by the abdomen to the track's mechanical arm and whirled once around the track to ensure that the track was in good working order. Shortly thereafter, the first two greyhounds were released to pursue the pathetic creature as it whirled face down around the quarter-mile track. After the initial run, the dogs were teased back to the start box by battering the live rabbit. After eighteen greyhounds had raced around the track, and a number of additional trainers had pulled their dog trucks into the line of waiting vehicles, the game commission investigator gave the go-ahead to waiting units to move in. “Man, they came racing up in their vehicles and climbing over the fences,” said investigator Baker, “while, at the same time, in those states whose attempts are underway to legalize dog racing, industry leaders are telling legislators that live lure baiting is an archaic practice that’s been superseded by mechanical lures.” Just two years ago, said our investigator, “Robert Mendelheim telephoned our Tallahassee office to boast that he was no longer using live lures in training. Look where he is today.” While we are pleased with the Lee butt,” the investigator continued, “we realize that it represents only a very small step toward getting the industry up in line regarding the investigation, and with all the tips we’ve received since, it’s become very clear that this is a huge problem throughout the greyhound industry, and one we will continue to expose until it stops.”

THE HSUS POLICY ON GREYHOUND RACING

The Humane Society of the United States, in opposition to greyhound racing and, specifically, the training even known as coursing, in which greyhounds are trained to chase and kill a hare or other animal, and all practices utilizing live lures or other animals as lures in training greyhounds. It is HSUS policy, therefore, to oppose dog racing because of cruel training methods, the large scale breeding of greyhounds in the hope of producing a winner, greyhounds being injured or killed by viciousness or neglect, and the use of dogs for profit. In accordance with this policy, the Society works to prevent the use of live lures in training greyhounds and to eliminate the problem language and severely restrict the use of animals in Florida’s classrooms.

In December, The HSUS visited Puerto Rico when a contingent of our staff traveled there to work for improved animal welfare. The American territory has severe animal cruelty and dogfighting problems, with little animal control. Southeast Regional Director Marc Paulhus, Lawyer to the Animals, and Dr. Susan Lieberman, joined by John Snyder of the National Animal Control Association, conducted a one-day seminar on humane, wildlife issues and visited local legislators, humane societies, animal shelters, and zoos. One of Puerto Rico’s most powerful lawmakers has already agreed to sponsor legislation to make dogfighting a felony.

Dissections Proceed

Despite strong opposition, the Charlotte (Florida) School Board has voted to continue allowing the dissection of dead cats in its high schools. Southeast Regional Program Coordinator Laura Bevan attended a public hearing on the issue and testified that dissections on the high school level are unnecessary. The dissections are taking place despite a 1985 Florida law intended to halt the practice. The wording of the law is poor, however, and dissections are occurring throughout the state. A bill before the Florida legislature this year would eliminate the problem language and severely restrict the use of animals in Florida’s classrooms.

In June 1988, a major dogfighting raid took place in Clermont and Clinton counties in Ohio as a result of an intensive investigation conducted by the Clermont County Sheriff’s Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (see the Fall 1988 HSUS News). The Great Lakes Regional office assisted in the investigation and raid. Two couples were arrested: Gregory (William) Lowe and Margaret Samantha Lowe of New Richmond, Ohio; and Kenneth Gaines and Cathy Bell Gaines of Blanchester, Ohio. Cathy Bell Gaines pleaded guilty to state felony charges of dogfighting in January 1989. Kenneth Gaines, however, did not plead because he was hospitalized on the day of the hearing. As of the end of February, no new date had been set for a hearing on the dogfighting charges. On February 27, Mr. Gaines did plead guilty to federal felony drug charges which resulted from the dogfighting investigation.

The Lowe’s decision to stand trial, on February 21, forced the prosecution to present three days of graphic and gruesome evidence to the court, including tape recordings which allowed the jury to hear the gruesome details of this world of dogfighting. Great Lakes Regional Director Sandy Rowland was followed by the court as an expert witness in dogfighting and provided definitions of dogfighting terms to the jury and identified specific evidence that was taken in the raid.

After three days of presenta- tion of evidence, the Lows pleaded guilty to three state felony charges, one each for fighting, training, and selling a dog for the purpose of fighting. Charges of dogfighting against their son were dropped.

Sentencing was scheduled for March.

In fact, led to the November arrest of another Madison County, Florida, man who was caught with seventeen jackrabbits in his pickup truck. According to another Florida statute, it is a misdemeanor to possess nonindigenous animals without a special permit. At his trial, that individual, employed by a well-known Florida greyhound trainer, stated that he purchased the jackrabbits for cooking purposes. Therefore, his mother took the witness stand, where she reportedly rattled off her recipe for jackrabbit stew! It’s particularly ironic that the vast majority of greyhound trainers continue to use live lures, “while, at the same time, in those states whose attempts are underway to legalize dog racing, industry leaders are telling legislators that live lure baiting is an archaic practice that’s been superseded by mechanical lures.”

Two years ago, our investigator, “Robert Mendelheim telephoned our Tallahassee office to boast that he was no longer using live lures in training. Look where he is today.” While we are pleased with the Lee butt,” the investigator continued, “we realize that it represents only a very small step toward getting the industry up in line regarding the investigation, and with all the tips we’ve received since, it’s become very clear that this is a huge problem throughout the greyhound industry, and one we will continue to expose until it stops.”

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FIFTEENTH PROTEST

For the fifteenth year, representatives of animal-protection groups organized in 1988 by the HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office and Deer, Inc., protested against the annual deer hunt held at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey in December. More than sixty protesters gathered on opening day. Mid-Atlantic Regional Office Director Nina Austenberg criticized state wildlife officials for failing to achieve their stated goal of reducing the numbers of deer. The state deer herd is currently estimated at 160,000, as opposed to 130,000 in 1990. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office would like to thank Animals Need You, the Mt. Pleasant Animal Center, the Jersey Shore Animal Center, the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, and the Sussex County Board of Freeholders, who came from Pennsylvania to participate in the protest.

AWARD FOR SENATOR RUSSO

Representatives of several animal-protection groups were on hand as New Jersey State Senator Anthony Russo received the New Jersey State Senate Animal Rights Award. Russo is working closely with the Concerned Citizens of Wilson City, which is fighting to prohibit dogs and people from riding in the open bed of pickup trucks. We opposed a bill to appropriate $35,000 in matching funds to study the feasibility of developing a state zoo or aquarium. The appropriations committee rejected the funding in the bill.

LAWSUIT TO STOP DEER KILL

In a last-minute effort to stop the shooting of ex- cess deer in the Ryerson Forest Preserve District near Chicago in Lake County, Illinois, the HSUS has joined forces with the Concerned Citizens of Wilson City, the Lake County Civil Liberties Union, the New Jersey Humane Society, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. A motion was filed to request that the judge stop the slaughter.

The action came about after weeks of discussions between animal-protection groups and the Lake County Forest Preserve District failed to produce an acceptable solution to the problem. Although the number of deer at the preserve has not been officially determined, plans for the preservation of the forest for the benefit of deer and other wildlife have already been adopted into good homes.

CATTLE STARVATIONS

Early in November 1988, thousands of cattle were found starving to death on a North Texas ranch in Kaufman County. Many of the cattle could not stand and some had lost their sight. It was estimated the cattle had not been fed since July.

The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office contacted the Kaufman County district attorney to ask that the defendant in this case be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Thirty-two counts of cruelty have been filed against him. The HSUS will continue to monitor this case.

NEW CALIFORNIA BILLS INTRODUCED

California Sen. Allan Robbins introduced a bill requiring the labeling of all cosmetic and household products that are tested on animals. The bill would require a conspicuous statement on the label or packaging stating that the animals were tested in the production of that product.

Sen. Robbins has introduced a revised version of a vicious-dog bill that failed in the last session of the legislature. S.B. 428 will define "potentially dangerous" and "vicious" dogs according to their actions. It will also specify the hearing process available to owners of dogs alleged to be potentially dangerous or vicious. The bill differs from last year's version in that it states that cities and counties may adopt their own programs to deal with such animals as long as the program is not specific as to breed.

PROTECTION FOR EXOTIC BIRDS

On February 17, 1989, HSUS Associate Director of Wildlife and Environment Dr. Susan Lieberman testified before the Washington State Senate Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife in support of H.B. 184, which would protect exotic birds. The bill, introduced by Representative Ken Jacobsen, would prohibit the sale of any bird or egg taken from the wild and would ban the importation of birds or any part of the state of Washington. The West Coast Regional Office urges all Washington members to write or phone their state representatives in support of H.B. 184.

SAKACH JOINS TASK FORCE

West Coast Regional Investigator Eric Sakach has been appointed to a California task force whose purpose is to establish guidelines for the humane handling of wild and exotic animals in captivity. The task force was organized following public hearings held by California State Senator Dan McCauley, the chairman of the senate committee on natural resources and wildlife, to investigate the alleged beating of an elephant at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in February 1988 (see the Fall 1988 HSUS News). The task force is made up of representatives of zoological institutions, animal-welfare organizations, and government regulatory agencies. The HSUS is urging the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums to adopt guidelines for the management of exotic elephants.

STOP BARROOM BEAR AIDS

In Stidell, La., recently, animal activists saw to it that a barroom “raspberry” bear act featuring a Siberian grizzly was cancelled. Working with health officials, they found that the state sanitary code prohibited animals from eating- and drinking establishments. Health officials officials preferred the code and closed the show.

If you want to stop exploitation of animals in events such as these, talk to your state representative and ask him or her to introduce legislation to outlaw animal and human fights. The Gulf States Regional Office can provide you with a model law. For more information, contact the office at 6262 Weber Rd., Suite 305, Corpus Christi, TX 78413.

TEXANS AGAINST DOGFIGHTS

The Texas Department of Public Safety has assigned several full-time field agents to investigate and stop illegal dog- and cockfights and criminal activities in connection with dog and horse racing in Texas. The HSUS is working closely with this special division. A dogfight raid in Mathis, Tex., led to the arrest of fourteen people and the confiscation of $22,000 in gambling money.

OPERATION COOPERATION

There was some good news for the remaining members of the Animals Farm Home in Ellen­ ville, NY. In a letter dated June 6, 1989, HSUS Executive Director John Dommers addressed the New Hampshire Legislative Fund and related article in this issue, p. 10). More than 250 animals taken from the Animals Farm Home were adopted by individuals or sent to area animal shelters for placement.

Approximately 125 pets at the Animals Farm Home remained and had been adopted by the end of 1988. New England Regional Office Coordinator Frank Ribuado devised a program titled “Operation Cooperation,” a program to place the remaining animals in humane-shelter and veterinary centers in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Mr. Ribuado met with humane-society representatives and veterinary centers to devise a program to place the remaining animals.

By year’s end, all the remaining dogs were placed with shelters and any had already been adopted into good homes.

TESTIMONY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

For the third year in a row, New England Regional Director John Donnersmeyer addressed the New Hampshire legislature’s fish and game committee in strong op- position to a hunter-harassment bill. Mr. Donnersmeyer supported the New Hampshire Civic Liberties Union’s request that the bill be submitted to the state’s supreme court for review. The bill has been labeled unconstitutional twice before by the court.

The HSUS New England Regional Office also supported a New Hampshire bill to ban the use of steel-jaw traps and a bill to prohibit dogs and people from riding in the open bed of pickup trucks. We opposed a bill to appropriate $35,000 in matching funds to study the feasibility of developing a state zoo or aquarium. The appropriations committee rejected the funding in the bill.

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