Congressional Committee Hears Laboratory Reform Demands as New Senate Bill Is Introduced

The humane movement forcefully presented its demand for a federal law regulating laboratory animal use to the Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains of the House Agriculture Committee on June 8 and 9. The bill under discussion was introduced by Congressman G. William Whitehurst of Virginia.

This bill seeks humane care, housing, and treatment of animals used in biomedical research by broadening Public Law 89-544, the laboratory animal welfare act. Principal supporting testimony was given by the Animal Welfare Institute and The Humane Society of the United States. Other humane societies and individuals also testified.

Your Society offered amendments to the bill to make it as strong as the Roger-Javits bill, now hopelessly bogged down in the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. We urged provisions be included to provide for collecting and disseminating research information, reducing duplication of experiments, developing and using substitutes for animals, and encouraging improved techniques for reducing pain.

Opposition to the proposed law came mainly from Dr. Helen Taussig who represented the American Heart Association. She claimed it would put a heavy burden on medical research and cause interference with research programs.

(Continued on page 7)

Hoyt Elected to World Federation’s Council

John A. Hoyt, HSUS President, has been elected to the governing Council of the World Federation for the Protection of Animals.

The specific function of members of the Council is to help plan the direction of the Federation’s animal protective work, especially in areas where the Federation can help national humane movements. It is expected the closer cooperation that will now exist between the Federation and The Humane Society of the United States will produce significant benefits in the work of both organizations.

The World Federation for the Protection of Animals has its headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland. It enjoys consultative status with UNESCO and other agencies of the United Nations.

Other HSUS officials who are members of the Council are Mel L. Morse, Vice President and Oliver Evans, Director.

Humane Experts Band Together to Crusade For Slaughter Laws

Under the auspices of the HSUS, a national council has been formed to campaign for humane slaughter legislation in New York and other states where there is no such law.

The group is known as the Council for Livestock Pre-Slaughter Legislation. It will work to end the cruel practice of shackling and hoisting conscious animals prior to slaughter. It is expected the Council will campaign to eliminate the amendment to the 1958 Federal Humane Slaughter Act that exempts ritual slaughter of food animals.

The Council and virtually all humane groups recognize the kosher kill is humane. They do not recognize the painful packing house practice of shackling and hoisting conscious animals since it is no part of the ritual requirements of any religion. It is a modern, high speed method of bringing animals into position for the kill.

Since humane handling pens are available for processing large food animals and research is underway on a pen for small animals, the need for allowing kosher packers to be cruel in a way denied to other packers is ended. The newly-formed Council will work toward stopping suffering in all slaughter houses.

Jo Morgan, counsel for the American Humane Association is President of the Council. HSUS President John A. Hoyt has accepted an invitation to serve on the Advisory Committee.
Drive to Stop Cruel Traps Continues to Gain in New Jersey

Thanks to the good work of the Wildlife Preservation Committee of the HSUS New Jersey Branch, the drive to outlaw use of cruel traps in the state continues to gain ground. Municipal law enforcement agencies have at last enacted a moratorium on the sale and use of steel-jawed traps.

Legislation was introduced in the New Jersey Assembly in March to ban the use of steel-jawed traps. A bill to this effect was reintroduced in the Senate in March, and the Senate has already passed the new legislation by 41 to 17. Governor Kean has already signed the bill into law.

The committee has reached a deadline to begin state lobbying efforts to establish the trap-free state. The committee was organized by the HSUS, the Humane Society of the United States, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The committee is led by Mr. John A. Hoyt, President of Humane Information Services.

The laws that have been passed since the Branch established its Wildlife Preservation Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Valerie Maxwell of Oradell, would sharply restrict and control trapping in the state. Much cruelty and suffering is preventable.

The major purpose is to establish permanently in-depth examination and evaluation of current and past activities. This will help to conserve and consolidate HSUS resources so that maximum benefit for animal welfare and related causes is obtained. At the same time, it will enable your Board of Directors to plan for sound and extended future human work.

It has been impossible to control the abuse of these animals under state or local anti-cruelty laws, Larocque said. "Legal action in past years under anti-cruelty laws was largely unsuccessful."

The bill that has been passed already targets a "catch and kill" bill in the state that has been in place for many years. The bill passed in the House on March 25, by a vote of 41 to 17. Governor Kean has already signed the bill into law.

In passing a law earlier this year to outlaw so-called bloodless bullfighting, Florida has taken a step backward and, at the same time, given the human movement a very serious challenge. The HSUS, the world’s leading bloodless bullfighting organization, has already met once to determine the future goals of the organization.

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The HSUS Field Representative John Larocque told the Subcommittee that more often than not the walking horse performing in a ring, with forelegs thrown high and white boots flashing, is doing so because its front feet have been mutilated to where it cannot bear its own weight on them. "It has been impossible to control the abuse of these animals under state or local anti-cruelty laws," Larocque said.

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Seal Hunt Brutality Reaches New High; HSUS Asks for Immediate Relief Measures by Government

Your Society has again asked the United States government for immediate relief measures to stop the suffering of seals taken in the annual hunt in the Pribilof Islands. The new demand was prompted by a report from on-the-spot observer Frank J. McMahon, who witnessed the hunt this year. McMahon was sent to the hunt to make sure recommendations to relieve suffering made by your Society in past years were carried out. He found, instead, the hunt was more brutal than ever and the U.S. Department of the Interior had complied with few of the recommendations which they themselves had agreed to.

For example, the Department had taken no steps to shorten the length of drives from rookeries to the killing fields. They had done little work in removing obstacles like volcanic rock masses which cause stress to the seals during the drive. They had not provided a "relief" clubber to give a rest break to men wielding the clubs so their accuracy would be improved. No attempt had been made to reduce the number of seals to be killed at one time, even though a smaller number would lessen the possibility of multiple blows and, consequently, needless suffering.

McMahon strongly protested the Department's failure to provide these relief measures. He condemned especially the inaccuracy of the hunters during the drive. They both claim this so-called "harvest" is a great conservation effort, the salvation of the seal herd. As long as the Interior Department drags its feet on adopting relief measures and eliminating the present method of clubbing, your Society will continue to publicly attack and condemn it.

We have reported in past News bulletins that testing of a humane method of slaughter has been conducted by a team of scientists at the Virginia Mason Research Institute, Seattle, Washington. This testing began in 1968. Some of the tests showed promise; yet the U.S. government continues to move at a snail's pace in this direction. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of seals continue to suffer.

"As you know, we stoutly oppose the clubbing of seals to death. We would as firmly oppose the entire seal hunt except that its total abolition would be the worst possible thing we could achieve. The 1911 international treaty now protects the seals by strict controls and has enabled them to increase from 216,000 to 1/2 million animals.

If we succeeded in abolishing the seal hunt, this treaty would automatically be broken. Pelagic sealing (the taking and killing of animals on the open seas) is shown in this form of sealing. It takes little imagination to understand the seal herd would quickly become extinct when preyed upon by today's modern super-powered fishing fleets."

The best way we can help alleviate the suffering of seals on the Pribilof Islands is by working for the passage of S. 3596, a bill introduced by Sen. Charles Goodell of New York. The Goodell bill, if enacted, would require that the United States Department of Agriculture develop a humane method of slaughtering seals before the beginning of the 1972 sealing season. Everyone concerned with this major animal welfare problem should support this legislation.

As reported in earlier News bulletins, S. 3596 is currently in the Senate Commerce Committee. You can help by writing to the Chairman, Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, United States Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510. Please ask him to set an early date for hearings.

(Editor's note: Lack of space does not permit us to publish the full background of the international treaty and the history of the Northern Fur Seal. We have prepared a detailed fact sheet, however, and we will gladly send a copy to anyone who requests it.)

LATE BULLETIN

Congressman Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., of Connecticut has introduced a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish regulations for the humane care and handling of animals transported in air commerce. A law of this kind is badly needed since our efforts to stop abuses in this area on a voluntary basis have not been successful.

We support the Weicker bill by writing your Senators and Representatives. Also, help us develop strong testimony for this legislation by sending us information, especially cases of cruelty to animals in transit, as requested on page 8 of this News.
HSUS Moves to Save New York’s Mason Act

Humane and conservation organizations hailed with enthusiasm the Mason Act, enacted in New York earlier this year. The Act is the toughest passed anywhere in the United States to legally protect the world’s endangered species of wildlife.

This law decrees that sale within the state of New York is banned of items made from the skin, body parts, and body parts of alligator, crocodile, crocodile, tigers, leopards, cheetahs and jaguars. It is believed this agreement will end the manufacture of coats from the skin of such species in the United States.

While New York’s Mason Act ends the manufacture and sale of these items in that state, the significance of this agreement is that members of the Furriers Joint Council of New York affiliates across the United States publicly agreed “no longer to cut or fashion” skins of endangered species like leopards, cheetahs, otters, and jaguars. It is believed this agreement will end the manufacture of coats from the skin of such species in the United States.

In Massachusetts, a coalition of environmental groups proposed a ban on polar bear rugs, crocodile shoes, alligator handbags, cosmetics, and other products made from endangered wildlife.

The ban, in the form of a bill now before the state legislature, is similar to the New York Mason Act. Although it would not prevent the Massachusetts big game trophy hunter from shooting endangered species, it would help ensure that the bears from such species do not make their way to Massachusetts.

While this is going on, designers and manufacturers of synthetic furs like Raschel, Tetron, F. E. Timpe & Sons, Inc., of New York, are spending considerable money on advertising their products, which replace natural furs.

The HSUS is encouraging promotion of synthetics because it believes, in the final analysis, curbing the market for natural furs is the best way to stop the commercial exploitation of imperiled wildlife.

HSUS Demands Strong Enforcement Measures Under Lab Dealer Law

Officials of The HSUS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture met on September 3 to discuss enforcement of the law affecting laboratory animal dealers (Public Law 89-544).

John A. Hoyt, your Society’s President, called the meeting after investigations by Field Service Department agents showed illegal and inhuman traffic in dogs and cats by federally licensed dealers acting under the guise of dog vendors or poundkeepers. The investigations took place in Maryland, West Virginia and Ohio. Specific violations of state laws or questionable activities by dealers in all four states and Illinois were revealed to the USDA officials.

USDA representatives promised cooperation in dealing with offenders. They pointed out, however, shortcomings in the law that limit their jurisdiction. They argued that violations of state law must be dealt with by state authorities.

This new move is meant to speed up passage by the Senate of the Foley bill and to prevent it from being hung up by the Senate of Representatives. Time in this session of Congress is at a premium. The prior introduction of a bill in the Senate will hasten the legislative process.

The Cranston version, in comparison with the Foley bill, exempts local retail pet shops. This is not an objectionable exemption since it is virtually certain the Foley bill would not pass with this provision.

The Cranston bill also excludes farm animals and farm animals used for nutrition work. The Foley bill excludes farm animals but does not exclude those involved in nutrition or other experimental work. At this time it is most unlikely any law would be passed that would specifically exempt livestock involved in this kind of research.

From your Society’s viewpoint, the most important difference in the two bills is the Cranston bill exempts state and county fairs, rodeos, and purebred dog and cat shows. We don’t feel these events should in any sense be exempted.

We extend our support to a major amendment to the Cranston bill. The Subcommitte has since met twice in executive session. Progress is reported in writing a composite bill to be reported out favorably. Favorable action, in fact, may be taken by the time you read this report.

The Cranston version, in comparison with the Foley bill, would not prevent the Massachusetts big game trophy hunter from going on safari to shoot endangered species, it would help ensure that the bears from such species do not make their way to Massachusetts.

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Educators Exposed to Humane Materials at Big NEA Conference

The HSUS and the National Humane Education Center jointly sponsored a booth at the annual conference of the National Education Association held in San Francisco in July.

The purpose of the booth was to distribute humane education materials for school use to teachers, principals, superintendents and other educators. Personnel from the national HSUS staff, the California Branch, and the Humane Society of Marin County, Cal., manned the display, talked with teachers and gave out educational kits.

About sixty percent of teachers visiting the booth signed up for additional literature. There were over 400 requests for the Teacher PETS series alone. Requests were received from 46 different states, the only exceptions being New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

It is felt this type of exposure will greatly help to gain acceptance in school systems for material aimed at inculcating humane attitudes in children. Your Society intends to continue such displays as funds and opportunity permit.

You Can Help

We are gathering information about cases of abuse to animals during shipment by air or otherwise.

If you have had such an experience, or if you know anyone who has, please write us. We need detailed information on each case—date and time of shipment, type of animal, airline or other transportation company, what happened to the animal, response to your complaint to the transportation company, etc.

We expect soon to begin a major effort to force transporters of animals to handle them humanely and provide proper accommodations for them. Any information you can give us about past abuses will be most helpful.

Courses in Shelter Management Drawing Praise Nationwide

Courses in shelter and humane society management at The National Humane Education Center continue to grow in popularity and draw praise from students who have attended from many parts of the country.

“I want to thank HSUS and The National Humane Education Center for the opportunity to again gain knowledge and help in dealing with some of my problems,” writes Robert E. Reynolds, Animal Control Officer for the City of Portsmouth, N.H.

Pearl Krupp of Teaneck, N.J., tells us she returned from the seminar “all fired up with enthusiasm” and expressed thanks for a “wonderful and inspiring two days.”

From Charles R. Moeser, President of the Humane Society of Glynn County, Ga., comes this praise: “Mrs. Moeser and I both agree that our trip to the Education Center was without doubt the most important contribution we could ever make to our local humane society. It was for us not only absorbing but most instructive and cannot help but prevent mistakes that we would have made otherwise.”

Miss Doris J. Casey writes from Philadelphia, Pa., “I gained much insight into humane work and the dedicated people connected with it, and enjoyed it tremendously. It has proved to me what I have been thinking for quite some time—that this work can be fun as well as interesting.”

If you are in any way involved in humane work and haven’t looked into this valuable course, you are missing a great opportunity to gain expertise in handling animals and effectively dealing with the many problems of humane society and animal shelter management.

The next seminar is scheduled for November 13-15. Applications are now being taken. Write to Miss Phyllis Wright, Executive Director, National Humane Education Center, Waterford, Virginia 22190.

Kindness Club Reports Show How Members Help Many Animals

Reports from Kindness Clubs across the country show that the children who are members are helping animals and spreading the message of kindness in many different ways. Many of the reports are heart-warming in their sincerity and genuine concern for the cruelties and injustices that are inflicted upon animal life.

From the Appaloosa Branch Kindness Club in Fishville, L.a., comes word of a big campaign to remove a state bounty on the red wolf. The children noticed the red wolf is listed by the U.S. Department of the Interior as endangered. They started a letter-writing campaign and got publicity in local newspapers. Now the status of the red wolf, the peregrine falcon, and the Florida panther is being re-examined by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and there is state legislation pending to protect them.

The Harp Seal Kindness Club of Chevy Chase, Md., has been gathering petitions against the clubbing to death of seals. In addition to writing letters to authorities and Congressmen, the children were featured on television. They are now working in support of the Goodell bill which, if enacted, would stop the clubbing by 1972.

The Palominos Branch Club at Leesburg, Va., held a sale of homemade items and was able from the proceeds to make a sizable contribution for the protection of animals in North Africa.

Other clubs are distributing posters on animal welfare, raising money for humane work, writing letters on humane topics, and doing a great variety of things to help the cause.

Your Society urges you to consider organizing a Kindness Club in your own area.

Write today for full information to R. Dale Hylton, Director, The Kindness Club, National Humane Education Center, Waterford, Virginia 22190.