

Supreme Court Upholds Horse Protection

On June 17, 1976, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the constitutionality of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. It placed all wild horses and burros on federal lands under the protection and management of the Department of Interior and Agriculture in an effort to eliminate the indiscriminate slaughter and commercial exploitation of these animals. HSUS had filed a brief as amicus curiae (friend of the Court) in support of this landmark animal protection legislation.

The decision is a substantial setback for parties who have sought to remove control over wildlife on public lands from the more responsible federal authorities which have in many instances tended to be more sensitive to preservationists and humane concerns than their state counterparts.

Dolphin Slaughter

In a continuing effort to prevent the slaughter of dolphins during commercial tuna fishing operations, HSUS filed an amicus curiae brief on July 2, 1976 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. See page 23 for follow-up story.

Endangered Species

The Department of Interior had added 159 animals to the official list of endangered species. Effective June 14, 1976, they can not be traded in interstate commerce.

Greyhound Training

HSUS Chief Investigator Frantz Dantzler was invited to testify before a Florida Legislative Committee in Tallahassee regarding the use of live bait to train greyhounds. Unfortunately, the bill was defeated and the use of live animals, particularly rabbits, continues as a method of training greyhounds in Florida.

Animal Fighting

Florida's governor signed the "Animal Fighting Act of 1976" banning bear, bull, or dog fighting.

Persons found promoting and conducting animal fighting events in Florida are subject to a misdemeanor of the first degree punishable by a year in jail and a fine up to \$5000. Persons arrested for betting and attending such events are subject to a second degree misdemeanor punishable to sixty days in jail and a fine up to \$1000.

Killer Whales

After passage in the U.S. Senate, a House Bill (H.R. 12460) is pending before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries which would limit the capture of any killer whales. The bill is in response to the capture and subsequent release of five killer whales in Puget Sound, Washington. If it

becomes law no zoo or aquarium would be able to capture any more killer whales for display.

Horse Protection Act Enforced

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports an Alabama horse trainer, Baine Lee, was convicted on criminal charges of entering a sore horse in the Kosciusko, Mississippi Walking Horse Show on May 19, 1972. This is a violation of the Horse Protection Act which HSUS has continually demanded to be enforced.

Wishes of Deceased

In a recent submission to a Florida Probate Court, HSUS General Counsel Murdaugh Stuart Madden expressed HSUS's concern over the callousness of banks and trust officers in dealing with the precise wishes of persons with respect to their animals following their death. Madden's pleading stated that in ignoring the wishes of the deceased, professional trust officers increasingly were substituting "their own impersonal computerized ideas of the way wills, estates, and trusts should be administered".

Decompression Chamber Restricted

Massachusetts has restricted the use of the decompression chamber for the purpose of killing dogs and cats. However, this law would not prevent a decompression chamber from being used if an owner voluntarily surrendered his animal for euthanasia. The state of Arizona has also outlawed the use of the high altitude decompression chamber.

N.Y. Spay and Neuter Clinics

The New York State Legislation has approved legislation authorizing municipalities to establish and operate spay and neuter clinics. If individual towns decide the surplus animal population is a priority item, they may provide funds to operate clinics. However, New York state has made no provisions to provide such funds.

Virginia Cruelty Laws Enforced

The revised Virginia State Code "authorizes all law enforcement officers to enforce" anti-cruelty and other animal laws. Its passage has resulted in the convicting and fining of an Arlington man not properly caring for his pet.

Cockfighting Spectators Arrested

Approximately 250 spectators at a cockfight in Wilkes County, North Carolina were arrested in a surprise raid conducted by state authorities. The spectators were charged under a state law making it a misdemeanor to watch or stage a cockfight.

Compiled by The HSUS Legal Department, Murdaugh Stuart Madden, General Counsel

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