HSUS OPENS A EUROPEAN OFFICE

The HSUS has opened a new European office in Bonn, West Germany. Headed by Boty Dridden, former HSUS director of federal legislative affairs, this office will concentrate on the European Parliament and the European Commission, which oversees legislation for its twelve member European countries. Ms. Dridden will initially concentrate on tuna/dolphin issues, cosmetic testing on animals, and fur issues. The activities of this new office will be reported in a new department in the HSUS News, called "European Focus." With environmental and animal-protection issues becoming increasingly more global, this new office and magazine department offer us an opportunity to help shape laws on both sides of the ocean.

PRINCIPLED HUSANIMALS, WHALES

The dolphin could be described as a symbol of our deteriorating relationship with the Earth," explained Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, founder and president of the Bellerive Foundation. The Prince's concern for cetaceans led him to convene a major international symposium on whales and dolphins in captivity. "We are abusing our ancient friendship with the dolphin," he said. The Bellerive Symposium, held July 9 and 10 in Geneva, Switzerland, drew representatives from more than thirty nations and animal-protection organizations, including The HSUS's Senior Vice President Patricia Forkan. The delegates discussed the detrimental effects of capture and captivity on cetaceans and, among other things, called for an end to all further captures of all cetaceans around the world.

STOP THROWING AWAY BAGS!

The "Animals...It's Their World Too" reusable shopping bag—This sturdy canvas bag is big enough for groceries, sports a colorful design, and costs only $16.95 (3 for $14.95 each). Use it instead of plastic or paper!

INVESTIGATIONS

Chincoteague 1990
Improvemnts made in pony penning

For twenty long years, The HSUS has been monitoring the annual Chincoteague pony penning on the coast of Virginia (see the Fall 1989 HSUS News). During the last week in July, wild stallions, mares, and foals that reside on Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge are rounded up, penned inside holding corrals, then forced to swim the channel that separates the refuge from the mainland. Before crowds of cheering spectators, the animals are paraded through town and penned at the fire company's carnival site. The day after the swim, newborn foals are separated from their dams and auctioned to the highest bidders.

Thanks to hundreds of letters written by HSUS members, this year the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company finally regained the services of a veterinarian during the entire six-day event. Not only did the veterinarian examine the ponies to determine which newborn foals should not be forced to swim the channel, but he also put an age minimum on foals to be auctioned. (While buyers could purchase foals less than three months old, those animals had to remain on the refuge with their dams until they reached that age.)

"The USFWS has informed us that the veterinarian is keeping an eye on the herd year-round, even warning the ponies on a regular basis," said Ms. Eisnitz. "This is particularly important because these foals live in a very harsh environment." Last year the dead mares were found to be suffering from severe infestations of internal parasites; The HSUS and the veterinarian who performed the autopsies demanded that the fire company institute a better worming regimen.

"Of course, improvements at Chincoteague didn't happen because, suddenly, after years of impulsive buying, the fire company realized it needed to be more responsible for the welfare of its herd," said Gail Eisnitz. "They happened because, with pressure from HSUS members, the USFWS threatened to cancel the entire pony penning event if the fire company didn't begin to clean up its act."

Despite some very positive changes, The HSUS will continue to monitor what remains a highly stressful event for all animals concerned.