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REPORT

WINTER/SPRING 1979

CONVICTION WON IN NEVADA CRUELTY CASE



Honn's Animal Adoptions Ltd. Photo by Susan Bond, CCHS

"We were referred from the Clark County District Attorney's Office to the Henderson City Attorney's Office, back to the district attorney's office for a reevaluation of the case, and back to the city attorney's office again," said Eric Sakach, field investigator for the West Coast Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States. "Never before have I encountered such confusion over jurisdiction in trying to get cruelty charges filed."

This office received a complaint from the Animal Rescue Foundation in Las Vegas prompted by citizens' complaints of animals being housed in inhumane conditions at Honn's Animal Adoptions Ltd. center in Henderson, Nevada. Sakach made contact with the Clark County Humane Society in Las Vegas to find out if there had been other complaints and asked if they could do a preliminary investigation with the Animal Rescue Foundation to substantiate the complaints before a HSUS representative was sent to the area. Upon receipt of further information, Sakach flew to Las Vegas to assist the two local humane groups in the investigation. He made an undercover visit to the animal adoption center with the local investigators who were able to photograph conditions. The investigators found approximately 150 animals, including cats, dogs, raccoons, five African Lions, three monkeys, numerous birds, fowl, and barnyard animals. Many of the animals appeared to be ill, standing in inches of mud, urine and fecal matter without shelter from the elements and forced to drink water contaminated with their own excrement. Early the next morning representatives of the three groups arrived at the Clark County District Attorney's office prepared

to sign complaints against the owner of the adoption center for violations of Nevada's anti-cruelty statutes. The district attorney's office advised them that the charges would have to be filed in Henderson (located in Clark County) even though they were violations of state cruelty statutes. After the city attorney reviewed the case, he felt that the district attorney's office had joint jurisdiction in the matter and that it might be more to our advantage to have that office handle the complaint since he didn't believe the city would have authority to get an order to impound the animals. The complainants were requested to meet at the district attorney's office the next morning for a reevaluation of the case. During that meeting the confusion over jurisdiction became paramount and it was agreed by the investigators that the element of surprise had been lost in the case. Dart Anthony, Chairman of the Clark County Humane Society, called a press conference at the district attorney's office to explain the problems in trying to prosecute a criminal complaint. Apparently, pressure from the media resulted in the district attorney's office stating that they would take immediate action to prepare and implement a district court order to have the animals removed and placed in protective custody. After the complainants returned to Henderson to sign the complaint they met with District Court Judge Paul Goldman. He later signed a court order to have the animals placed in protective custody after three veterinarians concurred that the animals should be removed. Five days after Sakach had first arrived in Las Vegas, the animals were finally removed from the adoption center by animal control personnel.

Honn was tried on March 20, 1979 in Henderson Municipal Court and found guilty of animal neglect by Municipal Judge Jim Jensen after more than five hours of testimony by CCHS and HSUS witnesses and Dr. Joseph Leveque, who had examined some of the animals. According to the Las Vegas Sun Newspaper: Judge Jensen called Honn's shelter "an embarrassment" and criticized the city of Henderson for "negligently policing" the isolated Bermuda Road animal adoptions center. According to the paper in his decision he said, "Considering she has been a resident of Henderson for a number of years, it is an embarrassment to me that people outside Henderson had to make the complaint about what has been going on for a long time."

WORKING TOGETHER



Dead gamefowl being bagged for evidence by MCSPCA officers. Photo by E. Sakach

Posing as construction workers, Eric Sakach, field investigator for the West Coast Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States, and Captain Dan Qualls of the Monterey County SPCA observed and photographed a cockfight in progress after receiving anonymous information about the event.

According to Sakach's report, he and Captain Qualls drove to a construction site in Salinas on February 17, 1979 where they could see and photograph the action. After a number of fights had occurred, Sakach and Qualls met with officers of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, who assisted in raiding the event and establishing a roadblock to prevent escape. Over 30 persons were apprehended at the scene and more than 75 gamecocks, some dead or seriously injured, were confiscated along with all other evidence found at the scene. 40 of the confiscated fowl were humanely euthanized with an injection of sodium pentobarbital for health reasons. The case is pending in Salinas.

HSUS Gets Skinning Demonstration Canceled

A Sacramento Bee article reported that "a beaver or some other small, furry animal would lose its skin" at Sutter's Fort Historic Park in Sacramento on March 17, 1979 in a demonstration co-sponsored by the California Trappers' Association to "recapture the importance that fur-bearing animals held to the early settlers of Sutter's Fort." Eric Sakach immediately contacted Supervising Ranger Ron Angier at Sutter's Fort to try to stop it. Sakach was informed by Angier that he had just learned of the demonstration and that the Department of Fish and Game would be supplying an animal killed on a road for the demonstration and that no animal would be trapped specifically for the show. Sakach protested that this event would be condemned and would mean much unfavorable publicity for the park. Angier called Sakach very shortly after the discussion and said that the demonstration had been canceled altogether.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

IDAHO

Idaho will attempt to outlaw decompression chambers with HB 265 authored by Senator Mike Mitchell. You can write him c/o State Capitol, Boise, Idaho.

OREGON

In Oregon, Senator Charles Hanlon will introduce a bill to impose a pet food tax, and Senator Ted Hallock has SB 339 to require cities and counties that have animal control programs to sponsor spay and neuter clinics. Write c/o State Capitol, Salem, Oregon.

NEVADA

Tom Little, Nevada Humane Society, and Dart Anthony, Clark County Humane Society, have cooperated to get Nevada to outlaw decompression chambers with a bill by Senator William Hernstadt. Senator Tom Wilson will carry a bill to allow animals to be taken into protective custody. Senator Jean Ford's bill will add two lay members to their Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine. Write c/o State Capitol, Carson City, Nevada.

CALIFORNIA

In California, Senator David Roberti has two introductions. SCR 8 calls on the legislature to recognize animal rights. SB 473 will protect elk by prohibiting their importation — Assemblyman Fenton is carrying the same bill on the other side of the legislature — AB 475. (See HSUS "Legal Action Taken . . ." article.) Unfortunately, Charles Imbrecht's AB 91 would give free hunting licenses to low income senior citizens. Because of his concern over wildlife injuries and deaths brought about by plastic ring beverage can holders, Assemblyman Lawrence Kapiloff has introduced AB 406 to phase them out. If you want to keep the moratorium on killing mountain lions, let the legislators who represent your area know it. Senator H. L. Richardson has introduced SB 857 that would remove it. Senator Alan Robbins continues to show his interest in animals this session by introducing several animal bills. SB 499 calls for the vaccination of every cat and dog upon their entering any animal sheltering facility or boarding kennel in the state. SB 543 will add \$2.00 to every dog or cat license. The money collected from this would form a state animal fund, to be administered by the Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine to promote spaying and neutering of pets. SB 542 prohibits minors or animals from riding in the back of pickup trucks. AB 214 by Assemblyman Michael Roos also has similar provisions. Robbins' SB 544 would force animal control authorities to hold stray cats that are impounded for 72 hours. At present this provision applies only to impounded dogs. Write c/o State Capitol, Sacramento, California. Copies of bills can be obtained by writing to the state capitols' bill rooms or by calling the district office of state legislators from your area.

DIRECTOR'S DESK



Char Drennon with Doug Fakkema, President of the Northwest Association of Animal Welfare Agencies, on a field trip to the Northwest, which included a visit to the Greenhill Humane Society in Eugene, Oregon to note its marked improvement under the guidance of its director, Alan Thomas.

We're expanding. The Humane Society of the United States is growing dramatically not only on a national level but also on the West Coast. Dee Williams has been added to our staff as Executive Secretary. Judi Kukulka has been promoted to Program Services and will be handling our heavy load of requests concerning humane education programs and activities.

HUMANE EDUCATION GROWS IN THE NORTHWEST.

The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education will present a college accredited Humane Education Seminar at the Landmark Motor Inn in Lynnwood, Washington on April 27 and 28, 1979. The seminar will be co-hosted by PAWS in Lynnwood and the Whatcom County Humane Society in Bellingham, and will feature John J. Dommers, Director of NAAHE and Kathleen Savesky, Associate Director of NAAHE, as well as other humane education leaders. Humane educators, teachers, and school administrators interested in attending this happening should contact the West Coast Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States as soon as possible. We hope to see you there.

FOR HSUS MEMBERS.

We have a special service for our members who are willing to write, phone or wire support or opposition to animal welfare bills. If you want to be active on humane legislation, send us a request to be added to our special list to receive Legislative Updates and Alerts. I don't know how to thank all of you for your moral and financial support.

CHAR Drennon
DIRECTOR

LEGAL ACTION TAKEN TO BLOCK IMPORTATION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK

Joined by the County of Marin, The Humane Society of the United States and the Marin County Humane Society have filed for a Writ of Mandate to direct the California Department of Fish and Game to set aside the permit issued to Jung T. Wang to import and possess Rocky Mountain Elk at Tomales in Marin County.

In January the state Commission on Fish and Game voted 3-to-2 to reverse its earlier decision to deny the permit to Wang to import the elk into Marin County, where he intends to amputate their antlers while in the extremely sensitive velvet, or soft-horn stage, to be powdered and exported to the Orient for aphrodisiac purposes. The permit was previously denied on the grounds there was a chance that the animals might escape and interbreed with the rare and native Tule Elk only five miles away at Point Reyes. Eric Sakach testified in opposition to the permit before both commission hearings. He stated that animal experts had confirmed it would be painful and cruel to cut off the animal's antlers during the soft-horn stage and it would also threaten the legislative mandate to increase the Tule Elk population.



Importation of Rocky Mountain Elk would threaten the legislative mandate to increase the Tule Elk population.

In addition, the writ would direct the Department of Fish and Game to amend its rules and regulations to exclude this type of permit for importation of wild animals from the ministerial class of permits which require no environmental impact report because they need not comply with the Environmental Quality Act. California surely doesn't need a new industry based upon the cruel treatment and exploitation of these animals.

Senator David Roberti has introduced SB 473 and Assemblyman Jack Fenton has introduced AB 475. Both bills would prohibit importation of elk into California. Please contact Senator Roberti and Assemblyman Fenton at the State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814 and show your support for these bills which would end this type of exploitation.

The Needs Of The Animals Will Continue...

The Humane Society of the United States is committed to the goal of ending animal cruelty and suffering. Your membership increases the Society's ability to stamp out cruelty through legal, legislative, and educational avenues. Unfortunately, man's cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end during your lifetime. But a bequest through your Will will be a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

Your request for information about Wills will be treated in the strictest confidence by our General Counsel. Please write to: Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

HELP INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE TRUTH BEHIND RODEO . . .

Rodeo season is here again.

How many animals will have to endure the pain and suffering caused by certain rodeo events this year before they go to the slaughter house?

The Humane Society of the United States is opposed to certain events in rodeos because they often result in injury, pain, torture, fear, or harassment being inflicted upon the participating animals. Studies by veterinarians have documented such visible injuries as broken limbs, flank sores, open wounds, abrasions, broken horns, and

The Humane Society of the United States

West Coast Regional Office
1713 J Street, Suite 4
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spur marks. Some events render animals dazed or unconscious, and, in some instances, so badly injured they must be destroyed. Many roping and riding events are both obviously injurious and involve the use of devices to make the animals react violently. The Humane Society of the United States rejects the contention that rodeos are a harmless showing of part of the American heritage and believes that the exposure of children to the atmosphere of violence in rodeos may be psychologically damaging and almost surely teaches them tolerance of inhumane treatment of animals in the name of competition.

We feel strongly that if more people were aware of the cruelty inherent in many rodeo events they would not attend them. Please help us to inform the public and spread the truth about rodeo. Send your name and address to: Rodeo Cruelty, The Humane Society of the United States, 1713 J Street, #4, Sacramento, California 94814. We will send you 50 rodeo flyers free of charge. Additional copies are \$1.00 per 100.

LOS ANGELES CITY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION REQUEST

The Director of the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation has written us requesting an acknowledgement in this Report that "The Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation was (and is) in support of SB 1481." He has also written that, if reference is also made to the bill in our national HSUS publication, acknowledgement of their support should be so stated. We are agreeable to complying with this request and hereby do so.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance should be addressed to Charlene Drennon, West Coast Regional Director, 1713 J St., Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916-447-3295). All contributions made to the HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.

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