News All Bad
For the Seals

This has been a bad spring for seals. Just as it appeared that headway was being made in protecting seals, two major setbacks occurred:

- The Canadian government permitted 150,000 seals to be taken by hunters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the coastal area of Labrador.
- Several nations announced their intention to participate in an agreement that would open the Antarctic to sealing for the first time in history.

Contrary to Announcement

The action by the Canadian government followed an earlier governmental announcement that it was banning the taking of seals in 1972 except by "lansmen." But humanitarians' initial elation dissolved when they learned that the government considered fishing vessels under 65 feet to fall under the definition of lansmen.

The Canadian government is now promising to phase out the St. Lawrence hunt by 1974, to be followed by a six-year moratorium on seal killing. The 150,000 seals permitted to be taken this year by lansmen is a decrease of 75,000 from last year's hunt.

Phase-out Considered

The phase-out is now being considered by the Standing Committee on Fisheries of the Canadian Parliament. Concerned individuals are encouraged to make their views known to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at Government House, Ottawa, Ontario 1.

The prospect of opening the Antarctic to sealing developed during an international convention in London earlier this year, at which participating nations, including the United States, agreed to permit the taking of 192,000 seals a year.

Although the U.S. Congress must

Administration
On Predators:
Let States Kill

Initial elation over the President's executive order stopping poisoning of predatory animals on public land has waned with the introduction of Administration proposals that would continue large-scale killing under the auspices of the states.

Had Killed 100,000s

The Executive Order, issued on Feb. 8, halted the killing by poisons of hundreds of thousands of wild animals annually in western and southwestern states. Although the primary target of the poisons was the coyote which sometimes preys on sheep, many other species were being killed as well.

The ban had been urged by a special Advisory Committee on Predator Control, (the Cain Committee) appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, which repeated most of the unheeded recommendations of a similar committee convened during the Johnson Administration. Environmental, conservation and humane groups had been pushing the government for several years to take such action.

$6 Million for States

The Nixon Administration's full intentions concerning predator control were revealed when it introduced a bill into the House of Representatives to make $6 million available to the states over a three-year period for any type of predator control program except those using poisons. The bill, H.R. 13152, also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit the use of poisons by states in "emergency" situations.
The concerns of national organizations that have been monitoring the predator control program center on two possibilities:

- That the states will drastically step up their killing of coyotes by trapping, hunting, and killing pups in their dens; and
- That the Secretary of the Interior will use the broadest interpretation of the term “emergency” to justify the reintroduction of poisons.

The Humane Society of the United States is fearful that states will also call upon two particularly inhumane methods, hunting by greyhounds and shooting from aircraft. HSUS has learned that Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Idaho have already begun issuing permits to private landowners to kill predators from planes.

Furthermore, governmental spokesmen have indicated they are willing to use the broadest interpretation of the term “emergency” to justify the reintroduction of poisons. The Humane Society and other groups with similar concerns are calling on the Congress to restrict the use of poisons.

The Humane Society endorses a proposal by Rep. Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.) and Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) to enact a five-year moratorium on the killing of marine mammals, the House voted to exclude seals and porpoises, two of the species in most need of protection.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (H.R. 10420) would permit a continuation of the Pribilof Islands hunt. The Humane Society asked the House to include seals and porpoises in the moratorium. It also urged the House to offer Canada/Sweden financial compensation for the pelts they would have received annually.

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Exempts Tuna Industry

The bill as passed not only protects some marine mammals but also exempts the tuna industry as well, by exempting it from compliance with the measure. Dolphins, the most intelligent of all marine mammals, travel with schools of yellow fin tuna and are being killed in large numbers during purse seine tuna fishing operations.

HSUS objects to a provision in the bill that gives the Department of Commerce partial jurisdiction over the taking of marine mammals, because Commerce has traditionally defended commercial interests.

The Senate Committee on Commerce has revised the House bill in such a way that it appears to protect marine mammals but in reality poses an even more serious threat to them than the House bill.
Legislative Roundup

Congress is expected to consider the following measures before adjournment:

**Zebras**
H.R. 6803, Rep. William Whitehurst (R-Va.)—to establish a National Zoological and Aquarium Corporation which would finance zoo research and the training of professional staff and make loans for modernization and construction of new facilities. The House Subcommittee on Library and Memorials is expected to schedule hearings in May.

**Marine Mammals**
H.R. 10420, Rep. Glenn Anderson (D-Calif.)—to provide for the protection, conservation and propagation of species or subspecies of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction or likely to become threatened with extinction. Passed by House in March; referred to Senate Committee on Commerce.

**Endangered Species**
H.R. 13111, Rep. Edward Garmatz (D-Md.)—to provide for the protection, conservation and propagation of species or subspecies of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction or likely to become threatened with extinction. Passed by House in March; referred to Senate Committee on Commerce.

**Predator Control**
H.R. 13152, Rep. Garmatz—to authorize the Secretary of Interior to assist the states in controlling damage caused by predatory animals; to establish a program of research concerning the control and conservation of predatory animals; to restrict the use of toxic chemicals as a method of predator control. Included in House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation hearing convened March 20.

**Shooting from Aircraft**
H.R. 12186, Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.)—to strengthen the penalties imposed for the shooting from aircraft.

**Loophole Discovered In Aerial Killing Ban**

The cruelty that steel jaw traps inflict on their victims was dramatically demonstrated in suburban Washington, D.C., recently when a pet German Shepherd was severely maimed after being trapped in one. Hobo, a 65-lb. male German Shep herd, had been trapped for two to three days when discovered in a remote area of Reston, Va. He had apparently caught one foot in a trap that was secured under water with a cinderblock and caught a second foot in another trap as he was fighting to get free. As a result, one hind leg had to be amputated at the joint, and the paw of the other hind leg had to be amputated, as well.

An area resident admitted setting the trap two months before to catch muskrats. The Humane Society of the United States and the Fairfax County (Va.) Animal Welfare League have charged him with cruelty, failure to check his traps every 24 hours, setting traps where injurious to children and pets, and other violations of state or county laws.

HSUS Investigator Guy Hodge is assisting Fairfax County officials in the prosecution of the case in hopes of setting a national precedent to restrict the use of the steel jaw (or leghold) trap.

Meanwhile, Hobo was fighting infection that resulted from his injuries. His veterinarian said he was doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances and hoped the care being given him by his owners would prevent the need for further surgery.

**Pressman Tells Directors Of Zoos to Specialize**

HSUS’s Sue Pressman has called upon the directors of zoos throughout the United States to justify the existence of zoos by exhibiting fewer animals in situations that permit them to exhibit a wider range of natural traits.

“You cannot be all things to all people,” Mrs. Pressman told the annual convention of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums in Tucson, Ariz., last month. “Specializing in a few species of animals is the answer.” Mrs. Pressman said that, whereas HSUS and local humane societies can stimulate reform, the actual changes must be initiated and controlled from within the zoo profession.

“The view at HSUS as a service,” she said. “We are in a position to help your zoo, to communicate with people outside your circle who often are unreachable through other means, and to emphasize the reasons for zoos.” She told the zoo administrators that they should not rest until they had allowed every animal on exhibit to display as many natural behaviors as possible.

“If we know of 32 (behavioral traits), then showing 12 does not do the animal justice, and the public is being cheated,” she said.

**England Bans Exotic Skins**

Great Britain has banned the import of furs, skins, rags, and coverlets made out of tigers, snow leopards, and clouded leopards. Regulations governing the importation of all other leopard and cheetah skins were also tightened, according to Environmental Action Magazine, although the importation of these skins is still permitted if they are legally exported from the country of origin.

Britain, which is the world’s largest fur trading nation, agreed to the ban only after a long campaign by conservation and wildlife groups. The groups are still not satisfied and have urged the British government to enact legislation that would protect more than 60 species of wild animals.

There are less than 2500 tigers and less than 50 snow leopards left in the world.

**Pet Dog Learns Cruelty Of Steel Jaw Traps**

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**Loophole Discovered In Aerial Killing Ban**

A loophole as large as the sky has emerged in the recently enacted legislation to ban the shooting of wildlife from aircraft.

President Nixon had barely signed P.L. 92-159 last December before taking advantage of a provision that aerial shooting could be conducted if authorized by a permit by either the U.S. or a state government.

The original intent of the provision was to permit the use of aerial shooting as a method of control and conservation of predatory animals; to establish a program of research concerning the control and conservation of predatory animals; to establish a marine mammal commission.

There was no indication that the foxes or individuals. To authorize the Secretary of Commerce. (See article on page 6.)

**HSUS Has Published A Bibliography Of Animal Rights, Their Protection And Defense, For Teachers, Librarians, And Humane Workers. Books, Pamphlets, Periodicals, And Films Have Been Made Available From Within Your Circle Who Often Are Unreachable Through Other Means, And To Emphasize The Reasons For Zoos.” She Told The Zoo Administrators That They Should Not Rest Until They Had Allowed Every Animal On Exhibit To Display As Many Natural Behaviors As Possible.” If We Know Of 32 (Behavioral Traits), Then Showing 12 Does Not Do The Animal Justice, And The Public Is Being Cheated,” She Said.**
Purdue Vet Students Hear About Surplus

Miss Phyllis Wright, executive director of the National Humane Education Center, recently spoke to 130 junior and senior veterinary medical students at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., about the problem of surplus cats and dogs.

Miss Wright reported the majority of the students were not aware of the immensity of the problem and expressed considerable interest in helping to solve the problem.

She was so encouraged by the students’ receptivity to her talk that she is planning to get in touch with other veterinary schools in an attempt to talk with their students. As for the surplus cats and dogs,

 USDA Enforces Law For Walking Horses

HSUS officials were pleased with the strict federal regulations for the protection of the Tennessee Walking Horse at the first Tennessee Walking Horse show since the regulations were published.

HSUS Chief Investigator Frank J. Hal Perry attended the show in Phoenix earlier this year and reported that only 3 of the 75 entered were allowed to be shown by U.S. Department of Agriculture officials.

The Horse Protection Act of 1970 outlawed the use of blisters, burns, cut, chemical agents, chains, tacks, and other cruel or inhumane agents on a horse's body.

Both McMahon and Mrs. Pearl Twyne, president of the American Horse Protection Association, praised Agriculture officials for their close adherence to the regulations.

The programs of the HSUS will involve both research and education; it will take research to develop handling or restraining equipment or methods that can replace cruel methods. It will take education to bring our citizens to a point where they will not only use and permit livestock to be subjected to pre-slaughter barbarities, but we are closing our eyes to other cruelties to which they are being subjected from birth to death.

The first major project launched by the Council is a study to be conducted by the University of Connecticut to establish criteria for humane handling of small animals prior to and at slaughter, as well as to determine methods and techniques for conveying, positioning, and dispatching small animals at slaughter. It is hoped that the study will result in the development of equipment that will be readily adopted by slaughtering houses throughout the United States and provide an alternative to shackling and hoisting which will be acceptable for retail slaughter. If these objectives are realized, over $35,000 will have been achieved in preventing untold cruelty and suffering to millions of animals.

The Board of Directors of The HSUS and your president enthusiastically endorse and support the program of this Council. To date, we have contributed over $1,000 toward its work and program, and are pledged to contribute additional funds. I personally urge you to help support this effort, either through your contributions to The HSUS or through contributions sent directly to the Council. Either way, your gift is tax deductible.

CONFERENCE Continued

John A. Green was physical science administrator for the Federal Water Quality Administration Office of Management before becoming a regional director for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Stuart Westerlund, Ph.D., is head of the Department of Graduate Studies in Education at the University of Tulsa. He has just been appointed HSUS educational director to develop a long-range plan for a national humane education program for HSUS.

Robert C. Bay, D.V.M., is a member of the Department of Anatomy at Colorado State University, Ft. Collins. He will talk about some of the concerns and projects that are being undertaken by the HSUS Veterinary Advisory Committee, of which he is chairman.

Further details of the conference, including registration fee and procedures, will be announced in the July News.

Joe the Bear is still the key attraction at Ray Alexander’s bar and grill outside Clover, S.C., in spite of HSUS’s attempts to get him removed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has enforcement responsibility for the new federal regulations governing animal exhibitions, has declared Joe’s recently enlarged quarters satisfactory. HSUS disagrees and is attempting to persuade Dr. C. O. Finch, senior staff veterinarian, Animal Care Staff, Animal and Plant Health Service, USDA, to order a removal of Joe to a more suitable environment. Dr. Finch’s address is Federal Center Bldg., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Have you provided for the animals in your will? HSUS would be happy to send information on why everyone should have a will and how to write one.