

care and treatment of animals not undergoing the experimental process in research projects. In 1970, provisions were added to cover exotic species in zoos, circuses and other areas. And, in 1976, amendments were added to improve the transportation standards of animals covered and to prohibit organized animal fighting. The Animal Welfare Act was a big victory for the humane movement and HSUS had played a major role in achieving it.

*Investigator Frank McMahon receives one of the pens used to sign The Animal Welfare Act from President Lyndon B. Johnson.*

— Chase Ltd., Photo



## Other Anti-Cruelty Work

From its inception, The HSUS has carried forward an aggressive investigative program. In addition to the extensive work done uncovering cruelties in laboratories and slaughterhouses, HSUS investigators have worked tirelessly to stop the mistreatment of horses and cattle in rodeo events, barbaric and illegal dog and cockfights, the soring of Tennessee walking horses to accelerate the refinement of their fancy gait, the staging of "bloodless bullfights," cruel "coon-on-a-log" contests and their variations, the inhumane raising, transportation and con-

finement of food animals, the abuse of animals used in science education, the needless and often cruel killing of wild horses, greyhound coursing, and other such evils. At the same time, the investigators have worked to upgrade standards of operation in public pounds and private animal shelters, zoos, and puppy mill operations where animals were often kept under the worst conditions.



*Phyllis Wright inspects cruel conditions at a pound.*

— Fred Habit

The Society, working with other groups and individuals, was successful in rescuing hundreds of beagles that were being kept in the sub-basement of the Agriculture Building in Washington, D.C. for experimental puposes. In February 1962, working with the Humane Society of Marin County, California (a HSUS Affiliate at the time), HSUS and local investigators uncovered a large dogfighting ring and identified a leading commercial promoter of the fights who was actually producing his underground newspaper on a government printing press.

In July 1962 HSUS raiders chased an armed dogfight gang into the Mississippi swamps. The dogfighters came from seven different states and escaped by fleeing across a county line where warrants obtained for their arrest were legally ineffective. The governor of the state wasn't available and state police claimed they had no authority to act. This, despite the fact The HSUS investigators had been threatened with shotguns by some of the dogfighters.

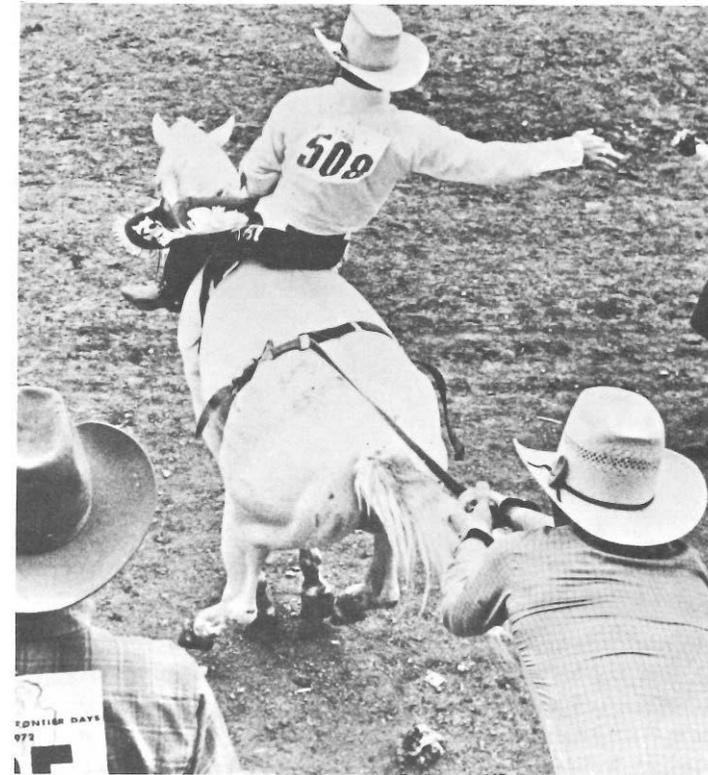
In May 1963 the Society prosecuted two cockfight promoters in Maryland and both were found guilty of cruelty to animals. In handing down his verdict, the judge said the evidence submitted by HSUS showed cockfighting to be cruelty *prima facie*.

The abuse of animals in rodeo events was still another target of HSUS efforts on behalf of animals. Chief Investigator Frank McMahon attended hundreds of these spectacles and on several occasions filed charges against promoters and contestants. Unfortunately, the courts refused to consider rodeo events a violation of anti-cruelty laws even though pain-producing devices like the "hotshot" were often used. A successful aftermath to one such prosecution in Baltimore, Maryland led to enactment of a local ordinance banning rodeo. The state of Ohio subsequently passed a similar law.

Through publicity and public education the abuses in various rodeo events were brought to public attention. Further, The HSUS helped the Wyoming Humane Society in a suit against state officials to stop rodeo cruelties. Specifically, a writ of mandamus was sought to halt steer roping and force the state veterinarian to enforce the law prohibiting steer busting.

The Society also took to the courtroom in March, 1961 to sue WRC-TV in Washington, D.C. for airing a rodeo, or any similar program, into states in which rodeo events violate anti-cruelty laws. The Society contended that rodeos are public showings of a series of acts of cruelty to animals in violation of the licensing requirements for the "public interest" as defined and set forth in the Federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended. The HSUS charged that the defendant had violated the conditions upon which the station should continue to be licensed. WRC and NBC television moved for dismissal of the petition pointing out that the American Humane Association had a supervisor at the rodeo and, therefore, no abuse could have been perpetrated upon the participating animals. Although HSUS lost the case, it had been a bold attempt that would have had far-reaching results if it had succeeded.

In 1973, HSUS sponsored a project to develop scientific information regarding stress, torment and injuries sustained by animals performing in rodeo events. Information documented by veterinarians and assistants was used in a national campaign to educate the public about the hidden cruelties in rodeos. The campaign resulted in thousands of inquiries being received and an anti-rodeo bill was introduced in the state of Colorado. Although the bill did not pass, hearings were held in the Senate. It was significant, however, that the Society was able to bring



*Since the very beginning rodeo cruelty has been a continuing problem.*

— HSUS

this kind of testimony before a legislative body in a western state.

Chief Investigator Frank McMahon died on July 1, 1975. Today, HSUS investigators not only maintain the momentum of the past but continue to push into new areas of investigative activity.

During the early 70's the Investigations Department quickly became involved in the plight of wild horses and the inefficient and inhumane manner in which the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act was being enforced by the Bureau of Land Management. In 1973, the Society discovered that wild horses had been placed in a corral on a mountain cliff in Idaho. Several horses had died at the bottom of the cliff after falling and fatally injuring themselves in an attempt to escape. The HSUS investigation resulted in national publicity and the public learned that the Bureau of Land Management was not doing its job properly.

When, in 1977, the Bureau of Land Management proposed to round up wild horses in Challis, Idaho, HSUS and the American Horse Protection Association brought suit against the Department of the Interior. The lawsuit blocked the round-up and resulted in major changes affecting the management of the rest of America's wild horses.

Chief Investigator Frantz L. Dantzler talks to TV reporter about plight of wild horses.

— HSUS



The Bureau of Land Management finally put together a proposal for an "Adopt-A-Horse" program. HSUS soon uncovered evidence that horses were being adopted out to horse dealers as well as individuals. The evidence was presented on national television, and in 1978, a further suit was brought against the Bureau. As of this writing, the suit has not been decided.

Wild burros living in the Grand Canyon also have been a target for elimination by so-called wildlife biologists. The National Park Service claimed there were 2500 wild burros living in the park. The burros were accused of overpopulating and overeating and otherwise damaging food sources and the habitat of Bighorn sheep. HSUS questioned NPS's estimates and brought suit against them for failing to file an Environmental Impact Statement. The Society is still awaiting the Statement but advance information indicates the National Park Service can produce only 220 burros in the entire canyon.

The Society also has gathered detailed information on coursing and training greyhounds for racing purposes. In 1978, HSUS investigators, sizing up the coursing field of the National Greyhound Association, determined that television filming could be done from an adjacent field owned by another party. Accordingly, a team of ABC photographers and crewmen filmed the event and showed the coursing on the "20/20" TV news program. The result was an immediate surge of public indignation. Bills have been introduced in Congress but hearings have not yet been held. Meanwhile, primarily due to the publicity, the National Greyhound Association has itself banned "public" coursing.



Using telephoto techniques, HSUS investigators filmed cruel coursing events using live rabbits.

— HSUS

In horse racing the use of drugs has dramatically increased in the last ten years. States have legalized drugs for horses, specifying which may or may not be used, but enforcement procedures are poor and ineffective. Some of the most dangerous drugs are the most difficult to detect. Often a drug makes it possible for a horse to run when it is injured or in pain and should not have been entered in the race.

According to Jockey Club statistics the rate of injury to horses has gone up 60% since drugs were legalized. Some statistics say the increase is as much as 400%. It is estimated that one out of 50 horses dies annually on the track.

The HSUS has now drafted a bill for congressional consideration prohibiting administration of drugs within a twenty-four hour period before a race, establishing pre-race testing, disqualifying any horse if drugs are found, establishing stricter penalties, and prohibiting the freezing or icing of horses' legs before competition. This legislation soon will be introduced in Congress.

## Humane Education

The promotion of humane education has been a fundamental focus of HSUS programming from the founding of the organiza-