

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy
Animal Studies Repository

Winter 1973

WCRO Winter 1973-1974

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

Recommended Citation

"WCRO Winter 1973-1974" (1973). *West Coast Regional Office*. 57.
<http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn/57>

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.



West Coast News

The Humane Society of the United States

Region Helps Draft Pet Shop Controls

The West Coast Regional Office is providing assistance to the cities of Burbank and Hawthorne, California, in enacting and enforcing ordinances that will regulate pet shops.

The need for such help was dramatized by recent court orders closing a pet shop in each of the two cities. A total of more than 300 animals were found in the two shops, one-half of them dead and the surviving ones suffering from starvation or disease.

"These cases point out the weaknesses in the animal control ordinances of both communities," said West Coast Regional Director Herbert N. Martin. "A strong and well-enforced animal control ordinance will prevent conditions at any pet shop from getting to this advanced stage of neglect."

Martin is working with the police chief and city prosecutor of Burbank and the city attorney and a councilman of Hawthorne to improve all aspects of their animal control ordinances. Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, the officials have eagerly accepted HSUS's offer of assistance.

(Continued on next page.)

City-County Control Aided by HSUS

HSUS is working with officials of Santa Barbara County in California to develop an effective animal control program that will serve both the county and the city of Santa Barbara.

The county recently received \$280,000 in federal revenue sharing funds, which it is matching with \$50,000 of its own funds. County Animal Control Supervisor Allan Lester asked the HSUS West Coast Regional Office to assist the Santa Barbara County Health Dept. and a private architect in the planning of a modern animal control shelter.

Don Cowling, board member of the Santa Barbara Humane Society, was instrumental in setting up the meetings between HSUS representatives and Santa Barbara County officials. Cowling has offered to assist HSUS Regional Director Herbert N. Martin and Lester during the developmental stages of the project.

Cowling has worked closely with the city and county in recent years to help encourage adoption of pet population control programs. His own society operates a full-time low-cost spay and neuter clinic in its newly remodeled shelter.

HSUS Conducts Oregon Survey

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office conducted a field survey of Oregon humane societies in September to determine what type of assistance the office might be able to provide.

Regional Field Representative Mike Smith visited 8 of the state's 11 societies and concluded that most societies need assistance in their methods of euthanasia, record-keeping systems for animal shelters, public education programs, and establishment of spay and neuter clinics.

"I was generally pleased with what I found," Smith said. "I found a thriving and aggressive humane community that is pulling itself together for the common good of animal protection."

He was especially impressed with the cooperative efforts of seven societies through recent formation of the Federa-

(Continued on next page.)



Smith

How Do You Regulate Dogs?



C. David Repp

Stray and free-roaming dogs are a problem in almost every West Coast community. HSUS offers specific help to municipal officials and local humane societies. Turn to page 2 for further information.

OREGON *Continued*

tion of Oregon Humane Societies. He praised the federation leadership of Warren Cox, executive director of the Humane Society of the Willamette Valley in Salem.

"With several decades of humane service to his credit, Cox has done much in recent years to encourage expansion of cooperation among the individual societies," Smith said. "With the formal establishment of the federation, I expect humanitarians to present a unified voice at the State Capitol to strengthen Oregon's anti-cruelty laws."

West Coast Regional Director Herbert N. Martin has been working closely with Cox and plans to attend the next federation meeting.

Smith reported that all the animal shelters he visited were clean and appeared to be well organized. He said shelter personnel appeared to be doing as much as possible to ensure a clean, disease-free environment for the animals.

He was most concerned with the methods and procedures being used for euthanasia. He concluded that most shelters need to re-examine and improve their administration of a humane death.

He also found that some shelters have inadequate systems for keeping records of animals turned in, claimed, and disposed of.

Smith offered the assistance of the regional office, backed up by the expertise of the nationwide organization, to improve all aspects of animal control operations in Oregon.

"We have no strings attached to our offer," he said. "Our only goal is to help local groups provide the most humane and efficient service possible."

PET SHOPS *Continued*

The pet shops were the Shaggy Pup in Burbank and the Plush Puppy in Hawthorne. The owners of both, a husband and wife, were charged with cruelty and gross neglect. The woman was on probation after conviction on a similar charge a year ago.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance on statewide or local problems in those states should be addressed to the regional office.

Navy Bows to Pressure, Delays Burro Killings

Mrs. M. Barling, natural resources specialist for the U.S. Navy, has advised the HSUS West Coast Regional Office that no wild burros will be killed this year at the China Lake Naval Weapons Center.

Last February the Navy obtained permission from State officials to shoot 200 of the wild burros on grounds that the animals were starving to death. A thorough investigation by the West Coast Office indicated that such drastic action was not warranted. HSUS questioned the legality of any management activity under the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

Mrs. Barling said she feels that the Navy's authority to manage the animals is clear, and she is currently working on a perennial management program. She hopes to be able to present a management program and an environmental impact statement to a Naval Board of Inquiry early in 1974.

Working with Mrs. Barling are two outside consultants. One is making a forage survey of the China Lake range area. The other will make a specialized study of the energy-producing capabilities of the land and the energy requirements of the area's inhabitants.

HSUS Ordinance Used

Snohomish County, Washington, has enacted a strict animal control ordinance that is similar to HSUS's suggested animal control ordinance.

The new ordinance places responsibility for the animals on owners, as HSUS recommends. Several breeders have been criticizing the ordinance because for the first time they are being held accountable for the thousands of animals they add to the county's pet population each year.

Copies of the ordinances are available without charge from the HSUS West Coast Regional Office. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

County Ban Sought on Archery Hunting

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office is assisting Los Angeles city and county officials who are seeking a ban on bow and arrow hunting in the entire county.

County Supervisor Baxter Ward has proposed the ban as a follow-up to a Los Angeles City ban on bow and arrow

Regulating Dogs

"How do you regulate dogs?" is a question frequently asked by municipal officials of HSUS. The answer is "You don't—you regulate people."

What's true in this respect about dogs is equally true of cats, horses, cows, chickens, monkeys, parakeets, baby alligators, skunks, and the myriad other species of animals that people breed and keep for use, profit, or companionship. No matter what law is enacted, no animal will ever read it or pay it the slightest heed.

Yet thousands of municipalities and counties of the United States continue trying to handle one of the most frustrating problems of local government with archaic laws that seem to assume that animals can be expected to obey the orders of a city council or a board of supervisors. A lot of money gets wasted as a result, and, in most communities, the "animal problem" gets increasingly more troublesome. Innumerable city and county officers are forced to waste both time and patience arbitrating and mediating between pet owners and their neighbors.

But, even though the animal problem has been growing rapidly for many decades, the solution is relatively simple. Learn what can be done by writing for your free copy of "How Do You Regulate Dogs?" Direct your letters to: HSUS West Coast Regional Office, 1713 J St., Suite No. 4, Sacramento, CA 95814.

City and county officials and legislators are invited to consult The Humane Society of the United States about any kind of problem in which animals are involved. No fee is ever charged. In some situations HSUS will, upon request, conduct community field surveys of animal population and conditions, analyze animal shelter and impoundment procedures and costs, and send field representatives to confer with local officials.

hunting adopted in 1971. Ward is being assisted in his campaign by City Councilman Robert Stevenson, who introduced the city measure.

A representative of the HSUS regional office was scheduled to testify at hearings on the measure in November.

West Coast Legislation

(Abbreviations: SB=Senate Bill; AB=Assembly Bill; HB=House Bill.)

California

Ban on Sale of Cat or Dog Skin (SB 766, Roberti; AB 461, Boatwright)—makes it a misdemeanor to import for sale, sell, or give away any dog or cat skin: signed by Governor on Sept. 28 (Chapter 778).

Experimentation on Animals (SB 112, Rodda)—prohibits experimentation on animals in schools: signed by Governor on June 1 (Chapter 76).

Spay Incentive (SB 335, Nejedly)—provides one-half or less license fee for spayed or neutered dog or cat (amended); state mandated, exempts kennels and catteries: signed by Governor on Sept. 4 (Chapter 361).

Citation Authority (SB 499, Gregorio)—gives animal control citation authority to employees of SPCA and other humane organizations who have contracted with a local agency for services: signed by Governor on Oct. 2 (Chapter 1155).

Dog Crimes (SB 866, Collier)—counties may require veterinarians to report to them any shooting or poisoning of a dog: signed by Governor on Aug. 30 (Chapter 340).

Hunting Dog Restrictions (SB 955, Nejedly)—makes it unlawful for dogs to pursue any mammal during closed season; gives Fish and Game employees the right to control dogs pursuing or worrying big game mammals: signed by Governor on Sept. 18 (Chapter 509).

Fish and Game Appropriation (AB 943, Thomas)—vetoed by Governor Oct. 1.

Permit System (SB 187, Moscone)—importation of animals: vetoed by Governor on Oct. 2.

Low-cost Spaying (AB 1752, Duffy)—does not effect humane societies: passed Assembly and Senate Health and Welfare Comm.

Penal Code Revision (SB 39, Grunsky)—includes cruelty to animals statutes: third reading in Senate, Assembly Criminal Justice Comm.

Predator Control (SB 685, Stiern)—provides for 1¢ a pound tax on wool; revenue to go for predator con-

trol and part of it for predator control research: Assembly Agriculture Comm.

Legalize Dog Racing (AB 70, Powers)—which HSUS opposes: pending in Assembly Government Organization Comm.

Pet Birth Control (AB 77, Cullen)—now gives \$50,000 to University of California for research on possible contraceptives; to report back to legislature by Aug. 1, 1974: Senate Finance Comm.

Endangered Animal Violations (AB 1865, Kapiloff)—raises penalties to \$1,000 or one year imprisonment, for violation of Fish and Game regulations on endangered or rare animals: Senate Finance Comm.

Fish and Game Licenses (AB 1866, Kapiloff)—requires Fish and Game to refuse license to persons up to three years after third fishing or hunting conviction: Assembly Natural Resources Comm.

Animal Care Bills—AB 2100 (Animal Care and Control Bill), AB 1056 (\$3 million spay bill), and AB 2101 (Veterinary Technician Bill): are all now in Arnett's Statewide Task Force Comm. Amended bills will be put in early 1974.

Breeders Licensing (AB 2271, Beraman)—creates Animal Breeders' License Board: provisions to be worked out in a committee appointed by Berman.

Steel Jaw Trap Ban (AB 2343, 2344, Antonovich): failed to get out of committee: referred to University of California at Davis for interim study.

Abolition of All Bounties (AB 2405, Boatwright): Senate first reading.

Fox Protection (AB 2406, Boatwright)—bans taking of cross, silver, or red fox for profit: Assembly Ways and Means Comm.

Native Species Protection Act (AB 2441, Boatwright): Assembly Ways and Means Comm.

HSUS West Coast Regional Office
1713 J St., Sacramento, CA 95814

I enclose \$_____ to support continuing programs to combat cruelty in the West Coast Region.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Animal Skin (AB 2569, MacGillivray)—allows sale of kangaroo skin for athletic shoes; HSUS opposes: Assembly Ways and Means Comm.

Turtle Oil (AB 1502, MacGillivray)—allows importation of green sea turtle eggs for production of turtle oil; HSUS opposes: Assembly Resources Comm.

Oregon

Dog Control (HB 2783, Patterson)—designates certain dogs as nuisances and establishes dog control violations; sets up Dog License Fund for emergency care; authorizes owner of livestock killed by dogs to bring action against dog owner for double damages: passed.

Endangered Species (HB 2811, Whiting et. al)—bans importation and sale of certain endangered species: signed by Governor (Chapter 425).

Washington

Cruelty Law (SB 2554, Murray, Metcalf)—partial revision of the state law on prevention of cruelty to animals: passed both houses, with amendments.

Trapping Study (Senate Resolution 51, Durkin)—to establish an interim committee to study methods and purposes of trapping; HSUS has provided the state government with information and samples of traps.

Investigative Authority—permits all humane societies in a county to conduct and prosecute animal cruelty cases; replaces law that permitted such only by first society incorporated in county; weakened by provision that county can continue to give authority to only one society if it chooses; signed by Governor.

California

Euthanasia Problems

By **Herbert N. Martin, Director**
HSUS West Coast Regional Office

As passed by the 1972 California State Legislature, SB-400 establishes strict new standards for the humane destruction of dogs and cats. Initially proposing to completely outlaw the use of high altitude decompression chambers, provisions of the law now require such devices to be periodically inspected by the County Sealer of Weights and Measures. Furthermore, animals placed in such chambers must be confined in individual compartments or sections. Similar restrictions are placed on carbon monoxide chambers.

In drafting the measure, the author, Sen. Donald Grunsky, had hoped to prevent the crowding or bunching of animals in the chambers. The intention was to insure that all trauma associated with euthanasia be reduced to a minimum, allowing the animals to experience a truly "easy death," as the term euthanasia implies.

On-site inspection of pounds and animal shelters by myself and Regional Field Representative Mike Smith have shown that serious problems have arisen because of misinterpretation of some sections of the law. Rather than confine the animals in individual compartments within the chamber, many



Martin

shelters have misinterpreted this point to mean that only one animal at a time can be put to sleep. To further complicate matters, animals to be killed are bunched and kept together without water or enough space to move around until their "time" comes. This may satisfy their interpretation of SB-400, but it increases the stress suffered by the animal prior to and during euthanasia, and it actually violates other sections of the anti-cruelty code.

In one particularly barbaric instance, animals were dropped into a carbon monoxide chamber through a hatch in the top. As one animal became unconscious, another live animal was dropped in on top. This particular practice not only violated almost every section of the state's anti-cruelty laws, but also violated federal and state worker safety laws. The agony suffered by the animals, as well as the exposure of workers to lethal concentrations of carbon monoxide gas, are obviously cruel and illegal.

The West Coast Regional Office is working with animal shelters on an individual basis to help remedy these particular problems and others associated with the enforcement of SB-400. Information obtained about related problems not already covered by existing anti-cruelty codes will be made available to Senator Grunsky for possible future remedial legislation.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office is located at 1713 J St., Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95814, phone (916) 447-3295.

Herbert N. Martin is the Regional Director.

Help on Records

Director Herbert N. Martin of the West Coast Regional Office responded to a recent request from the Monterey County (Calif.) SPCA to draft a new system of record keeping. The new set-up will help ease the burden of handling necessary paper work in connection with that society's expanding program, which now includes housing stray animals from several contract cities. The new system, planned specifically for the organization by Martin, is now under consideration by the administrative staff of the SPCA.

A new Management Guide for Improving Animal Shelter Operations, dealing specifically with basic record forms and filing system outlines, is available without charge from the HSUS West Coast Regional Office. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

300 Sea Lions Spared

HSUS played an important role in a recent decision of the federal government to deny a Santa Barbara, Calif., company permission to capture 300 California sea lions.

Sea Lions International had requested an economic hardship exemption from the ban on capturing sea lions that was imposed by the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act. The firm intended to sell the animals to zoos and other organizations outside the United States.

HSUS urged the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is in charge of enforcing the act, to deny the request.



**The Humane Society
of the United States**

West Coast Regional Office
1713 J St., Suite 4
Sacramento, CA 95814

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Washington, D. C.
PERMIT NO. 42828**