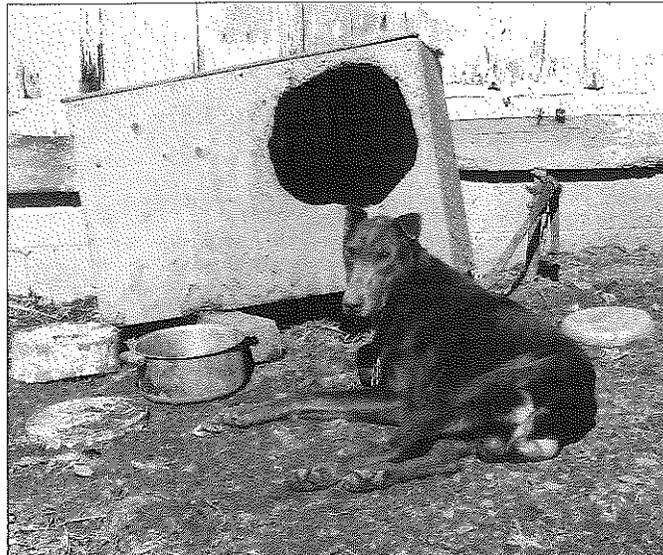
Program coordinator Robin Weirauch helped the Ashtabula County (Ohio) Humane Society conduct a raid on a puppy mill in February. Two persons were charged with cruelty to animals and found guilty.

In March Ms. Rowland assisted the Humane Society of Huron Valley in removing 233 cats from an Ypsilanti, Michigan, cattery. The owner, an elderly woman, was persuaded to surrender the cats rather than face cruelty-to-animals charges.

## STATEHOUSE ACTIONS

Bills pending in Ohio would impose licensing requirements on pet shops, kennels, and shelters, control exotic-animal ownership, and update the anti-cruelty statute. Also pending in Ohio is a hunter-harassment proposal opposed by The HSUS.

Michigan's legislature is deciding whether to strengthen the penalties for dogfighting and cockfighting, create felony penalties for maliciously killing



*A Doberman is one of almost 100 dogs taken from an Ashtabula County puppy mill in February. The HSUS assisted in the rescue.*

an animal, and restrict exotic-animal ownership.

West Virginia lawmakers have passed amendments requiring that all animals receive veterinary care and allowing

the confiscation of animals involved in a cruelty case.

Unfortunately, Indiana legislators have extended the state's open season on coyotes. ■

## AUCTIONS EXPOSED

Gulf States Regional Director James Noe worked closely with the producers of NBC's "Expose" in compiling a recently aired news story that depicted the cruelty inflicted on livestock in auction markets. By the time some animals reach an auction site, they have become incapable of moving about under their own power and must be dragged from one part of the premises to another. The

HSUS has called on auction operators to stop accepting "down" animals for sale. We hope for the passage of legisla-

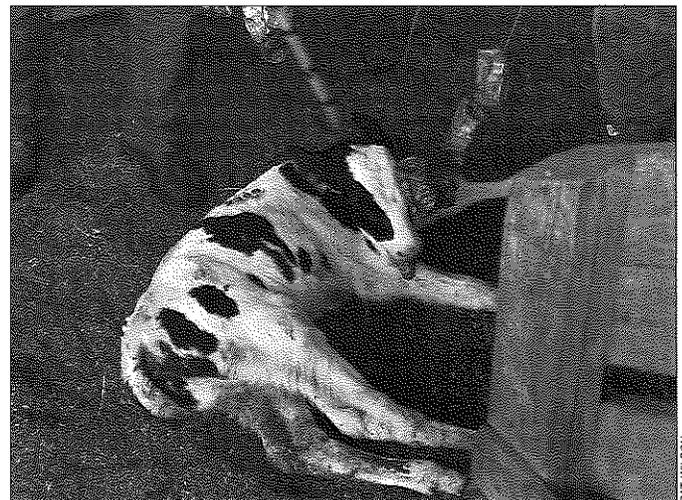
tion that prohibits such cruelty and makes auction operators bear responsibility for violations committed by their employees. ■

## SPOTLIGHT ON COCKFIGHTING

The Gulf States office's anti-cockfighting campaign continues to gain momentum in Oklahoma. During a recent appearance on an evening news show broadcast in Oklahoma City, regional program coordinator Dorothy Weller focused unwanted attention on cockfighting enthusiasts and clubs. Many Oklahomans erroneously assume that cockfighting is already prohibited in their state. The HSUS is taking every opportunity to inform Oklahoma residents of the facts and encourage their active involvement in having that cruel sport outlawed.

## NEW PERSPECTIVES URGED IN TEXAS

In March the Gulf States office conducted a regional conference, "New Perspectives on Old Problems," in Austin, Texas. The conference attracted more than 100 humane society employees and animal-control officers. It was cosponsored by the Texas Humane Federation. ■



*Young calves suffer before and during livestock auctions nationwide. The HSUS worked on an exposé of the problem.*

## "P.A.L." SPELLS SUCCESS

The Newton (Iowa) Animal Rescue League and Humane Society has created one of the most successful spay/neuter/adoption programs in the country. Part of the credit for the program's success goes to The HSUS's "Be a P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter" campaign. "Be a P.A.L." materials and HSUS guidance helped the Newton organization address both the problem of pet overpopulation and the need

to find homes for impounded animals.

Credit for the program's success also goes to the Jasper County Veterinarians Association, members of which performed spay/neuter procedures at reduced prices.

The Newton Animal Rescue League began its spay/neuter/adoption program in March 1990. Initial funding for the program came from the May-

tag-Madsen Foundation. Statistics for the program's first year show that approximately 50 percent of the 1,598 animals impounded at the shelter were later spayed or neutered and placed in homes.

## NO MORE CLUBBING

A Macon, Missouri, animal-control officer has admitted that within a year he clubbed at least eighty dogs to death in an attempt to destroy them humanely. The dogs had been buried in a shallow grave behind the city's animal shelter, operated by the animal-control officer.

The clubbing had gone undetected until two Macon residents discovered a dog that was still alive in the grave.

Mayor Dale Whitley scheduled a special meeting of the Macon City Council, at the conclusion of which the council ordered that the killings be halted. Mayor Whitley said that the council should accept the blame for the officer's actions because he had never been given guidelines on how to



A new Kansas law allows the state's livestock commissioner to regulate the importation and sale of exotic animals.

dispose of animals.

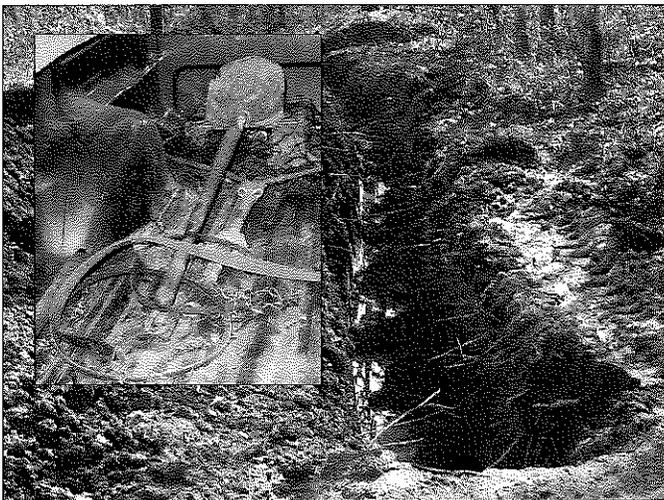
Midwest Regional Director Wendell E. Maddox and Norma McMillen, president of People for Animal Rights, met with the city council in April. Mr. Maddox has since rewritten the city's animal-control ordinances, offered recommendations for improvements at the shelter, written a description of the animal-control officer's position, and arranged for the training of the town's animal-control officers.

## PROGRESS IN KANSAS

The Kansas legislature has passed, and Gov. Joan Finney has signed, a bill that is expected to increase the budget of the state's animal-health department. It stipulates that the revenues generated by the licensure and registration fees required under the state's animal dealers act are to be credited to a new fund and spent only to administer and enforce the animal dealers act. The primary objective of those provisions is to enable the animal-health

department to establish a more effective program for inspecting puppy mills and other facilities where animals are kept and enforcing ordinances that apply to them.

Other provisions of the new law include authorizing the state livestock commissioner to promulgate rules and regulations on the importation and sale of exotic animals, making it unlawful for an animal dealer to purchase a dog or cat from a breeder who has failed to meet state or federal licensing requirements, establishing a companion-animal advisory board that will be appointed by the governor and will make recommendations to the livestock commission, permitting the livestock commissioner to take violators of the animal dealers act to court in order to shut down their operations, requiring a city or company that wishes to operate a pound or shelter to obtain a state license, and stipulating that an individual who is maintaining at least twenty animals—dogs, cats, or both—is to be presumed to be offering animals for sale. ■



This shallow grave is where a Macon, Missouri, animal-control officer buried stray dogs that he had clubbed to death; capture equipment (inset) was found at the site.