Summer 1973
of The Humane Society of the United States

HSUS Blocks Burro Killing

The Humane Society of the United States has succeeded in temporarily blocking a plan by the U.S. Navy to kill 200 wild burros living on the China Lake Naval Weapons Center in California's Mojave Desert.

State Permission

The Navy obtained a permit from the California Dept. of Agriculture to kill the burros because weapons center officials believed the vegetation was not adequate to sustain the entire herd, estimated to number between 350 and 500.

But a personal inspection of the land by officials of HSUS's new West Coast Regional Office in Sacramento revealed evidence of healthy, well-fed animals. West Coast Regional Director Herbert N. Martin and Regional Field Representative Mike Smith observed lush vegetation throughout the area on an April 3 inspection.

Requested During Drought

The Navy had requested permission to reduce the herd last November, before the end of a three-year drought that had reduced the food supply drastically. Navy and California Dept. of Agriculture officials predict that the lushness, which resulted from a spring rainy season, will be short-lived. As of July, vegetation will be sparse again, they claim.

The Humane Society contends that the burros, descendants of burros used by miners during the Gold Rush, are protected by the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act.

Society Cites Dog Racing Cruelties

Dog racing is one of the cruelest American pastimes, largely because of the training methods used, which include the chasing and tearing apart of live rabbit lures.

Because legislation to authorize dog racing has been considered in several states this year, The Humane Society of the United States has undertaken a major effort to alert humanitarians about the evils of the so-called sport.

"Dog racing is nothing more than exploitation of animals for profit," declared HSUS President John A. Hoyt. "The efforts to legalize the activity in California, Washington, Delaware, and the District of Columbia have convinced us that we must be vigorous and vocal in our opposition."

HSUS's most severe criticism is directed at the use of live rabbits as lures in training greyhounds, the dogs used in professional racing. Although most owners and trainers will not admit it, virtually all racing dogs are trained with live rabbits.

In a training event called coursing, a jack rabbit is released in an enclosed field and two or more young, hungry greyhounds are released to chase it, providing competition among the dogs.

In a recent article on dog racing, (Continued on page 4.)
whereas the Navy Act, requiring that an environmental impact statement be filed before action is taken.

In announcing that the Navy was postponing its killing of the burros, Deputy Under Sec. of the Navy Joseph A. Grimes, Jr., said the action ‘has been held in abeyance to allow revision and review of the environmental assessment with regard to the improved grazing and consideration of additional alternatives recently suggested.’

Meanwhile, Rep. William Whitehurst (R-Va.) urged the Navy to live-trap the burros for release on other public lands.

The California Dept. of Agriculture has refused, however, to rescind its permit. HSUS officials fear that the Navy might quietly take advantage of the permission before its expiration, after public anger has subsided.

Many observers attribute the Navy’s eagerness to get rid of the burros to a desire to see bighorn sheep introduced into nearby mountainous areas, with a view toward developing the sheep herd until the land can be opened for public hunting of the popular trophy animal.

Martin learned that the Navy has obtained and used permits for killing burros at China Lake in several previous years. The earlier permits allowed the killing of 50 burros in 1965, 50 in 1966, 100 in 1967, 200 in 1969, and 50 in 1971.

The killing was done quietly and still would be unknown if word had not leaked out to nearby residents, he said.

“In view of federal legislation protecting wild burros, and the present good physical condition of these animals, it is difficult to understand why the Dept. of Agriculture issued a permit for their destruction,” Martin said.

HSUS has resolved to do all in its power to prevent this needless destruction.

HSUS Helps Close St. Louis Kennel

HSUS Chief Investigator Frank J. McMahon was instrumental in closing a kennel outside St. Louis that had sold distemper-infected dogs to area residents for many years.

Arcadia Kennels in Fenton, Mo., was ordered closed for 90 days following a hearing at the Jefferson County Circuit Court. The court also ordered that the kennel can be reopened only if a veterinarian visits the premises twice a week to inspect the facilities, give necessary medical attention, and to make sure that each dog sold has a certificate signed by a veterinarian stating the animal is free of distemper.

The effect of the order, said McMahon, is to put the kennel out of business permanently. It would be next to impossible for kennel owners Roger and Rosemary Balmer to afford the required veterinary medical services, he predicted.

McMahon had visited the kennel last October under the guise of seeking to buy a dog. He was appalled by the small cages, the lack of food and water, and the uncleanliness of the place.

To obtain evidence of the existence of distemper, McMahon purchased a used truck and van from the Arcadia Kennels in the course of an investigation into reports that the kennel sold distemper-infected dogs.

The puppy, named George, died of distemper six days later.

HSUS Amnity Plan

The HSUS Amnity Plan offers a fixed annuity, payable for life, that is particularly beneficial to those in upper age brackets. Under the plan, the investor transfers a sum to HSUS, the major portion of which will be used for philanthropic work. In addition, the donor will receive quarterly payments of a predetermined amount for his lifetime.

For further information, write HSUS AMNITY, 1640 K St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

Torture Key Feature of Rattlesnake Roundups

A team of incognito HSUS investigators attended a series of rattlesnake roundups this spring and branded them “sideshow of torture and bloodshed.”

The team, which included a heptopetologist who has handled over 700,000 snakes, was shocked by the activities they witnessed in towns throughout Texas.

“The torture was incredible,” said HSUS wildlife specialist Sue Pressman, a member of the team. “The snakes were stomped, kicked, thrown, mashed and butchered alive.”

The people who attend the roundups are being sold the bill of goods that rattlesnake roundups are necessary to control the rattlesnake population in that vicinity, Mrs. Pressman said. “What they don’t know is that most of the snakes are caught elsewhere and imported to the roundups.”

Herpetologist Pat Burchfield, curator of the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas, said the roundups were rampant with activities that were injurious to the snakes. Among the ones he cited were:

- The spraying of gasoline in snake dens to drive them out, resulting in severe irritation to the snakes’ lungs, often causing pneumonia that leads to a slow death.
- The throwing of snakes against the sides of wooden holding pens until the ones on the bottom are suffocated or crushed to death.
- The provision of little water, resulting in dehydration.
- Improper milking of the snakes, often causing obvious injuries to the glands and the jaws.
- Contrary to popular belief, rattlesnakes have a delicate skeleton and muscle structure,” Burchfield said. “I can only describe the way in which they were handled as brutal.”

After enduring the agony of the above activities, many of the snakes are butchered. Their heads are chopped off with a machete, and the bodies are strung up to be skinned and butchered. During a butchering contest at one roundup, investigators observed tails sometimes being chopped off before the heads in the contestants’ haste to win.

“It’s a scientific fact that snakes can feel pain,” Mrs. Pressman said. “The suffering inflicted at these roundups is excruciating when directed at any living creature.”

The team, which included Gulf States Regional Director Douglas M. Scott and Field Representative Bernard M. Weiler, concluded that the perfecting of the events is to attract tourists to the community and make money. The roundups, usually sponsored in Texas by the Jaycees, have all the trappings of a carnival, as well as dances and beauty contests.

Although the announced purpose of the snake milking was often the need to provide antivenin for sale, wildlife officials say the snake milk is worthless. The venom is collected at a professional snake farms provide serum to medical and research facilities.

Burchfield said that professional snake farms provide the necessary serum to medical and research facilities. He stated that two professional snake farms provide all the antivenin needed in the United States.

“Somehow or other, people have come to think of the rattlesnake as a worthless creature to be tortured and killed at will,” Regional Director Scott said. “Nothing could be further from the truth.”
"Of Man, Animals, and Morals"

The 1973 Annual Conference of
The Humane Society of the United States

October 18-21
The Atlanta American Motor Hotel
Spring Street at Carnegie Way
Atlanta, Georgia

Addresses, Forums, and Workshops
Conducted by Experts on

- Animal Control Programs
- Investigation Procedures
- Wildlife
- Legislation
- Humane Education
- Rodeos
- Animals in Biomedical Research
- Fund Raising
- Animals in School Projects
- Euthanasia Methods
Dommers Receives Connecticut Award

John J. Dommers, director of education of the HSUS New England Regional Office, received one of Connecticut's first Environmental Awards from Gov. Thomas Meskill.

The award was presented for "significant contributions to the improvement of the state's environment."

The citation read in part, "Many individual citizens have been involved in environmental education for several years. Without extensive physical and financial resources, these teachers have made a significant impact on the children of our state. One of these teachers is John Dommers of Madison. He has done extensive work with children in our state by developing environmental programs which have received national recognition."

Dommers said the nature education programs he developed, while with the Madison school system were built around a nucleus of humane education, which he defines as "helping children develop sympathetic and protective attitudes toward wildlife through direct experience involvement activities."

HSUS Office Opens In Nature Center

The HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center near East Haddam, Conn., is completed and in use.

The Center is serving as headquarters for the HSUS New England Regional Office, as well as a meeting place for workshops, regional meetings, and other humanitarian functions. It houses a humane education resource library, a special projects area, and an animal artifacts museum.

A wildlife sanctuary with nature trails and a pet cemetery will be located on the 30 acres.

The Center will be formally dedicated on Sept. 21.

A featured speaker at the dedication ceremonies will be HSUS President John A. Hoyt. Other speakers will include Connecticut state officials, representatives of New England animal welfare, ecological, and conservation groups, and stage and screen star Norma Terris, who donated the land for the Center.

A balloon ascension and buffet luncheon are also scheduled on dedication day.

HSUS members and friends are invited to visit the Center at any time. Motel accommodations are available near the Center, which is located between Interstate highways 91 and 95.

The HSUS New England Regional Office has a new phone number: (203) 434-8666.

The Program

Thursday, October 18

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Miss Amanda Blake, of "Gunsmoke," HSUS Director

6:00 p.m. Film Presentation and Lecture "Wild Africa Today"

Roger Tory Peterson, Ornithologist, author of many books on birds, illustrator of books and magazines

9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Reception for Conference Participants

Friday, October 19

9:00 a.m. Opening Session

Amy Freeman Lee, Litt.D., Program Chairman

Author, artist, lecturer, HSUS Director

9:30 a.m. Keynote Address "Of Man, Animals, and Morals"

Ashley Montagu, Ph.D.

Anthropologist, social biologist, author, editor

10:45 a.m. Forum: Wildlife

The Hon. Nathaniel P. Reed

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior

Roger Caras

Naturalist, author, radio-TV personality, HSUS Vice President

3:45 p.m. Workshops

Investigation Procedures

Frantz Dantzler, Director, HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office

Use of Animals in Classrooms and Science Fairs

Barbara Orlando, Coordinator, HSUS Special Study Committee on the Use of Animals in Biomedical Research and Testing

The Legislative Process

Murdough Stuart Madden, HSUS General Counsel

Euthanasia Methods

Robert C. Bay, D.V.M., HSUS Staff Veterinarian

Panel Reaction

James L. Naviaux, D.V.M.

Director, National Wildlife Health Foundation

N. R. Jotham, Vice President, Canadian Association for Humane Trapping

Sue Pressman, HSUS Wildlife Specialist

Animal Control Programs

Phyllis Wright, HSUS Specialist in Animal Control Programs

Rodeos

Frank McMahon, HSUS Chief Investigator

Fund Raising and Community Relationships for Local Societies

Jacques V. Sichel, HSUS Director

Society and Shelter Records

Herbert N. Martin, Director, HSUS West Coast Regional Office

In the Legislatures

Connecticut Environmental Education—bills are being enacted requiring that environmental education be incorporated in elementary and secondary school curricula. HSUS has been assured that the humane ethic will be included in such education.

Hunting—bills to legalize Sunday hunting, hunting with primitive weapons, and bounties on raccoons have been defeated.

Dog Racing—legalized by the Con. (Continued on next page.)
HSUS Spurs Zoo Improvements

Pressure from HSUS has resulted in a proposal by the mayor of Springfield, Mass., to make $2 million worth of improvements in Springfield’s Forest Park Zoo.

HSUS investigators threatened this spring to charge Mayor William C. Sullivan with cruelty to animals unless he took immediate and drastic action to correct unsatisfactory conditions at the zoo.

A few weeks later, Sullivan proposed that the city provide $1 million for improvements if the Forest Park Zoological Society can provide an equal amount.

One of the zoo’s most serious problems has been the existence of a bovine strain of tuberculosis among the hoof stock. The strain was discovered after a Barbary sheep died in Connecticut.

Mrs. Pressman visited the zoo at the request of John Dommers, education director of the HSUS New England Region, who found little improvement in conditions on several successive trips. She agreed with Dommers that the zoo is in flagrant violation of the Animal Welfare Act of 1970, which established standards and a licensing system for zoos. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s veterinarian charged with enforcing the law in Massachusetts refused to issue Forest Park Zoo a license and recommended to his superiors in Washington that it be charged with violating the act.

HSUS believes the first objective of any zoo must be to educate people about the habits and traits of animals.

"We Must Unite"

In a series of speeches to humane groups throughout New England, Rear Admiral James C. Shaw, HSUS New England regional director, has urged humanitarians, regardless of their specialized interests, to open ranks to all humane-minded people, whether or not they share that specialized interest.

“We all know that humanitarians are of an independent nature and frequently dedicated to ‘doing their own thing,’ ” Shaw said. “However, if our goals are to be achieved, we must unite.”

Shaw urged his audiences to do whatever suits their individual temperaments and capabilities but to work with and have tolerance for humanitarians whose background and means of action are different.

Shaw said HSUS is an ideal forum and vehicle for all humanitarians, because it embraces literally all facets of the humane movement.

LEGISLATION

Continued

nnecticut legislature and signed into law, in spite of protests from humanitarians.

Maine

School Experimentation—a bill to permit the vivisection of animals in secondary schools was defeated.

HSUS New England Regional Director James C. Shaw appeared by invitation before the legislature’s Education Committee to present HSUS’s opposition to such activity.

Bounties—a bill to place a bounty on the Northeastern coyote was defeated.

Hunting—a bill to permit hunting of moose was defeated.

Rhode Island

Dog Racing—bills have been introduced to legalize it, and HSUS believes they can be defeated only if all animal welfare, conservationist, community preservation, and anti-gambling groups work together.

New England in General

Several states are exploring means of establishing a veterinary medical school in New England. Connecticut has appropriated money for a study of feasibility.

Saturday, October 20

9:15 a.m. Annual Membership Meeting

10:30 a.m. Forums

Humane Education

Stuart R. Westerlund, Ph.D., HSUS Director of Education Development, former Chairman, Department of Graduate Studies in Education, University of Tulsa

John J. Dommers, Director of Education, HSUS New England Region

2:00 p.m. Forum:

Animals in Biomedical Research

Harry C. Rowseill, D.V.M., D.V.P.H., Ph.D. Permanent Secretary, Canadian Council on Animal Care
Learn from Authorities

This is your once-a-year opportunity to learn of the latest developments in many areas of animal welfare and protection from foremost authorities. Whether you work for the benefit of animals through a local society or individually, the 1973 HSUS Annual Conference will be invaluable to you.

Humane Education Workshop

An additional feature of this year’s conference will be a one-day humane education workshop, scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, before official opening of the conference. The workshop will include discussion and examination of new materials and techniques being developed by HSUS education officials. If you are interested in attending, check the blank at the bottom of the registration coupon to obtain additional information.

Make Your Reservations Today

Fill in the coupon below and mail it today. The $30 registration fee includes two buffet luncheons (vegetarian food included) and the Annual Awards Banquet. The hotel will bill you for your room when you check out.

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Mail to: HSUS, 1604 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

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[ ] Charge to__________________________

[ ] (Check one)____ single rooms @ $21.00 _______ double rooms @ $24.00 at the Atlanta American Motor Hotel.

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**Animals in School Projects**

The HSUS Materials Committee has issued guidelines to restructure science education in elementary and secondary school curricula by distributing them to the 9,000 members of the National Assn. of Biology Teachers.

The guidelines include the following recommendations:

- No experiment shall be performed on any warm-blooded animal that might cause it pain, suffering, or discomfort, or otherwise interfere with its normal health.
- No surgery shall be performed on any living vertebrate.
- In biological experiments involving living organisms, such as plants, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, worms, snails, or insects should be used wherever possible.
- No experiment shall be performed on a vertebrate animal that might cause disease or other injurious reaction in either man or animal.
- A competent science teacher must supervise and give prior approval to plans for observation of animals in school projects.
- Vertebrate studies shall be conducted only under proper supervision.
- The guidelines list organisms that are kept for educational purposes.

*Guideline 12* expresses the Humane Society's goal for all use of animals in school projects: “Respect for life shall be accorded to all animals, creation, and organisms that are kept for educational purposes.”

*These principles are by far the best ones available in the United States,* said Barbara Orlans, Ph.D., coordinator of the HSUS Veterinary Advisory Committee, Robert C. Bay, D.V.M., chairman.

Many of the recipients of the guidelines have requested additional copies, often to distribute throughout an entire school system. A devoted science educator in Michigan wrote HSUS that he thought every school should have a copy of the guidelines. “There is an urgent need for these in our schools,” he said.

The HSUS biomedical research committee has also compiled a list of 10 recommended biology project books for elementary and secondary classes. The books that were rejected included several that advocate amputation of animal surgery, as well as one that suggested placing pregnant animals in a refrigerator to see how many would be born dead or deformed and one that directed the use of lethal doses of radiation on animals.

*Copies of both the guidelines and the list may be obtained free of charge from HSUS headquarters.*

HSUS hopes its guidelines will give nationwide direction to school systems for the use of animals in high school biology courses and other curricular and other extracurricular science competition. Blatant animal abuse has been the rule rather than the exception in junior and senior science projects.

*Repeatedly, forcefully, and constructively, the International Science and Engineering Fair, which is the largest and most dominant science fair, continues to reward cruel animal experimentation conducted by juveniles,* Dr. Orlans said.

*Typical of these inhumane projects is one exhibited this spring in which a 17-year-old New Jersey boy subjected pregnant animals to refrigeration to learn the effects it would have on the mother and its babies. Eight bottles of dead mice that had not survived this treatment were featured in the youth's exhibit.*

*The youth won the right to exhibit at the 1973 international fair, but in New Jersey, the偏偏 reeducation project, Greater Trenton Science Fair, which was sponsored by the Trenton Times and the Engineers Club of Trenton.*

The International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) is conducted annually by Science Service, Greater D.C., organization and is open to winners of affiliated state and local fairs. Taxpayers support the ISEF because at least six federal government agencies are involved in providing prizes. Students compete in these competitions largely for prestige and the prospect of winning substantial monetary awards.

HSUS staff member Guy R. Hodge studied the San Diego fair held in May, and observed many exhibits that involved cruelty to animals. Among them were:

- Brain surgery on live rabbits.
- Subjecting live mice, which were female in pairs, to electric shock every minute for 24 hours, or to snare, ulcers, muscle damage, and loss of weight, as a means of showing the results of psychological stress.
- Skin grafts on live rabbits and mice.
- Administration of lead and mercury to live mice to study symptoms of poisoning.
- Subjecting mice to constant noise, followed by killing and dissecting them.
- Rattlesnake poisoning caused mice to have hypertension.

*“Under no circumstances, should projects that cause suffering or slow death to sensitive animals be conducted by elementary or secondary school children,” Dr. Orlans said. “Such activities are educationally unsound.”*"}

**Legislative Roundup**

HSUS considers the following bills of interest and merit in meeting most aspects of the problems at which they are directed.

**Traps**

S. 1637, Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) and H.R. 8065, Rep. Glenn M. Anderson (D-Calif.)—to require the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit the use on public lands of any trap, net, snare, or other device that does not painlessly capture or immediately kill its victim; to prohibit the manufacturer, sale, or transportation in interstate or foreign commerce of any trap that does not painlessly capture or immediately kill its victim.

**Endangered Species**

S. 1592, Sens. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.)—to amend the Endangered Species Protection Act to provide for the conservation of species and subspecies of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction or likely within the foreseeable future to become threatened with extinction, and to extend the protection afforded endangered species to the United States.

**Rental Housing**

H.R. 4345, Rep. Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.)—to prohibit federal assistance to rental housing projects in which tenants are not allowed to have dogs or to local governments that do not permit dogs in rental housing.

**Animal Transport**

S. 1706, Sen. Henry Bellmon (R-Okla.)—to prohibit states located within 100 miles of the greater Los Angeles area from allowing interstate or foreign commerce of any animal that has not been in a state located in the greater Los Angeles area for at least 72 hours.

**Animals in Air Transit**

S. 399, Weicker (R-Conn.) and H.R. 1264, Whitehurst (RVa.)—to extend provisions of the Animal Welfare Act to cover common carriers and airports and terminal facilities.

**Equine Meat**


**Horse Slaughter**

H.R. 8055, Bill Hunter (DFla.)—to prohibit importation of meat or meat products from slaughter or handled inhumanely.

**Rattlesnake Roundup**

Be further from the truth, since the rattlesnake plays an important role in the ecosystem of the country, especially the Southwest. In some areas, such as Texas, rattlesnakes help control rodent populations, among other animals, helping to keep them under control, Scott pointed out. The investigating team was appalled at the distorted information disseminated during the roundups, the most frequently repeated statement being that rattlesnakes have no purpose. Burrichter said some of the information on snakes’ traits was based more upon old wives tales than fact.

*“I have heard as much misinformation as facts about the natural history of the snake at these affairs,” Burrichter said. He was critical of the official roundup personnel came in contact with the snakes to demonstrate their bravery. One in particular crawled under the sand with a snake, while another walked barefoot through the snake pen.

*They have such a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about the real value and danger of the rattlesnake, but said. “Instead they lead observers to believe that they are harmless.” Children participated in all events but were given special attention in learning butchering. Such exposure can only distort a child’s view of the value of other living creatures, Scott pointed out.

*“Since rattlesnake roundups are so deeply ingrained in the tradition of some communities, we have a tremendous responsibility to help educate the public,” Scott said. “The attitude toward other forms of life demonstrated in rattlesnake roundups is a long way from HSUS’s philosophy of respect for all life.”*
Acquitted

The owner of a pasture near Laramie, Wyo., where 20 riding stable horses died of starvation last winter (see April News), was acquitted on a charge of cruelty to animals by a Laramie jury.

"Incredibly, much of the evidence gathered by the investigators was not used in the trial," said Frantz Dantzler, director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, which handled the investigation for HSUS. "It appears that it is legal to starve horses in Wyoming."

HSUS's complaint was based on the autopsy report of two of the horses, which indicated they had died of starvation.

HSUS on CBS, NBC TV Shows

HSUS has been featured on two network TV programs recently. A segment of CBS's "60 Minutes" explored the problems of the pet population explosion, featuring an interview of HSUS President John A. Hoyt by Mike Wallace. Hoyt was interviewed on NBC's "Today" show about the problems of shipping animals by air.