The Humane Society of the United States has a long-standing and firm policy with respect to hunting. Its ultimate goal is to develop, largely through education and the exposure of the unnecessary cruelties involved in much of the public hunting as conducted today, a generation of adults who will no longer have any wish, desire, or willingness to kill any living creature purely for pleasure and recreation.

Along with the majority of the serious and responsible persons in the humane movement, we are fully aware of both the tragedy and necessity of removing or eliminating excess and unwanted animals. This we attempt to do responsibly and professionally in dealing with the frightful surplus of domestic pets in the United States.

Where "hunting" embraces the same measure of responsible conduct in performing the sad task of animal control and reduction, we are unable to object. But The HSUS is unalterably opposed to the killing of any living creature for fun or for sport - not solely for the animals' sake, but in large measure because of its negative effect upon the young who learn to accept and live with this type of needless suffering and killing.