HSUS POLICY

(a) Hunting: We are attaching a statement of the Society's position on hunting. The most important part of the statement is that The HSUS is unalterably opposed to the killing of any living creature for fun or sport. Regional office personnel should be thoroughly familiar with this policy so that no wrong statements will be made when the position of the Society is questioned by news media or others.

(b) Rabies Vaccination: The Society highly recommends the inoculation of dogs as a protection against rabies. We encourage pet owners to take this protective measure as part of their responsibilities of animal ownership. The Society, however, does not support legislation requiring the compulsory vaccination of dogs. Neither does the Society oppose compulsory legislation of this kind. The reason is that, while anti-rabies inoculation for dogs is a good thing, its requirement by law discriminates against the dog owner when, in fact, cats contract and transmit rabies almost as often as dogs and livestock and all other warm-blooded animals can contract and transmit the disease. It would be inconsistent, therefore, to support compulsory vaccination for just one species. Thus we neither support nor oppose compulsory rabies vaccination, but we always recommend this protection to individual dog owners.

IDAHO WILD HORSE CASE

Excellent investigative work by Frantz Dantzler and Hal Perry of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office resulted in nationwide publicity exposing the roundup and slaughter of wild horses in the high, remote mountains of southeastern Idaho. Frantz and Hal were first notified of the case by "Wild Horse Annie" Johnston, who paid for helicopter rides over the area. The badly mangled carcasses of at least seven horses - some with their nostrils clipped to restrict breathing - were found at the foot of a cliff after an attempt by ranchers to roundup a herd of some 60 horses for slaughter. We later found about 36 of the horses at a dog food cannery in North Platte, Nebraska.

Federal laws, of course, protect wild and free-roaming horses. We discovered, however, no permit had been issued by the Bureau of Land Management and the horses had in fact been rounded up by helicopter and transported in trucks to North Platte. Strong protests were lodged with the Bureau and with the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. Frantz went to North Platte to see what care and treatment the horses were getting. We were able to pressure the Bureau of Land Management into authorizing medical care, sufficient food, and proper treatment for the animals.