MORE THAN 600 activists from all over the country attended a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) March 27-29 in Washington, D.C. “Celebrating the Diversity of Life,” sponsored by the Endangered Species Coalition, of which The HSUS is an active member, highlighted the ESA’s past successes and described the challenges that ESA supporters will face in the upcoming congressional fight over reauthorization.

Dynamic speakers inspired conference participants. Pulitzer Prize-winning author and biologist Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D., dazzled his audience with a glimpse into the staggering array of plant and animal species inhabiting the American tropics and passionately appealed for their preservation. Stephen Jay Gould, Ph.D., eminent paleontologist and prolific science writer, placed the modern biodiversity crisis in geological perspective, warning that human activities may be creating a “mass extinction” from which the planet will not recover for eons.

Many participants remained in Washington after the conference to visit with their congressional representatives and urge support for a strong ESA. Working closely with the Clinton administration, Rep. Gerry Studds (left) and Sen. Max Baucus (above) and John Chaffee have developed a good draft bill that was introduced in the House (as H.R. 2043) and Senate (as S. 921) on May 6. The HSUS is joining other members of the Endangered Species Coalition in seeking cosponsors for this exciting new legislation.

A SOCKS BY ANY OTHER NAME

Imagine a beauty contest with 1,200 contestants. Now imagine that they all look pretty much alike. That’s just what happened when the ANA Hotel in Washington, D.C., sponsored a “Socks Appeal” contest to benefit The HSUS. The goal was to find a cat who resembles Socks Clinton, the nation’s First Cat, and also represents the best in feline values. The initial challenge was trying to tell the difference between more than a thousand hopefuls. Most of them were, in fact, black and white, just like Socks. There was also a handful of orange cats, grays, tabbies, and tigers, not to mention two rabbits. (Love truly is blind.)

And the winner is Lucy (below), a charming kitty who lives with Gina Lauria and Steve Coonan of Wallingford, Connecticut. She was crowned by a panel of celebrity judges including Rue McClanahan, star of CBS-TV’s “Golden Palace”; Jim Davis, creator of Garfield; Dave Bender, of “Fox Morning News”; and Jane Calloway, of Cat Fancy magazine.

According to her “Kitty Bio Sheet,” Lucy’s “turn-ons” are canned fish and a fresh box of kitty litter; “favorite book,” The Cat in the Hat; “biggest fears,” German shepherds and hairdryers.

Lucy and her family will visit Washington this summer as guests of the ANA Hotel for a four-day stay in the Presidential Suite. The ANA also will present Lucy with a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted cat bed that is a scale model of the White House. Lucy will be featured in the 1994 HSUS calendar.

THE HSUS’S YOUTH-education division, The National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHHE), announces the addition of two new publications—KIND News Primary and KIND News International—to its list of children’s newspapers.

In response to a growing interest in humane-education materials for children in the early elementary grades, KIND News Primary was developed for first- and second-grade students and as a read-aloud in kindergarten. Like its counterparts, KIND News Jr. and KIND News Sr., the primary-level publication is founded on the theme of respect and compassion for people, ani-
mals, and the Earth.

Every issue of KIND News Primary celebrates diversity by spotlighting a different country, its people, and its indigenous animals. Each issue also contains an environmental tip, so young readers can get a jump-start on protecting the planet they will inherit.

KIND News Internacional is the Spanish edition of KIND News Primary, featuring the same lively articles, activities, and illustrations. KIND News Internacional is an excellent resource for bilingual classrooms and for teachers who want to expose their students to a foreign language.

Through NAHEE's Adopt-A-Teacher program, individuals, corporations, and humane societies can sponsor teachers to receive any level of KIND News for an entire academic year. For more information, contact NAHEE, PO Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423-0632; (203) 434-8666.

Porcupines Were the prickly target of a proposed hunt in Montana in April, but quick action by The HSUS helped prevent what could have been a massacre. A Billings, Montana, mail-order company that supplies quilts and other animal parts for use in Indian arts and reproductions offered to pay cash prizes for the most porcupines killed and sold to them. The offer amounted to an invitation to wholesale slaughter, since in Montana porcupines are considered nongame animals and any hunt would have been completely unregulated.

HSUS President Paul G. Irwin wrote to Montana's governor, Marc Racicot, voicing our outrage over this flagrant abuse of wildlife and urging him to call a halt to this wasteful event. Governor Racicot, in his reply, informed us that the business involved had withdrawn its offer.

If We Really Care about the suffering of our fellow creatures, what kind of agriculture, urban development, forestry, and fishing policies should we have? The Spring 1993 issue of Earth Ethics provides the insights of the board members and staff of The HSUS's Center for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE) into the appropriate uses of animals and the land.

Fred Kirschenmann writes on an ethic for sustainable agriculture; Elizabeth Lawrence describes the owl's psychic importance; Evelyn Martin reflects on land and habitat; and the "CRLE Report" describes the reflections of HSUS Chief Executive John A. Hoyt, HSUS President Paul G. Irwin, Thomas Berry, and others on a workable Earth ethic.

Earth Ethics is committed to articulating the values and practices essential to a humane, sustainable society. If you would like to subscribe, please send a check for $12.00 to Earth Ethics, CRLE, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037. For $20.00 you can become a Friend of the Center, which entitles you to reduced rates for CRLE conferences and publications.

Looking For the Federal Report in this issue of the HSUS News? That department will no longer appear in the News, but you can turn instead to the Animal Activist Alert, the HSUS's award-winning quarterly newsletter on legislation and animal issues. All HSUS members are eligible to receive the AAA free of charge—just contact The HSUS to add your name to the mailing list.