Department of Interior Considers Cruel Seal Harvest a Full Use of Resources for the Public Welfare

Every year in early summer an estimated 60,000 seals are clubbed to death in the Pribilof Islands. The skins are shipped to an American fur company which, under contract to the U.S. Government, processes them. Subsequently, the pelts are sold at public auction and the proceeds go to the U.S. Treasury to pay for the Aleut communities on St. Paul and St. George Islands and to finance herd management and research. The processed pelts end up finally as fur trim or expensive sealskin coats, carrying an average price tag of $2,300 per coat.

In a report on last year's harvest, HSUS observer Brian D. Davies, Executive Secretary of the New Brunswick SPCA in Fredericton, Canada, estimated that over 12% of the clubbed seals required multiple blows before dying. Another observer placed the figure at 15%. Davies pointed out that the multiple blows caused prolonged fear and suffering. He also reported that the animals were driven to exhaustion in being moved to the killing areas.

All this is being done under the supervision and management of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

With the approach of summer and the 1968 seal harvest, The HSUS protested strongly to the U.S. Department of the Interior, condemning the harvest as "primitive and barbaric." The Society recommended measures, based upon the Davies 1967 findings, to ameliorate the (Continued on page 3)

Bill Affecting Rodeos Introduced in New York

A bill that would outlaw use of bucking straps and similar devices on horses and other animals used in rodeos, circuses, and similar exhibitions has been introduced in the New York Senate.

Patterned after the Ohio anti-bucking strap law, the proposal is identified as Senate bill No. 2305 and is before the Committee on Agriculture and Marketing.

THE MAKING OF A FUR COAT

This is how seals are killed in the Pribilof Islands. Long, heavy clubs are used to smash their skulls. The lucky ones die quickly. Interior Department justifies the cruel hunt as necessary for good wildlife "management."
New York; Slaughter
Battle Lines Form in Senate No. 1498.

The 1968 HSUS National Leadership Conference will be held on October 4-6 at the Marriott Motor Hotel in Saddle Brook, New Jersey.

The site was chosen because of its central location, at the junction of the Garden State Parkway and Interstate 80, just 10 minutes from the George Washington Bridge connecting New York with New Jersey. Easily accessible by automobile, there is hourly limousine service to Newark Airport in New Jersey and frequent transportation to Kennedy and LaGuardia airports in New York.

The Marriott Motor Hotel offers spacious, comfortable rooms and excellent meeting facilities. There is a resort-like atmosphere, with an air of gracious living that promises to make the 1968 meeting the best ever.

The HSUS New York Branch, celebrating its tenth anniversary, will host this year's conference. Plans are now being made to develop an interesting and informative program of activities. An additional reason to attend will be the opportunity to face a real challenge to animals facing the American humane movement. Conference details will be published in future issues of the News. In the meantime, the HSUS urges all humanitarians to mark the dates of October 4-6 on their calendars to attend the biggest and most important humane meeting of 1968.

Hearings on Funds for Dealer Law Scheduled

Congress has scheduled hearings on appropriations for enforcement and administration of the laboratory animal dealer licensing act (P.L. 89-554).

The House of Representatives Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee is expected to meet for this purpose during the last week in March or the first week in April. A definite date has not been set as this News goes to press. The Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations for Agriculture has scheduled March 20 for its hearings.

The HSUS has requested permission to call upon this committee to make a strong case for adequate appropriation is essential if the U.S. Department of Agriculture is to do a effective job of carrying out the intent and purpose of the law.

Heart Transplants on Animals Continued in Ohio School System

Heart transplant experiments are being conducted in the Columbus, Ohio school system despite strong opposition from the HSUS and other animal welfare organizations.

The experiments started with an Ohio State University High School in which the heart of one frog was transferred to the body of another. The frog lived 42 minutes after the operation, which subsequently received nationwide publicity. Plans were announced for further experiments, some involving monkeys.

Following protests from The HSUS and its Affiliate in Ohio, the Animal Charity League of Youngstown, the Columbus school system banned further transplants, allegedly for the remainder of the school year. The ban was subsequently lifted, however, with the explanation that there had been a misunderstanding about animals to be used and the only concern was over using a warm-blooded animal.

Kindness to Animals Adopted as Policy in Connecticut Schools

The Connecticut Board of Education has adopted a new policy designed to promote kindness to animals and prevent their abuse, or painful use, in the classroom. The policy is in accord with the state's biologic education statute and is considered a significant advance for the humane movement.

HSUS's Connecticut Branch was largely instrumental in getting the new policy promulgated. Richard K. Morris, Executive Director Rear Admiral J. C. Shaw, and New Haven Animal Welfare League President Allan Loeb met with school officials to discuss and urge its adoption. The policy resolution was prepared by the state Commissioner of Education, approved by The HSUS Branch, and subsequently endorsed and published by the state Board of Education.

It is hoped that humane care across the country will follow the example of The Connecticut Board of Education and work for adoption of a similar policy in their own states. This kind of progress toward humane treatment of animals in schools would stop much cruelty in American school systems.
Enforcement by State Officials

Pound Seizure Threat Looms in New Jersey

Word has just been received from Dr. Oscar Susman of the New Jersey Department of Health that public hearings will be held on April 3, 1968 on rules and regulations for kennels, pet shops, shelters, and pounds. While the proposed regulations are excellent for the most part, Susman is again trying to introduce pound seizure in New Jersey by allowing, in the new rules, animals to be sold, given away, or otherwise transferred to research facilities approved by the Department of Health or registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The new regulations also authorize sales, giveaway, or transfer of unwanted animals to dealers licensed by USDA.

Release of unwanted animals to research laboratories is contrary to the policies and purposes of most humane organizations and this section of the proposed New Jersey regulations (Section VIII—Regulation 8.1) should be opposed strongly.

Ohio Affiliate Gears Work to State Needs

The Animal Charity League of Youngstown, Ohio, an HSUS affiliate, is extending its program statewide to meet the demands of that fast growing state. The society, rated one of the best in the country, is an outstanding example of how a competent organization can carry out effective animal welfare work without operating an animal shelter. Its impressive record of achievements includes major participation in efforts to enact Ohio’s anti-cruelty law and prevent its repeal, initiation of comprehensive junior humane education programs, animal rescue and adoption work, and the education of pet owners to the evil of surplus animal breeding.

The League has now merged officially with the statewide Ohio Committee for Humane Education and will maintain and extend that organization’s programs.

Law Against Cockfights Openly Flouted; HSUS Demands Stronger Enforcement by State Officials

Although cockfights are flatly prohibited by law in most states, they are frequently and publicly conducted in many areas, sometimes with the knowledge of state police and local authorities. Hundreds of organized cockfights, attended by sadistic audiences with betting and free-flowing liquor at pitside, are held in the United States every year.

The HSUS has reported cases to the United States Department of Justice because of probable violation of federal gambling laws. Direct action has been taken by The HSUS when available manpower and resources permitted. Even in some such cases, word has leaked to promoters who quickly changed the cockfights to another secret meeting place.

In February, the Society advised Governor Ronald Reagan of California, a state which specifically outlawed cockfighting, of a series of fights to be held in Barstow on March 9 and 10 and in April and May. The Society also asked Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller to take action against cockfights scheduled in his state.

Governor Reagan pledged that action would be taken, and Governor Rockefeller promised to look into the matter and “a solution will be found.” Mr. Rockefeller’s promise was found wanting, however, when a check by The HSUS before this News went to press uncovered that cockfighting is still going on in Arkansas and a full series of these events was scheduled for March 11-15 at Oaklawn in Hot Springs.

Cockfighting was also in the news in Oklahoma where legislation is before the Senate to amend the existing anti-cruelty law to include fowl. The legislation—Senate bill No. 695, introduced by Senator Selman—would make it a misdemeanor for any person to instigate or encourage, for a bet or reward, any fight between animals or fowl. It is receiving effective support from humane organizations and humane groups within the state.

Some events have been cancelled or their locations changed because of alerted local officials, but in most cases there has been no report of legal action being taken against the promoters and participants in the cockfights. The HSUS has also reported cases to the United States Department of Justice because of probable violation of federal gambling laws. Direct action has been taken by The HSUS when available manpower and resources permitted. Even in some such cases, word has leaked to promoters who quickly changed the cockfights to another secret meeting place.

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If you want to provide help to suffering animals in your will, a free booklet available from The HSUS will tell you how. Titled How to Stretch Your Humane Society Dollars and How to Write a Will, it also explains how to judge if a humane society deserves your support.

Address your request to Mr. Mel I. Morse, President, The HSUS, 1145 Nineteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

Photo shows cruel, steel gaffs used in cockfights. The devices are bound in place over the bird’s natural spurs. Ripping, tearing action of fighting cocks causes injury and death.

The HSUS has repeatedly passed along this information to state and local authorities responsible for enforcement of the applicable anti-cruelty law.

Why don’t you...

... set up free spaying clinics?
... advertise on radio and television?
... stop cruel rodeos?
... rescue starving wildlife?
... clean up all the bad pounds?
... clean up roadside zoos?

This is a small sample of the inquiries which are regularly received in HSUS headquarters. They represent to a great extent the frustration of humanitarians who see cruelty all around them and despair of ever stopping it. It is no wonder that such questions are asked, considering the immense animal suffering caused by surplus breeding, brutal rodeo events, natural and manmade disasters which starve thousands of animals to death, cruel public pounds, and the appalling conditions in many roadside zoos.

But the truth is, of course, that The HSUS is doing something about all these things—and many more. It is doing anti-cruelty work to the absolute limit of its resources. Its Service Department is handling a constantly increasing demand by local societies and municipalities for help and guidance. Its Educational Department and the National Humane Education Center work constantly on educational projects, materials, with youth groups, adult groups, school authorities, and the publicity media. The Society’s field agents investigate acts of cruelty with national implications, advise local organizations, write to city officials, and bring help to suffering animals under all kinds of conditions.

The HSUS does all this and a great deal more, but there are always far more things to be done than there are the means of doing. The answer to the “Why don’t you?” inquiry is, of course, that we can only do what you give us the means to do and we can do more if we have the means to do more.

Will you help us to help even more suffering animals? Will you give us the ammunition we need to intensify the fight against cruelty? May we ask: “Why don’t you use the coupon below today?”

Petnapping Discounted; “Too Many Escape Holes in Law,” HSUS Says

"Public Law 89-544 is not doing the job of stopping petnapping as intended by Congress," HSUS President Mel L. Morse stated in a recent interview in Washington. "It cannot do so because of the wording of the law and the interpretation of some of its provisions have left weaknesses in areas important to the welfare of animals. There are too many escape holes in the law, as written. It is not the fault of the Department of Agriculture. That agency can only administer and enforce the law as passed by Congress."

Morse explained that HSUS field agents have found that huge numbers of cats and dogs are being bought by biological supply houses for sale as dissection models to beginning biology classes. He said that the animals are purchased, dead or alive, with no questions asked and many may well be stolen animals. He explained further that this unrestricted and unlicensed trade was made possible outside the scope of Public Law 89-544. Adequate funding, even though it won't help in the areas we have discussed, will ensure effective enforcement and administration of the many other strong provisions relating to suppliers of animals to research facilities.

Top Educators Visit NHEC, Appraise and Discuss School Study

HSUS officials met with Dr. Virgil S. Hollis, Marin County (Cal.) Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent Stanley Frisbie, and Dr. Stuart Westerlund, of the U.S. Office of Education, in late February to discuss plans for integrating the Marin County humane education program for schools with the National Humane Education Center.

The educators, who are the principal academic supporters of The HSUS program of introducing humane education into school curriculums, visited the working animal shelter, the facility to be used for training humane workers. It is hoped these preliminary talks will lead eventually to extension of the Marin County school project into the Virginia school system.

The note reproduced above, received recently, needs no comment from the HSUS. It presents, more succinctly and clearly than could a 500-word editorial, the view of many humanitarians. We agree.

Dear Mr. Morse:

I am pleased to report that very satisfactory progress has been made toward obtaining additional protection for laboratory animals in research facilities.

Since there is no law at the present time protecting laboratory animals during research, I continue to be hopeful that we can in this session of the Congress provide such protection with the passage of the Rogers-Javits bill.

I think it would be helpful if humanitarians were to advise the President of their views on this proposed legislation.

Kind regards and all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Paul G. Rogers, M.C.
Networks Turn Sunday Into “Savage” Day with Cruel, Brutal Programs

The major television networks seem bent on turning Sunday into a day of viewing cruelty and brutality to animals on television.

The American Broadcasting Company leads the parade with its barbaric *The American Sportsman*, almost a case history of senseless and sadistic massacres of helpless wildlife. In one recent program, for example, the cruel coursing of rabbits was shown in gory detail even though it is an activity forbidden by anti-cruelty laws in almost all states. This entire program attempts to glorify hunting and killing, making the killing of wildlife (much of which is on the endangered species list) seem glamorous and pleasurable.

The National Broadcasting Company also gets in its competitive bid for the irrational segment of the viewing audience which likes violence and brutality. In a recent *Wild Kingdom* program, viewers were treated to a prolonged scene in which a cougar fought for its life in the rushing torrents of a mountain stream.

No wild animal could be trained to put up such a terrified struggle for survival in the jagged, rock-filled rapids shown on the program. So obviously cruel was this particular episode that it was a matter of concern at a recent meeting of wildlife organizations in Washington attended by representatives of The HSUS.

The Columbia Broadcasting System has, of course, its *Lassie* series which is not without scenes of serious abuse to the dog. Viewers who have seen the episodes showing the dog’s adventures when lost will remember the many realistic (and probably real) obstacles put in the way of its return home.

The HSUS has protested to the sponsors of these programs and to the networks. Copies of the protests to the networks have been lodged with the Federal Communications Commission. The Society urges individuals who protest to send copies to the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. and The HSUS.

*It is essential that the FCC be kept appraised of viewer objections to this type of television fare. It is the most effective way at present to work for the cancellation of animal cruelty programs.*

The objectionable programs mentioned here and many others would not exist if the Code by which the motion picture and television industries are supposed to regulate themselves was enforced. The Television Code, for example, states that “the use of animals, both in the production of television programs and as a part of television program content, shall at all times, be in conformity with accepted standards of humane treatment.” Such a clearcut statement leaves no doubt that cruelty to animals used in television is prohibited and could be eliminated entirely if the provision were enforced.

The HSUS intends to continue working to remedy the situation.

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Humanitarians across the nation continue to protest the telecasting of bullfight programs which bring the brutality, gore, and cruelty of the bullring into American homes. Many individuals are now sending copies of their letters and telegrams of protest to the Federal Communications Commission and The HSUS. The letters to FCC are expected to be considered when a station’s broadcasting license comes up for renewal and the burden is placed on the station to demonstrate that it is operating in the public interest and for the public welfare.

There have been recent indications that stations telecasting this type of program are sensitive to protest. Attorneys for station KPAZ-TV, Channel 21 in Phoenix, Arizona, warned a protesting humane group, the Animals’ Crusaders of Arizona, Inc. that legal liability is incurred by persons who knowingly contact advertising sponsors causing them to break their contracts with television stations. The demand was made that members be requested in the future not to contact station KPAZ or its television sponsors.

The remarkably arrogant demand was brought to HSUS attention by the local humane organization. Prior correspondence with the Federal Communications Commission had already brought notification from FCC that individuals should make their views known to television stations, networks, and sponsors. The relevant FCC comment read:

“... the Commission expects its licensees to attempt to ascertain and to satisfy the programming tastes, needs and desires of the audiences which their stations are licensed to serve. It is for this reason that the Commission has urged concerned persons and groups to make their views known to the stations, networks and sponsors involved in the broadcast of material which they consider objectionable . . .”

It would seem that this statement confirms the right of individual protest against objectionable television fare and humanitarians may object therefore when something as inimical to the public interest as bullfighting is telecast. Obviously, too, the public in general and humanitarians in particular have the right to question the licensing by FCC of any station which fails to operate in the public interest as evidenced by heavy protest from a segment of the viewing audience.