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Update

Vol. 1, No. 5
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PET DEALERS

John Dommers of our New England Regional Office has written to remind us that a slide presentation, reviewing the highlights of how pet dealers are affected by the Animal Welfare Act of 1970, is available from the Photographic Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. There is a nominal charge for the series. It is suggested that Regional Offices consider setting up a joint program with the local USDA veterinarians for pet dealers in the region. The legal and humane aspects of pet shop management would be worthwhile topics for discussion.

CLIPPING SERVICE

You will recall that there has been past discussion in Regional Staff meetings about how to keep up to date on animal related news items and issues within your region. We pass the suggestion along from our New England office that there is no need to subscribe to all the major newspapers. Instead, it is easy to develop a volunteer clipping service. Many HSUS members will be happy to volunteer their time to clip news stories and send them to your Regional Office. It should be worked out so that the clippings are mailed about twice a week. This is an especially good project for a school class which, while serving a useful purpose for you, at the same time gives students some insight into animal problems. One way to get this project started is through a brief notice in one of your NEWS inserts.

GAINS MADE IN MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION

The Marine Mammal Protection Act, which restricts the taking of whales, porpoises, and other sea mammals, allows parties to apply for exemptions to let them capture animals for research or public display in cases of alleged economic hardship. Some exemptions have been sought by corporations claiming economic hardship, but who would have been only intermediaries, selling the animals to researchers or exhibitors elsewhere.

The administering agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, has now ruled that such "middle man" exemptions will no longer be granted. The agency has ordered that such exemptions must be related directly to the person ultimately responsible for the care or use of the mammal away from its natural habitat.

The ruling, of course, is most beneficial to marine mammals and was made in conjunction with the denial of two economic hardship exemption requests, from Global Sea Lions, Inc. and Sea Lions International, which sought to capture 200 and 300 sea lions respectively for sale to U.S. and foreign zoos and seaquaria.

SEESAW STRUGGLE OVER ANIMAL USE IN SCHOOLS

You should be aware that the use (and abuse) of animals in science education - in the classroom and in science fair projects - is coming under close examination in a number of states. A bill to legalize vivisection in schools in the State of Maine was introduced this year. This bill was killed, largely through the efforts of Jim Shaw, New England Regional Office, although most humane societies and humanitarians in the state joined in strong opposition to the bill.

A proposed revision of the Wisconsin law, which now allows animal experimentation and demonstration in schools, would give some control since it requires such work be done only under the supervision of a "teacher of agriculture". This proposal is still in committee.

On the other side of the ledger, the Rodda bill, which will outlaw painful experimentation in California schools, has passed the legislature and is awaiting signature by the Governor. Testimony in support of this legislation was given by our good friends, Mel Morse and Herb Martin. The successful progress of the bill through the legislature shows the good job done by Mel, Herb, and Char Drennon.

It is important to be alert to the introduction of this kind of legislation in states within your region. It usually provokes a great deal of controversy and, of course, it affects the main target of our own educational efforts - the youth of America. Further, it is important to know and understand the exact HSUS position on this issue. Although we have issued guidelines for uses of animals in science education, this is not to be taken as meaning we approve or condone any painful experiment or procedure in the biology teaching process. We issued the guidelines in recognition of what is now going on in many states and, hopefully, we can thus ameliorate or eliminate much of the abuse and cruelty to which these animals are often subjected.

Our basic policy, however, is opposition to dissection of animals and any painful procedure in the classroom because of the psychologically harmful effects upon the child, the animal suffering frequently involved, and the fact that it is a needless and, often, educationally undesirable teaching method.

PET CARE TEACHING UNIT

A new teaching unit, A Pet Is A Special Friend, has been developed and is being distributed by the Pet Food Institute, Chicago, Illinois. Dale Hylton, Director of our Youth Division, has reviewed the unit and recommends it highly.

The unit consists of a filmstrip and record and it deals generally with pet care and appreciation. It sells for \$5. Hopefully, we will eventually be able to add it to our list of KIND teaching units. Meanwhile, Regional Directors interested may write for further information to Mrs. Pat O'Keefe, Pet Food Institute, No. 1 Illinois Center, 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

CRUELTY TO THE CIVET CAT

In the last month or so, the civet cat (first cousin to the mongoose and about 2 feet long) has been the subject of extensive international publicity resulting from a statement by Jacques Leal, Chairman of Chanel, Ltd. of London, that a key ingredient

in Chanel perfume is "the sweat of a whipped Abyssinian civet cat". Mr. Leal said the cat's head is put into a sort of torture chamber and the animal is whipped until it gets mad and gives off a glandular secretion. The statement provoked an uproar among humanitarians and humane societies internationally, and Mr. Leal later claimed his published remarks had been misinterpreted.

In the meantime, an investigation was launched by the International Society for the Protection of Animals while the New York based Society for Animal Rights, Inc. called for a boycott of Chanel No. 5, one of the perfumes in which civet oil is used as a fixative. ISPA's investigation revealed that these cats are captured in the wild with a net or by hand as they spurt from their burrows. They are kept in cages about 3 feet long, with height and width of about 18 inches. They can move backwards and forwards and they can turn around, but this is the extent of their exercise. The cages are kept in concrete sheds with corrugated tin roofs. Windows and doors are kept closed to maintain an inside temperature of about 110 degrees (F).

The musk (or civet oil) is wiped from the ventral face of the genital organ with a spatula carved from the horn of an ox. ISPA's investigator noted that most animals struggled while undergoing this process. He reported, however, that by far the greatest cruelty is the confinement in small cages.

Your Washington headquarters has had numerous letters on this subject. We feel it advisable for field personnel to be informed in case they are asked questions, or in the event of further publicity. The HSUS, of course, objects to this totally unnecessary suffering, especially since very good perfumes are now being manufactured using a substitute fixative.

If you feel you need a complete report provided by the ISPA organization, please let us know.

HSUS POLICY - GREYHOUND RACING

The effort to legalize greyhound racing seems to have intensified this year with introduction of bills in the state legislatures of California, Washington, and Delaware. It is probable that similar legislation will be considered in other states since these events are highly regarded by state authorities as a source of extra, and often badly needed, revenue.

We consider this activity an exploitation of animals for profit and we are most concerned about abuses in the industry. Consider, for example, how greyhound racing adds to the problem of surplus animals. Almost anyone can inexpensively breed two greyhounds in the hope of producing a winner. This indiscriminate breeding swells the already staggering number of animals that have to be killed every year by humane societies and public pounds. Even worse, some owners of losing greyhounds are known to kill them by crude and cruel methods.

There are, too, the training methods used. Although most owners will not admit it, virtually all greyhounds are trained with live rabbits. This is called "blooding". Usually, a jackrabbit is released moments before the hungry, young greyhounds who, of course, chase, capture, and kill it in a display of terror and cruelty that would be hard to surpass. Cats also have reportedly been used for this purpose. And, of course, this training is all for the purpose of conditioning the greyhounds to chase the mechanical rabbit used at the tracks.

There is also the fixing of races and the well known fact that dog racing attracts a human element which can hardly be considered desirable for any community. Further, there is the housing and care of the dogs between races and the conditions of transportation from one state or racetrack to another; these frequently leave a lot to be desired from a humane point of view.

The HSUS, therefore, is opposed to legalizing greyhound racing and will normally fight such legislation. Regional personnel should be aware of this policy.

LICENSING AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO CATS

The HSUS New Jersey Branch has put together some excellent material on the status of cats in the State of New Jersey. The information goes far beyond that state since it discusses the primary reason for municipal cat licensing, the effectiveness of such ordinances, suggested approaches for drafting such an ordinance and factors to be considered.

Bill O'Hara and his colleagues have done a really thorough and capable job with this one and we recommend that all regional offices write to him for a copy. Good work, Bill!

TRANQUILIZER GUNS IN ANIMAL CONTROL

We do not recommend the use of syringe projectors or so-called tranquilizer guns in normal animal control work. Under usual circumstances, conventional means such as live traps and dog control sticks should be used for the roundup and taking of stray dogs and cats.

Our position is based upon several factors:

- 1) Syringe dosages have to be estimated based upon age, weight, and physical condition. This is very difficult (almost impossible for anyone other than an expert) to do when dealing with wild or roaming animals. Some animal control agencies have experienced over a 50% mortality rate with tranquilized dogs and not all of these deaths were due to overdosing. Some drugged animals escaped capture and were killed in falls or by passing automobiles.
- 2) If the person using the gun is not an expert marksman, the projectile may well strike a vulnerable spot such as an ear or an eye, causing considerable suffering.
- 3) There is the element of human danger. Once fired, the projectile is generally irretrievable; it may miss its target and later be discovered by a child who may take it apart and swallow the drug, or drive the dart into his hand.
- 4) If a feral cat or dog cannot be captured by conventional equipment, it should be destroyed. This is better than subjecting it to the stress and trauma of an elaborate, dangerous capture with a tranquilizer gun.

There will be the occasional case of a wild animal (other than dog or cat) that cannot be captured by other means. There is little choice in such cases, of course, but great care should be exercised and only an experienced person should use the gun.

Tranquilizer guns or syringe projectors are ideal for use in controlled environments such as zoos. It is only in their application to normal animal control work with dogs and cats that The HSUS opposes their use.

THOUGHT FOR THIS ISSUE

If you have an idea, hustle around and get another. Don't let it die in solitary confinement. And, in any event, pass it along to us. Maybe we will be able to use it in Update.

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