HSUS Sues to Stop Coyote Poisoning

Houston Suit Brings Shelter Changes

The Humane Society of the United States and a Houston animal welfare organization have succeeded in forcing changes in the Houston animal control program after asking a state judge to enjoin city officials from continuing inhumane treatment of cats and dogs.

The legal action resulted in a plea of agreement by city officials to all charges made by HSUS and Citizens for Animal Control (CAP).

Ironically, the charges of inhumane treatment of animals centered on the city's new $650,000 Rabies Control Center, which was opened last autumn.

Among the charges made by the two groups were these:
- Animals kept in overcrowded, unsanitary pens.
- Sick and injured animals not segregated from other animals.
- Inadequate, unsanitary, and insufficient food. Occasional absence of any food or water in some pens.
- Sewers continuously stopped up, causing sewage to back up into pens.
- Large animals kept in pens with smaller ones who could not protect themselves from injury or obtain their share of food.

HSUS Requests Ban Of Pet Turtle Sales

HSUS and Consumers Union have asked a federal agency to ban the sale of pet turtles because turtles are proved transmitters of infectious salmonella to children.

In their petitions to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the two non-profit organizations cited a large number of documented cases in which children who had pet turtles had contracted the infection. Salmonella causes diarrhea, fever, and severe enteritis in humans, the petitioners stated.

Although the petitioners requested that all pet turtles, tortoises, and terrapins be banned because they present an "unreasonable risk of injury," it is the red-eared slider turtle that is the most common house pet. The commission has adequate authority to declare and enforce such a ban, the

EPA Experiment Target of Suit

The Humane Society of the United States has asked a federal district court to halt a coyote poisoning program recently authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Coupled with the suit was a request for a temporary restraining order, which U.S. District Judge Thomas A. Flannery granted in Washington, D.C., on March 4.

HSUS told the court that EPA's decision to permit ranchers in 44 Texas counties to use sodium cyanide for coyote control violates requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act.

Target of HSUS's action is EPA's decision to permit "experimental" use of the M-44, a mechanical "coyote getter" filled with a charge of sodium cyanide between Feb. 8, 1974 and June 1, 1975. The coyote getter, a cylindrical device that is hammered into the ground in areas known to be frequented by coyotes, attracts the coyote by a scent on a wick. When the animal pulls on the wick with his teeth, a charge of sodium cyanide is spring-fired into his mouth, causing certain and agonizing death.

Federal predator control programs have been a primary target of HSUS and environmental groups for the past several years. HSUS filed a federal suit against Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton in 1971 to force an end to the federal pred-
The only justification the government can produce is statistics compiled by the sheepmen themselves.

COYOTES Continued

ator control program. A few months later, on Feb. 8, 1972, President Nixon banned the use of poisons in all federal predator control programs and in predator control programs on federal lands.

EPA suspended the registration of poisons used in predator control on March 9, 1972, a few months after HSUS, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and five other organizations petitioned it to do so.

In its new suit, The Humane Society charges that EPA has violated the specific terms and policies of the President's Executive Order that prohibited federal agencies from allowing the field use of poisons in any federal predator control program.

The EPA action, HSUS charges, also contradicts EPA's own findings of 2 years ago that questioned the need for any poisons in predator control programs. It was those findings that led EPA to ban the registration of all predator control poisons.

EPA has violated the National Environmental Policy Act, HSUS alleges, by failing to prepare an environmental impact statement.

The Humane Society has contended for many years that coyote getters are inhumane and indiscriminate because they can be discharged by other animals, including endangered species and pets, and even humans.

The Society's suit charges that EPA has violated the U.S. Endangered Species Act because the proposed program has no means of preventing the accidental death of threatened and endangered species.

Aside from the technical aspects of the suit, HSUS charges that there is a strong likelihood that there is no need for any coyote killing programs. The only justification that the government can produce for such programs is statistics on sheep losses to coyotes compiled by the sheepmen themselves. The government has no system of its own for determining the number of sheep losses to coyotes and cannot substantiate the sheepmen's figures.

Furthermore, the government has done little research to find a more humane and selective method of killing coyotes, the Society charges.

Figures compiled by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) would seem to raise serious questions about the legitimacy of claims that coyotes are responsible for widespread sheep losses, HSUS President John A. Hoyt said. USDA reported that in a recent year, Ohio,

Two coyote getters pose a danger to animals of all species, including pets, and even humans, with only a small stake to mark their location.

where there are few coyotes, had a lamb mortality rate of 11.2%, whereas Wyoming, where there is a large coyote population, had an 11.6% rate in the same year.

Hoyt charges that the amount of money spent by the government for predator control in the past has far exceeded sheepmen's dollar losses of lambs to coyotes.

The Society favors as an alternative a reimbursement program that would have the government repay sheepmen for all losses that could be verified as having been caused by predators. This program would be coupled with a non-lethal control program of using tranquilizers, repellents, reproductive inhibitors, sound, and light, and aversive agents.

"This approach would save millions of innocent animals, including endangered species," Hoyt said.

In one year, during the height of the federal predator poisoning program, the government reported killing 2,800 red wolves, 24,000 foxes, 11,200 badgers, 30,000 barn owls, 1,500 coyotes, 4,000 bobcats and lynx, 7,000 badgers, 7,600 opossums, 19,000 skunks, and 6,700 porcupines for accidents while killing 90,000 coyotes.

"It is this kind of irrational and indiscriminate slaughter of America's wildlife that we are trying to prevent," Hoyt said.

Although EPA's action in permitting limited use of the M-44 is listed as experimental, the manufacturer reported to EPA that its device has already logged 33,000 use years. HSUS contends that M-44 has been widely used and tested for many years, and, therefore, does not need additional field testing at the expense of the nation's animals.

Meanwhile, woolgrowers have succeeded in transforming a predator control bill into an authorization for expanded predator control.

The measure, now known as H.R. 11526, would increase federal appropriations for killing programs and would have state agriculture departments, long sympathetic to woolgrowers' interests, administer the programs.

The bill would also remove most controls over predator control poisons from EPA. Both the Dept. of the Interior and EPA are opposed to the bill in its present form, as is HSUS.

The bill is now before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Hearings on the original proposals for the bill have been held in both the House and Senate. No further hearings will be scheduled.

A BIZARRE SPORT—The Freer, Texas, Chamber of Commerce held its annual coyote and bobcat hunt last month to provide "sport" for businessmen in the state. Nineteen coyotes and one bobcat were killed and proudly displayed (above). The hunt offered the businessmen a "reason to get away and have a good clean sporting weekend," said a chamber spokesman.

Joyce Mertz Gilmore

HSUS has lost one of its most dedicated leaders and valuable supporters, Joyce Mertz Gilmore of New York City died of cancer on Jan. 16 at the age of 44.

During the 4 years that Joyce was on the HSUS Board of Directors, she provided a leadership and perspective that was invaluable to HSUS and the entire humane movement. In contributing enormous amounts of time and money to HSUS, she always had but one objective: to make this world a kinder place for both man and animals. Joyce was an active supporter of other causes, as well. She was an early and active supporter of Martin Luther King and other civil rights and civil liberties leaders, including A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin. She also devoted substantial time, energy, and funds to the peace movement and the performing arts.

Joyce was a general partner and executive committee chairman of Publishers Clearing House. She was a graduate of Swarthmore College.

Her husband, Robert W. Gilmore, has asked that memorial contributions be sent to the Joyce Mertz Gilmore Memorial Fund of The Humane Society of the United States.

Words cannot express the magnitude and depth of the loss of this great and gentle woman. A great citizen of the world has gone from us, yet the power of her spiritual and intellectual bequest remains most firm.

John A. Hoyt

Leadership Workshops

HSUS will conduct two leadership training workshops in April for animal control officers, animal shelter personnel, and local humane society leaders.

April 5-7: Philadelphia

April 19-21: Norfolk, Va.

For further information write: WORKSHOPS, HSUS, 1604 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.
Los Angeles Zoo: 50-Year-Old Ideas

HSUS officials criticized the 8-year-old Los Angeles Zoo for its “50-year-old ideas” after a recent 9-day investigation of the facility.

HSUS Executive Vice President Mel L. Morse and HSUS zooologist Sue Pressman blamed the zoo’s problems on the failure of the Los Angeles Community to respond to the zoo’s needs.

“I find myself at a loss to understand how people who profess to be interested in human and animal welfare can tolerate the conditions I saw,” Morse said upon completion of the investigation at the end of January.

Mrs. Pressman, who has investigated 267 zoos for HSUS in the past 3 years, blamed the people of Los Angeles for the zoo’s problems. “The local citizens have not embraced the zoo as a community institution,” she said. “They see it only as a pleasant place to spend the day or as just another place in competition with Southern California’s tourist attractions.”

The zoo will improve, she said, only when the community sees it as a pleasant place to spend the day or as just another place in competition with Southern California’s tourist attractions.

The zoo’s problems began, Morse and Mrs. Pressman concluded. When the community turns its back on the zoo as a place to learn and exchange ideas, the zoo will have made the first step toward justifying its existence, they said.

“It feels strongly about either making the zoo an educational exhibit or closing it,” Morse said.

“Let’s stop having animals sacrificed and exploited, and enlighten the public.”

Although the HSUS investigators did not find cruelty or neglect in the usual and blatant sense of the words,“they found several deficiencies that have caused inhumane conditions. They called for the following immediate actions:

- The removal of two adult orangutans from a 12 x 15-foot storage cage in which they have been kept for 7 years to an appropriate display area.
- Improvements to the health center to facilitate the intensive care of ill and injured animals.
- A temporary ban on the purchase of any new animals coupled with the sale of surplus animals to reduce the present inventory of 2,400 animals.
- Rodent control for the health and safety of the animals.
- Improvement of food and diet control.

Morse and Mrs. Pressman were particularly concerned about the orangutans, a male and a female, who have not been out of the cage for exercise or sunlight in 7 years. Keepers said they could not control the animals because of their strength. The 270-pound male has the strength of 8 or 10 men, they said.

Only some 5,000 orangutans remain in the wild, in the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra. They are considered the most intelligent of the great apes. A male orangutan was sold by one zoo to another recently for $11,000.

HSUS recommended that one of the zoo’s bear crates be immediately adapted for use as temporary quarters for the orangutans until a permanent display can be built.

Mrs. Pressman found some incredibly bad conditions in the health center. The outdoor runs were built without any cover, and a makeshift cover was later added. The result is a roof that leaks so badly that 25-gal. garbage cans are necessary to catch the run-off from the leaks.

In the absence of protection on the sides of the run, a zoo keeper had improvised a heating unit for a monkey by hanging a heat lamp from an outdoor wire. It was “something one might see at a roadside zoo,” Morse said.

HSUS investigators also found a 50-year-old idea: a 270-pound male orangutan, stars from the Los Angeles Zoo, where he and his mate, Sally, have spent the last 7 years out of public view. HSUS investigators urged the zoo to give top priority to moving the animals to a large public display.

L. A. ZOO Continued

“Let’s stop having animals sacrificed and exploited, and enlighten the public.”

Mrs. Pressman

Mrs. Pressman

HSUS President John A. Hoyt has announced the appointment of Charles C. Herrmann to the position of director of educational publications for HSUS.

Herrmann, a former managing editor of children’s publications for Xerox Education Publications, is redesigning the format of the HSUS KIND (Kindness in Nature’s Defense) publications. He will be working with all members of the HSUS educational staff on publications and audio-visual materials for individuals and the classroom.

The first redesigned publications will be distributed in April.

Herrmann brings to HSUS a broad background of educational experience. He has been a teacher of exceptional and emotionally retarded children and a counselor to juvenile delinquents, an instructor at teachers colleges in New Jersey, author of short stories for children, and developer of records to stimulate creative writing in the elementary schools.

He won an Edpress Award for children’s stories in 1970, and he served on the Rocky Hill, Conn., school board. He was listed in the 1973 edition of Outstanding Young Men of America.

United States is published six times a year. HSUS headquarters is at 1104 S. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Coleman Burke Chairman of the Board

Patrick B. Packes Executive Vice President

Karl Nordling, Editor
The Defense Dept. on Beagles

By John A. Hoyt

During the past several months, HSUS has vigorously protested the Dept. of Air Force and Army's testing programs. Unnecessary suffering to beagles and other animals. Opposition to these programs was registered with both departments, the Secretary of Defense, the President, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the United States, and several congressmen.

In spite of the vigorous efforts of several organizations and expressions of protest from tens of thousands of citizens, HSUS has been advised by the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense that both the Air Force and Army testing programs are continuing. In a letter to Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, dated Jan. 4, 1974, I requested answers to the five following questions. The response, as dictated by Deputy Staff Assistant Philip A. Farris, dated Jan. 22, follows each question:

Q. "Is the program initiated by the Dept. of Air Force (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio) still being conducted, and if so, what is the proposed duration of this testing project?"
   A. "The programs of the Army and Air Force, which are being conducted in a humane manner, are still being carried out. Requirements for these research are still valid. Tasks within these programs differ in some degree requiring up to one year of study. It is almost certain, because of the chemical complexity of defense systems, that requirements to evaluate the toxicology of new fuels and materials will occur in the future."

Q. "How many animals, specifically beagles, are being used in this project and what is the current status of these animals?"
   A. "As to the number of animals involved, this information is being compiled in a special report requested by Congress. Until the compilation and full report are completed, we are unable to provide this information."

Q. "Has either the Dept. of the Air Force or the Dept. of the Army revised or cancelled either of these programs, as a result of the HSUS publicized protest that has been registered with your office, the Dept. of the Air Force and Army, the President of the United States, members of Congress, etc.?"
   A. "There has been no significant change in the projects involved, although we have received extensive review. The requirement for this research exists, as does our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our people."

Q. "What alternative programs have been considered by the Dept. of Air Force and Army that would not involve similar projects utilizing animals in the future?"
   A. "We feel that the criticism directed at the Dept. of Defense is society at large, as our use of animals is scientifically conventional and numerically modest, as compared with nationwide totals. However, in view of the concern expressed by HSUS, we have initiated a broad program to review certain aspects of this research and our use of animals has been initiated."

Q. "What is the program initiated by the Dept. of the Air Force (Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio) still being conducted, and if so, what is the proposed duration of this testing project?"
   A. "The Dept. of Defense regards criticism of its testing methods and procedures misplaced. In other words, the Department of Defense does not feel obliged to justify the morality of its actions as regards this testing process. It is scientifically correct."

A. "There is no foreseeable end to the use of animals in military testing programs though "a broad program to review certain aspects of this research and our use of animals has been initiated."

A. "It is quite clear that there is little room for discussion about the testing programs being conducted by both the Air Force and Army. A recent court case by an anti-vivisection group has been dismissed, and there is no requirement to prevent the use of beagle dogs in the Air Force testing program."

A. "Likewise, there have been vigorous protests by a few congressmen, but there has been no genuine congressional pressure to halt these tests. Nor has public protest had much impact."

A. "In spite of the apparent disregard of public outrage, you are urged to continue to express your views on this matter to your Representative, Senator, Secretary of Defense, Secretaries of Army and Air Force, and others."

A. "We will continue to question the Dept. of Defense and any other research organization about the justification and methods of using animals in research. Americans have taken for granted the use of animals in research for much too long. HSUS believes that the government and other scientific organizations accelerate the development and use of alternative methods for research and testing."

New Law to Protect Threatened Species

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, which was signed into law Dec. 28, extends protection formerly afforded only to endangered species to species that are presently abundant but which might become threatened in the foreseeable future.

Under the endangered species laws of 1966 and 1969, protective measures were available only to species that had entered into a dangerous downward spiral.

Under the previous measures, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to list endangered native wildlife, but his department had no jurisdiction over law that would have protected the animals. In actuality, many states authorized public hunts of animals on the Secretary's word."

The new law, P.L. 93-205, authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to enter into cooperative agreements with the states for the protection and propagation of endangered wildlife. States have 15 months to submit a satisfactory conservation plan for endangered animals within their jurisdictions. If such a plan is not submitted by that time, the federal government has authority to impose regulations for individual species in that state."

Unfortunately, hunting and states made to help zoos and aquariums:
- The Zoological Parks and Aquarium Board, established by the bill, should be a bi-partisan body made up of "a professional educator and two additional representatives of non-profit humane or conservation groups" in addition to zoo professionals.
- The definition of acceptable zoo research should state "clearly and without ambiguity that the research intended by this bill is uniquely and solely for the welfare and benefit of the zoo animals themselves."
- Federal funding should be restricted to "the improvement or replacement of existing facilities and/or the institution of educational programs for those visiting zoos."
- HSUS opposes using federal funds for the expansion of existing facilities or for the acquisition of new animals.

Hoyt stressed the three major problems that confront zoos: municipal interference, ill-conceived architecture that is inadequate for humane housing and care, and a lack of funds. "Our investigation, criticism, and in some cases exposure of these problems have resulted in sincere efforts toward improvement and correction," he said. Hoyt stressed the Society's continued opposition to "roadside parks." He urged that the term "roadside parks" be eliminated from the bill.

Molly Malone was near death from starvation, had been burned on the chest and face, and was covered with tar when the Wisconsin Humane Society found her. A month later, Molly looked like a new family. Unfortunately, cruelty cases such as this are not uncommon problems for humane societies.
The CARNIVORES, R.F. Ewer (Cor­nell University Press, $21.50)

The CARNIVORES became the first of its kind a natural history book in any natural history library. It is scholarly, yet readable, and covers all aspects of animals, man’s use of animals. Mrs. Ewer’s philosophy appears in the opening line of her preface: “Appreciation of animals has much in common with appreciation of works of art.”

The humane movement has a lot to gain from this book. The carnivores are among the most misunderstood and most heavily persecuted of all animal groups. This book will enable any concerned person to prepare for any argument. It will enable them to write meaningfully, to help them in one of the most ancient arts. It will bring a library shelf of books to provide the data included in this one massive, profusely illustrated volume.

Our most common companion animals are carnivores—our dogs and cats. The most precious furs sought by man and those of carnivores. The predator control program that we have all fought against for so long is leveled at carnivores. THE CARNIVORES is one of those books that it seems impossible we ever did without. Recommended as essential.

Roger Caras

Roger Caras, a vice president of HSUS, is a nationally known naturalist who has had 22 books published, mostly on wildlife. He writes “Our Only World,” a syndicated newspaper column and broadcasts “Pets and Wildlife” on CBS radio.

The Humane Society of the United States

Announces

The 1974 HSUS

Animal Photography Contest

Three $50 1st Prizes Three $25 2nd Prizes

Categories: I. People and Pets II. Domestic Animals (Cats, Dogs, Horses, etc.) III. Wild Animals (Native or Foreign, in Captivity or Out)

Contest Rules
1. All entries must be submitted by Nov. 1, 1974. You may submit as many entries as you like.
2. Entries cannot be printed in any publication with circulation larger than 10,000 or have been mass reproduced for sale, as such as on posters.
3. All entries become the property of HSUS and will be used in educational publications of HSUS. (You retain rights to the reproduction from negatives.)
4. Both black and white color photographs are eligible. Black and white photos must be 8 x 10 glossyes. Color photos must be prints 5 x 7 or larger or slides. The photographer’s name and address must be printed on the back of all photographs or, in the case of slides, attached to them.
5. All entries must be the original, unretouched work of contestants.
6. Entries must be in by postmarked envelope or canceled postmark request.

Mail your entries to: PHOTO CONTEST, HSUS, 1604 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

WONDER OF THE WORLD, Sig­mund A. Landwe and Briggs Casey (Dodd, Mead and Company, $3.95)

Sigmund Landwe and Briggs Casey bring to the reader a blend of history and development of the horse together with man’s use, care, and training.

The information and discussions are presented in a factually readble, beautifully illustrated, which will delight horsemanship both young and old. The horse of myth and fiction is skillfully woven together with the horse of fact and function, thus making this book a valuable addi­tion to every horse lover’s library. However, it is a pity that the authors did not include one photograph of a Tennessee walking horse.

Emily Adelman

Emily Adelman is an expert horsewoman in dressage and a member of the American Horsemanship Protection Assoc.

COCKLEBUR QUARTERS, Charlotte Barker, paperback (Avon, $6.95), ages 8 and older

This book about the efforts of two young black children to save a dog and her puppies from destruction was recommended in the November 1972 News when it was published in hardback. This was the last paragraph of the recommendation, written by Stuart W. Westerlund, Ph.D., director of the HSUS Humane Education Development and Evaluation Project:

“COCKLEBUR QUARTERS is more than a story about a boy and his dog; it is a story about caring. Young Dolph’s concern for the well-being of his adopted dog generates an involvement on the part of a number of children and adults in the community. The book promotes the humane ethic, and clearly demonstrates the impact which a boy’s concern for an animal can have on the total environment of a community.”

Emily Adelman

Emily Adelman is an expert horsewoman in dressage and a member of the American Horsemanship Protection Assoc.

Bureau Limits Use of Euthanasia Drug

The Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs has reclassified and thereby severely restricted the use of sodium pentobarbital, the drug recommended by HSUS and the American Veterinary Medical Assn. for euthanasia of cats and dogs.

Under the Jan. 1, 1974, reclassification, animal shelters can obtain federal permits to obtain the drug only if they have received certification under a state drug control law or if their state has no drug control legislation.

HSUS is working with two pharmaceutical companies seeking to develop additives to the drug that would cause nausea or diarrhea if injected into humans. Such addi­tives would render the drug unsuit­able for use by addicts and, there­fore, do away with the bureau’s reason for the reclassification.

HSUS has also initiated reviews by several laboratories of non-barbiturate solutions that could be substituted for sodium pentobarbital.

In the meantime, HSUS is en­couraging local humane groups to write to the bureau to request a re­evaluation of their ruling in light of euthanasia needs. Letters should be addressed to U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, Box 20083 Central Station, Washington, D.C. 20005.

For further information, write DRUG INFORMATION, HSUS, 1604 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Counsel’s Corner

The Firearms Lobby. It stayed out of sight and under cover during the recent HSUS litigation to limit hunting on wildlife refuges, but has now surfaced and claims full credit for the trial court ruling against us. The original publication of the “Firearms Lobby of America” headlined a recent issue “FLA WINS GREAT SWAMP CASE.” It is refreshing to have our real opposition out in the open. Hopefully the federal government will finally recognize the fact that it is being “used” by this powerful group of weapons manufacturers.

Cockfighting. The Oregon Court of Appeals has ruled that game fowl are protected under existing animal welfare laws and that the laws are constitutional. The decision makes cockfighting illegal. Only New Mex­ico, Oklahoma, Arizona, Florida, and Kansas still permit it.

Coyotes. Did you know that Ohio has a higher lamb mortality rate than Wyoming—without any coyotes? Who’s kidding whom about the so-called mass poisoning of “predators”?

Target Practice. The Attorney General of Texas has ruled that the use of live pigeons for target prac­tice may violate the state anti­nuisance laws. It is a real setback for those who claim that if it’s “sport,” it is exempt from the normal rules of decency and humaneness.

Caveat. We still find many cases where the real intent of our supporters is frustrated by careless will drafting, and the failure to clearly spell out the name of The Humane Society of the United States. Please keep in mind that there is no national “SPCA” and that care must always be taken to properly identify the organization of your choice in any will or trust.
Zoo Accreditation
S. 2774, Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) and H.R. 12047, Rep. William Whitehurst (R-Va.)-to establish a National Zoological Park and Aquarium Corporation to set standards for the voluntary accreditation of zoos and aquariums and to provide technical assistance, loans, and grants to such facilities for modernization, research, and the training of professional staff.

Hearings in Senate on Jan. 23; see page 7.

House Committee on Agriculture, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Endangered Species
Public Law 93-205 signed by the President on Dec. 28; see page 7.

PETTERSTIZATION
H.R. 11873, Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.)-to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and assist the states in carrying out a program of animal health research. Passed by the House on Feb. 4.

Whales
S. 184, Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.):-to direct the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit the use, on public lands, of any trap, net, snare, or other device that does not painlessly capture or immobilize sea mammals.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Interstate Animal Commerce
H.R. 59, Rep. Leonor Sullivan (D-Mo.)-authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to conduct a study of methods of preventing the spread of salmonella to humans is for the pet industry to deliver salmonella-free turtles to the consumer. It supports the Consumers Union conviction that it is impossible to produce salmonella-free turtles on a commercial scale. The only viable solution, both petitioners contend, is to ban the interstate shipment and sale of pet turtles.

Turtles Continued
• Petitioners contend.

The Humane Society petition, which was filed in support of the Consumers Union petition, criticized the pet industry’s current educational program of preventing the spread of salmonella to humans by keeping pet turtles out of water for all but 30 minutes a day. This method will result in dehydration, malnutrition, and poor muscle and bone development in the turtle, the Society contends.

• "The pet industry, by emphasizing this desiccative (dry) method of maintenance, markets not a pet but a dying animal," HSUS declared. A pet turtle maintained primarily in an unnatural environment is being injured for the sake of commerce and, furthermore, it has little educational value to children, HSUS said.

The Society charges that the result of this method of care will be a rapid turnover rate of pet turtles and, hence, higher mortality.

• HSUS Gulf States Regional Director Douglas M. Scott and Regional Field Investigator Bernard M. Weller talked to city officials about the need for drastic improvements before the new shelter was opened.

Among the sick animals they observed was a mother dog with her three puppies, two of which appeared to have been dead for several days, soaping wet and confined to a cage without food or drinking water.

Scott and Weller reported seeing a cat hung by his neck from a snare pole for 45 seconds while employees made up their minds where to put him. Scott said his office, located in Corpus Christi, will continue to observe the Houston animal control program.

WASHINGTON
• Funny in Sacramento

In response to the HSUS report, the city engineer has issued a 12-page plan for immediate improvements in the program and facility, as well as a number of long-range recommendations for major policy changes.

Veterinarians are promoting the use of dichlorvos impregnated flea collars, which are effective in the much needed flea control program of household pets. Millions of flea collars have already been sold, and, because of their usefulness, sales of these products are continuing to increase.

Veterinarians, however, have issued stern warnings to pet owners to be alert for signs of skin irritation resulting from contact with the collar. The Humane Society of the United States agrees with veterinarians in cautioning owners of dogs and cats wearing flea collars to examine the skin under the collar daily, especially during the first week of use. At the first sign of skin irritation, the collar should be removed immediately and a veterinarian consulted. The HSUS recommends to observe the collar daily for skin irritation, the collar should be removed immediately and a veterinarian consulted.

Many veterinarians are also instructing owners to fasten the collar of their dog loosely to provide separate between the collar and the skin, and to avoid wetting the collar. Airing of the collar prior to fashioning it has been suggested as a precautionary measure. It is also important to read package labels because some of the products are not designated for use in certain breeds and types of dogs and cats.

Collars designed for dogs contain twice as much dichlorvos as are regulated for cats. The collar contains enough of these insecticides to provide adequate control for several months, soaping wet and confined to a cage without food or drinking water.

Veterinarians continue to observe the Houston animal control program.

Collars are manufactured in a variety of shapes, collars, and sizes, the most popular being plastic bands and medallions. A new trend is to treat stray and surplus cats and dogs humanely. Since then the Humane Society of the United States has acted to increase the number of legal action by HSUS. In 1972 HSUS and a group of San Antonio citizens asked a court to force city officials to declare "invasive collar" has recently been placed on the market. This was a collar in which a substance is slowly rubbed around the pet’s neck. According to a report in the May 1972 issue of Veterinary Medicine, the HSUS Gulf States Regional Director Herbert N. Martin and Regional Field Representative Michael D. Martin studied the city’s animal control program at the request of the city council. Their findings included:

• Poorly trained animal control officers
• No attempt to segregate sick or diseased animals from healthy ones
• Inadequate medical care for diseased animals

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Inadequate medical care for diseased animals
Puerto Rico Shelter Overcomes Odds

HSUS Animal Control Specialist Phyllis Wright visited the Humane Society of Ponce, Puerto Rico, last month and was impressed with the society's dedication and determination to overcome insurmountable odds for the betterment of animals.

Miss Wright praised the work of Mrs. Cameron McKenzie, president of the society, and Mrs. Dorothy Rodriguez, shelter director, who was responsible for the building and organization of the animal shelter.

Miss Wright emphasized that the shelter, which opened last July, operates under the most adverse conditions. "The community of Ponce, with approximately 75,000 inhabitants, is literally saturated with unowned animals, especially dogs and horses," she explained. "Because no licensing system is enforced, gangs of dogs swarm the streets, while starvation and disease are rampant."

"The only kindness ever known to these animals was a humane death," she added.

The City of Ponce only partially supports the society with $2,000 a month. Additional funds must come from membership and donations, which amount to very little considering the tremendous task they are faced with. The shelter has handled approximately 2,600 dogs since it opened.

Miss Wright recommended the purchase of new equipment, such as portable cages. She assisted in hiring a new shelter manager and trained him on euthanasia and the proper methods of animal care.