HSUS Photographic Safari
By Roger Caras

Over the years, because of my work as a naturalist and photographer, I have made a number of trips to Africa and Asia. These have been, needless to say, photographically satisfying and worthwhile. This Asian version of a safari is shikar, the Indian word for a meant hunting trip, but for the camera and associates have said they dreamed of taking such a trip some day. Although they often said it half in jest, I am convinced a great many people meant it.

In cooperation with Park East Tours of New York, experts in East African travel, I am putting together a photographic animal and bird-watching safari for February, 1976, where we will visit the major wildlife areas of Kenya and Tanzania. I shall take great personal pleasure in introducing a number of these countries to Africa and its splendid wildlife for the first time. A first-timer on safari or as an experienced bird-watcher may find as much fun as the animals—wider eyes cannot be imagined.

If you have ever dreamed of going on a safari, join us. Write for a beautiful descriptive brochure containing the details and cost. Those people who participate will receive all necessary instructions and information well in advance.

Go to East Africa with Roger Caras
Deluxe 16-Day Photographic Safari Tour
For HSUS Members and Friends

U. S. Agency Grants Illegal Seal Permit

HSUS has uncovered information that indicates that the National Marine Fishery Services (NMFS) granted permission to a New Jersey zoo to take a California sea lion into captivity without learning that the zoo had falsified the request.

The information contains a record of such sloppy investigation and granting procedures that it calls into serious question the service's willingness to effectively execute and enforce the U. S. Marine Mammal Protection Act, for which it is responsible.

According to the information uncovered by HSUS, one of two sea lions owned by the Cohanizck Zoo of Bridgeport, N. J., was taken from the zoo applied for permission to obtain a third sea lion in December, 1973. The information indicates that the zoo may have deliberately falsified the request by stating it already maintained two healthy sea lions. Furthermore, the second sea lion died before the request was approved, without the zoo having notified NMFS of the death.

HSUS Vice President and General Counsel Murdugh Stuart Madden wrote to NMFS on Feb. 25 requesting an explanation of "this questionable and bizarre incident" and criticizing NMFS for failing to prosecute the zoo. The government should suggest that in the face of this record, replete with evidence of illegality and falsification, this lack of affirmative action and clarification that your personnel are either unwilling or unable to take effective action to obtain to obtain marine mammals, and to the simplest of fact situations," he said.

No reply had been received by press time.

HSUS Director of Wildlife Protection Sue Pressman expressed even more alarm over the situation. "If the Cohanizck Zoo gets away with this, every zoo in the country will know they don't have to provide accurate or truthful information to obtain marine mammals," she declared. "You will see an epidemic of falsification, but you will never see one because of the obvious need for fresh ideas," she said.

The zoo's problems were underscored a few weeks after Mrs. Pressman's investigation when a pair of rare white rhinos died from intestinal infection. The animals' keeper reported that he had requested that the zoo veterinarian examine the rhinos on several occasions but that his requests had been ignored.

Animal mortality has been a major problem at the zoo for some time. In 1973, 173 animals died out of an inventory of 887. "A high mortality rate is almost always symptomatic of major problems in zoo administration," Mrs. Pressman said.

"It may be that the only way for the zoo to overcome its very serious problem is for the director to step aside," Mrs. Pressman said early this spring. "If all other measures fail, the hiring of a new director may provide the only hope for this zoo to survive."