At Press Time...

Wild Horse and Burro Law Declared Unconstitutional

A three-judge Federal District Court in Albuquerque, N. M., has dealt a major blow to the preservation of America’s wild horses and burros by declaring the U. S. Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 unconstitutional. The ruling was made in a suit brought by the New Mexico State Livestock Board against the U. S. Dept. of the Interior after Interior refused the request of a private rancher to remove some unbranded and unclaimed burros from public lands for which he had grazing permits. The U. S. Dept. of Justice plans to appeal the ruling directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Florida Court Permits Use of Live Rabbits in Dog Racing

A Florida court ruled that the use of live rabbits is necessary in the training of greyhounds for racing and, consequently, does not violate the state law that only prohibits activities that are “unnecessarily” cruel. HSUS has urged the Florida attorney general to appeal the ruling. (Details on page 6.)

Dallas Bans High Altitude Decompression Chamber

The Dallas City Council has passed an ordinance requiring that surplus animals be euthanized only by barbiturate, following a citywide campaign to stop the use of the high altitude decompression chamber at the city animal shelter. Dallas is the first community in the United States to pass such an ordinance. HSUS animal control expert Phyllis Wright testified in behalf of the action, and a group of Dallas citizens collected 25,000 signatures in support of it.

Susan Ford to Wear Fur Without Anti-Cruelty Proof

Susan Ford is getting a street length muskrat and fox fur coat from her parents, President and Mrs. Ford, as a high school graduation gift. She is accepting the coat after assuring an HSUS member that she would only purchase furs from furriers who do not use pelts from trapped animals. What Miss Ford apparently doesn’t realize is that furriers buy their pelts at auctions where it is impossible to learn the origins of the skins. This fact was confirmed for HSUS by a spokesman for the American fur industry.

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California Legislature Kills Greyhound Racing Bill

The humane movement in California has defeated a proposed law that would have legalized betting on greyhound racing in the state. In a 5-to-4 decision a state legislative committee voted down Assembly Bill 455 on April 15. HSUS West Coast Regional Director Frantz Dantzler, who coordinated a massive publicity campaign to expose greyhound racing cruelties, said defeat of the legislation was a tribute to all humanitarians who helped kill the bill.

HSUS TV Spots Receive National Award

HSUS's public service TV spots on the need to spay and neuter cats and dogs have been selected by Advertising Age, journal of the advertising profession, as among the “100 Best” of 1974. The spots were shown at awards banquets in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and 10 other cities.

Correction to Zoo Report

In the HSUS “Special Report on Zoo Reform” (March 1975) it was stated that the zoo profession is fighting legislation introduced in Congress by Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) out of fear that new standards proposed in the bill would be too difficult for them to attain. It was also stated that the American Assn. of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) has hired the same lobbyist who had represented the tuna industry in opposing the Marine Mammal Protection Act. AAZPA has brought to the attention of HSUS the fact that it has not hired any lobbyist to represent it on any matter. AAZPA informed HSUS that it is not opposed to higher standards but objects to the Dingell bill as an unworkable attempt to superimpose new federal regulations on zoological institutions and professionals without harmonizing the activities of the numerous federal agencies that already have overlapping jurisdiction over their activities.

New TV Spots Aired by 145 Stations

HSUS's new TV spots publicizing HSUS programs that teach children respect for animals are now being used by 145 stations across the United States.