

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy
Animal Studies Repository

Spring 1986

WCRO Spring 1986

Follow this and additional works at: <http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn>

Recommended Citation

"WCRO Spring 1986" (1986). *West Coast Regional Office*. 39.
<http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn/39>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the Animal Studies Repository. For more information, please contact eyahner@humanesociety.org.



REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • SPRING 1986

MOUNTAIN LIONS FACE UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Governor Deukmejian's veto of S.B. 76, which would have continued the moratorium on mountain lions in the state of California, was a blow to all who worked diligently to preserve these magnificent cats. The governor stated that they "should be treated like any other game mammal" and, as of January 1, 1986, they have been.

Beginning in April, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will hold a series of hearings to set sport hunting guidelines, the first step toward "open season" on mountain lions. At a Sacramento hearing held early in March, the DFG recommended delaying setting hunting regulations for mountain lions until 1987. A department spokesman stated that biologists and game man-

agers lack data on which to set hunting seasons this year on the state's estimated 4,800 mountain lions, which have been protected since 1971.

At the same March hearing, department officials backed away from a proposal to kill all mountain lions in the North Kings area of Fresno County, in effect a "test" to determine whether the extermination of all mountain lions in the North Kings area, and 50% of lions in adjacent areas, would cause an increase in the deer herd population.

The WCRO and its members have registered their strong objections to the study with Jack Parnell, director of California State Department of Fish and Game, and our concern with a
(continued on page 2)

INSIDE

- Northern California Swept by Floods
- Oregon Pound Told To Clean Up or Close
- USDA Files Complaint

Dogs Seized in Kennel Raid, Owner Charged

In July of 1985, following complaints of noise and stench, Hayward (CA) animal-control officers raided a boarding kennel owned by Rita Roberts, a Hayward resident. They took custody of 10 dead and 45 neglected dogs. The WCRO contacted Mr. Bill Denny, Alameda County deputy district attorney, to urge prosecution of the kennel owner on charges of animal cruelty. Denny filed 17 counts of violations of the California State Penal Code. Roberts immediately filed a motion for return of personal property (her dogs).

To ease the burden on the already overcrowded shelter at Hayward City Animal Control, Char Drennon, director of WCRO, negotiated with the Peninsula Humane Society, Santa Cruz SPCA, Marin Humane Society, Monterey SPCA, and Santa Clara Humane Society to take the animals, pending trial. Drennon then submitted an affidavit to the court offering to coordinate removal of the animals. These humane societies were able to offer, through animal behaviorists, veterinarians, and volunteers, the care and attention the animals needed.

Drennon was asked by the deputy district attorney to testify at the hearing and was declared an expert witness on the humane care and treatment of
(continued on page 3)



Mountain lions are an increasingly rare sight in western states. If hunters and trappers have their way, these animals will become even more rare.

statement in the study that "results of this study will have a direct application to many deer herds in California and great value to deer management in general in all western states."

On a related issue, the WCRO urges members to obtain a copy of the November 1985 report by the Auditor General's Office on the DFG. It details the ineptitude of the department's revenue collection procedures and the miserable failure in general of the DFG to carry out their charged responsibility: to protect and conserve California's fish and game resources. While the department went to the legislature in April of 1985 to request an additional \$2 million, to be paid from the General Fund, and an increase in license fees to help offset the dwindling balance of the Fish and Game Preservation Fund (both of these requests were approved), the report shows that the DFG failed to collect "an estimated \$2.8 million in revenue and interest income," due mainly to "poor administrative practices."

In response to the Auditor General's report, WCRO Director Char Drennon voiced concern that if the DFG cannot effectively manage the programs they now sponsor, how can it be expected they will set up and administer the North Kings deer herd "test" in such a manner as to obtain reliable and useful results? "Any study can be made to re-

flect a desired outcome. We can only expect that such a study will reflect the positions held by those with an interest in deer and lion hunting," said Char Drennon.

The WCRO applauds the ten member organizations of the Nevada Federation of Animal Protection Organizations, Friends of Nevada's Mountain Lions, wildlife activists, and others whose recent efforts to protect mountain lions in that state were successful.

In March, the Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners voted unanimously to deny a proposal to legalize trapping of mountain lions on public lands and, in another vote, approved an ordinance prohibiting hunting of mountain lion kittens, and females with their young. Although it has been estimated that the mountain lion population in Nevada probably does not exceed 500 animals, the Nevada Department of Wildlife still allows them to be hunted for sport and has issued almost 200 permits in each of the past two years. Hunters killed 136 lions in 1985.

The trapping proposal, which was supported by the Nevada Trappers Association, deer hunters, and some ranchers who claimed such measures were necessary to protect livestock and sheep herds, would have allowed the taking of mountain lions using cruel and non-selective steel-jaw leghold traps.

Dog Pound Improvements Sought

In Jefferson County, Oregon, officials were told that if there were no interest in improving conditions at the county's dog pound, "closing the pound and suspending services would probably be the county's most prudent course of action."

That was just one of the recommendations made by WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach in a seven-page report sent to local officials in January. Sakach inspected the Jefferson County dog pound in Madras, Oregon, early last December in response to numerous complaints of poor conditions for animals and the county's method of killing unwanted animals—specifically, a gunshot to the head.

Sakach's report was most critical of the condition of the facility, the cleaning methods, the lack of formal training and record keeping, and the method of euthanasia.

The WCRO has since been advised

that the county would improve cleaning procedures and public hearings would be held this spring before setting a budget for the pound. The county will also support the proposal for an advisory board. Unfortunately, the method of destroying animals may not change until the county is forced to comply with a new state law that mandates lethal injections of barbiturates beginning January 1, 1987.



—HSUS/Sakach

Director's Comment

BY CHAR DRENNON



We wish to thank all HSUS members who wrote the United States Department of Agriculture's Office of General Counsel urging that it move forward with a hearing on the matter of James W. Hickey, a USDA-licensed animal dealer in Lebanon, Oregon (see the Fall 1985 *HSUS News*).

According to USDA's Office of General Counsel, Hickey is charged with 71 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. The complaint alleges Hickey failed to keep records in accordance with the law and animals were not cared for properly at his kennel. Hickey, a major supplier of animals to research laboratories, could face fines of \$1,000 for each violation and suspension of his license. He has 20 days in which to answer the complaint and the right to contest any of the charges.

Hickey's operation has been the target of investigation several times over the past few years at both the federal and local levels. He was reprimanded by USDA in February of 1984 for failing to properly identify dogs he had purchased and for failure to provide lighting and ventilation in his cat kennels. That investigation stemmed from complaints of Hickey purchasing dogs that had been taken from their owners under false pretenses.

Another investigation was conducted in 1984 by USDA through information obtained during the much-publicized case against Henry "Bud" Knudsen, a California research dealer. Hickey recently pled *nolo contendere* in Linn County, Oregon, to a reduced charge of receiving stolen animals.

WCRO will continue to monitor this case closely.

Northern California Ravaged by Floods

February 1986 will long be remembered in northern California as the month of floods when thousands of people in numerous communities in more than 12 counties, including Sacramento County, were forced to evacuate, in some cases without any warning. The storms that caused dams and rivers to swell, and a chain of devastating floods and mudslides, claimed the lives of a number of people and countless pets, livestock, and wildlife.

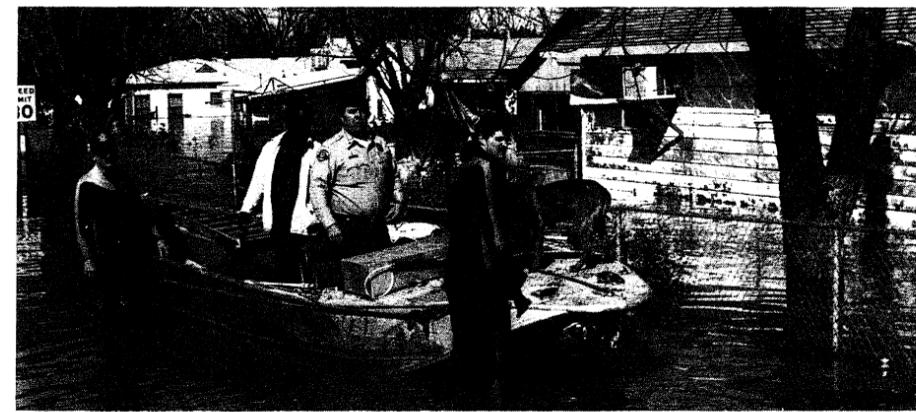
Throughout the period, the West Coast Regional Office was inundated with calls and reports from local humane societies and animal-control agencies either needing assistance or offering help. While disaster relief efforts for people and animals went smoothly, with a high degree of organization and cooperation in most of the affected areas of the state, efforts in other areas seemed confused and with-

out resolve.

Numerous instances of heroic efforts to save animal lives were marred by acts of indifference or callousness. "Disasters bring out the best and worst qualities in people," said WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach who, accompanied by HSUS Investigator Paul Miller and Marin Humane Society's Field Services Supervisor Pat Wilson, assisted animal-control officials in Yuba County. The communities of Linda and Olivehurst in that county were among the hardest hit in the state.

The disaster evoked an outpouring of help in the form of volunteers, pet food, kennel facilities, and veterinary assistance from local SPCA's and animal rights groups in Sacramento, Yolo, and Yuba counties.

Organizations seeking information on how to design a disaster relief plan should contact the WCRO.



—HSUS/Sakach

Numerous dogs were found in Linda's flooded neighborhoods. Some were quickly reunited with their owners. For others, rescue came too late.

Dogs Seized in Kennel Raid, Owner Charged (continued from front page)

animals by Judge Hunter on October 25, 1985. After hearing testimony by Drennon and others, the judge decided not to return the animals to the kennel owner. The dogs have since regained much of the weight they had lost while in the boarding kennel.

Roberts is currently awaiting trial. According to Char Drennon, "Many HSUS members and staff believe that anyone who neglects animals in such a manner should not be allowed to own them." Drennon's concern stems in part from the fact that Roberts was arrested once before at the same location, and under similar circumstances. In September 1981, she was charged

with a misdemeanor for creating a public nuisance in an incident involving 53 dogs. Roberts was allowed to retain custody of 29 of those dogs.

The WCRO will report the outcome of this case in a future issue of the *WCRO Report*.

The WCRO would like to thank Valerie Armento, Hayward City attorney, and Mr. Bill Denny, Alameda County deputy district attorney, for their work on this case. "Both of these people showed much sensitivity concerning the case and the animals involved," said Drennon, "I only wish there were more officials like them."

Around The Region

■ LOS ANGELES, CALIF.—WCRO has supplied information on pet discrimination laws to the head of the Los Angeles City Animal Commission, who has drafted a landmark city ordinance banning discrimination against pet owners. Arising in part from a case currently before Los Angeles County Superior Court (Appellate Department) which asserts that California's Unruh Civil Rights Act prohibits such discrimination in rental housing, the ordinance states:

"No landlord of rental housing accommodations shall prohibit the keeping of companion animals by tenants; nor... refuse to rent or lease...nor unreasonably discriminate against any person...on the basis of that person possessing any companion animals."

■ SACRAMENTO, CALIF.—Kudos to all HSUS members who wrote in opposition to legalization of ferrets as pets in California. On March 7, 1986, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to leave California law pertaining to ferrets as it is and not permit private ownership of ferrets.

DON'T MISS THESE...

Leadership Workshop

The West Coast Regional Office will be hosting an HSUS leadership workshop on June 5-7, 1986, in Sacramento, California.

Workshop topics will include The HSUS's new P.E.T.S. Program, computers, exotic animals, cruelty investigation, humane education in high schools and colleges, and legislation. There will also be a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Sacramento Zoo.

For more information on this exciting and informative workshop, please contact the West Coast Regional Office as soon as possible.

HSUS Academy Comes to California

Now is the time to make arrangements to attend the HSUS Animal Control Academy to be held September 15-26, 1986, at the Marin Humane Society in Novato, California.

In cooperation with the University of Alabama Division of Continuing Education's Law Enforcement Academy, The HSUS offers training for animal-control officers, humane agents, and others working in the field of animal care and control.

Cost for the eleven-day intensive program is \$275. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the West Coast Regional Office.

Legislative Update

LAW LIMITS HOW DEPOSITS ARE SPENT

A.B. 1663, passed in California and in effect as of January 1, 1986, states that all animal shelters must take a deposit on dogs and cats in an amount not to exceed \$30 for cats, and \$40 for dogs and use the deposit for spaying or neutering. Dogs and cats over six months of age must be spayed or neutered within 60 days of adoption. Any under six months of age must be altered within six months.

This law changes the existing law by adding dogs, and by limiting how an agency can spend unclaimed deposits. Now, any deposit not claimed may be used only for 1) a public education program to prevent overpopulation of dogs and cats, 2) a program to spay/neuter dogs and cats, or 3) a follow-up program to assure that animals sold or given away by shelters are in fact spayed or neutered.

Our thanks to Peninsula Humane Society for sponsoring the bill and to HSUS members for their letters and calls supporting the legislation.

Judi Kukulka of the WCRO has just completed a study of California state humane officers following a request from Assemblyman Wally Herger for help on a bill to require educational training for such officers. Heretofore, no one had correct figures on the numbers or legality of those appointed.

If you would like to receive timely alerts on animal legislation, join our HSUS Activist Program. All members are eligible and can join by contacting WCRO.

The Humane Society of the United States

West Coast Regional Office
1713 J Street, Suite 211
Sacramento, CA 95814



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

A.B. 1620, which passed, calls for more inspections of exotic animal exhibitors. It became law on January 1, 1986.

A.B. 1628, which failed before the Revenue and Taxation Committee, would have given an income tax deduction for spaying or neutering.

NEW AND CONTINUING CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

S.B. 1405, authored by Senator David Roberti, is a two-year bill and would allow specially trained humane officers access to animal-research laboratories to check for compliance with state and federal laws.

S.B. 2438, authored by Senator Richardson, would except Nelson bighorn sheep from fully protected mammal status, thereby making them game mammals open to sport hunting. It should be opposed.

S.B. 2439, also authored by Senator Richardson, would lower the fee for a license to take elk to \$100 and remove the protectionist language of the existing law. Humanitarians are urged to oppose it.

A.B. 2833, authored by Assemblyman Killea, would appropriate \$4.5 million from the General Fund for California condor projects, the money to be split between the San Diego Zoo, the Los Angeles Zoo, and the California condor release project.

A.B. 3626, authored by Assemblyman Bradley, would make it a crime for anyone who uses animals in research to fail to provide for the humane care, treatment, or use of those animals.

Reflect for a moment...

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States.

Your will can provide for animals after you're gone.

Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP code _____

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

The Regional Report is a publication of

**The Humane Society of the United States
West Coast Regional Office
1713 J Street, Suite 211
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 447-3295**

Charlene Drennon, Director

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. All contributions made to The HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.

©1986 by The HSUS. All rights reserved.

4/86

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sacramento, CA
Permit #894