In May HSUS investigators Lisa Landres and Bob Reder visited the Alex Nichols Agency horse import/export facility in Newburgh, New York, where more than sixty animals from the Russian "Great Bin Bom Circus" were being warehoused. They found many animals confined in tiny circus traveling cages, including a seven-foot-tall bear in a four-by-four-foot cage. Twelve dogs were each lodged in file-cabinet-sized crates. The animals were seldom taken from their cages for exercise. Problems began when the entire circus—human and animal performers alike—was stranded financially in Atlanta, Georgia, by its promoter, the Alex Nichols Agency, under contract to transport the animals to its animal performers alike—the entire circus—human and animal performers alike. The HSUS has investigated an inspection of the Newburgh facility and put pressure on the State Department to allow return of the animals to the Soviet Union. Although the USDA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continue to investigate, for now, the animals are stuck, and HSUS staff continue to burn up the telephone wires trying to resolve the impasse.

**NEW JERSEY NEWS**

Assemblyman D. Bennett Mazur is the current focus of the coalition. New Jersey HSUS members are urged to write their state legislators in support of A.B. A699.

**MERRY-ALL FARM CLOSED**

Responding to a Vermont Department of Agriculture suit, on July 2, 1990, a Windsor County superior court judge ordered the Merry-All Farm for Animals closed and its remaining forty-nine dogs released to the state. The court agreed that the shelter did not comply with regulations for record keeping, food storage, running water, waste disposal, ventilation, and fencing.

The judgment is the result of a civil suit brought against the Merry-All Farm by the state more than two years ago. New England Program Coordinator Frank Ribando has worked with state and humane officials present to ensure that animals were not mistreated and that the shelter was in compliance with provisions of burro care and handling spelled out in a permanent injunction obtained by The HSUS in 1972. The observers reported receiving good cooperation from the contastants, the judges, and the Old Miners’ Association.

**BILLS FAIL IN CALIFORNIA**

A.B. 2461, Assemblyman Jack O’Connell’s Draite Test Ban, was vetoed by Gov. George Deukmejian after a hard-fought victory in the Assembly and the Senate. The bill will be reintroduced in the next session and receive the West Coast office’s full support. A.B. 3482, introduced by Assemblyman Bruce Bronzan, would have allowed groomers and other non-veterinarians to perform simple tartar removal on dogs’ and cats’ teeth. It was also vetoed by Gov. Deukmejian. It will be reintroduced in January.

S.B. 2224, introduced by State Sen. Diane Watson, and A.B. 786, introduced by Assemblyman Richard Bolanco, to regulate further the pet-store trade, were withdrawn from committee in early August when sponsors reached an impasse on amendment language. Pet-store-industry representatives and the humane community have agreed to formulate a new, cooperative bill for the 1991-92 session. In cooperation with The HSUS’s Midwest Regional Office and the president of the cluding Budweiser, but which does not distribute such products outside of Arkansas, did not sponsor the charro rodeo, and whose officials apparently know nothing about the rodeo until your letters start coming in. The HSUS regrets any inconvenience caused to M.K. Distributors, Inc. The HSUS has plans to forward your letters to Anheuser-Busch headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

**MORE DEALINGS WITH DOGS**

The HSUS has investigated an East Coast dog dealer who has been coming to Ohio monthly to purchase young puppies and transport them back East. This person reports that he resells the puppies as pets in his Ohio business that in turn sells the animals to research laboratories; this practice is called bunching. The HSUS regrets any inconvenience caused to M.K. Distributors, Inc. The HSUS has plans to forward your letters to Anheuser-Busch headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

**KISER LAKE KENNEL FINED**

The USDA filed an order to cease and desist from any further violation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) against a major Ohio dog dealer, Kiser Lake Kennels. Kiser Lake collects dogs from several sources, including dog pounds in at least seven Ohio counties, and resells them for use in research laboratories; this practice is called bunching. The USDA sought the order based on thirteen violations of the AWA.
PUPPY MILLS RAIDED
On June 19, 1990, agents from the Kansas attorney general's office, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, police and animal-control officers, veterinarian Debbie Anderson, State Inspector Shon Koeng, and Midwestern Regional Director Wendell Maddox raided a Topkea, Kansas, puppy mill and removed ninety-six animals. The owners of the kennel were charged with animal cruelty, a class B misdemeanor, and violation of the state's Animal Dealers Act, a class A misdemeanor. This was the first instance of enforcement of the state's 1988 Animal Dealers Law that led to the removal of animals.

Mr. Maddox also helped plan a raid of a kennel in Utica, High Plains Humane Society Investigator Pam Binder of Hays, Kansas, with veterinarian Steve Moss, a former animal-control officer, and the Ness County sheriff's department, seized sixty-seven animals. Forty-four were saved; the rest were too sick to survive.

The kennel's owner was charged with cruelty to animals and violation of the Animal Dealers Act on July 3 by Ness County Attorney Tom Fiegel. This owner had been convicted of animal cruelty two months prior to the raid by the Ness County District Court. She had been fined an undisclosed amount and given a jail sentence, to be waived if the kennel was cleaned and the dogs sold within sixty days. Attorney General Robert Stephan has also filed charges against a Rossville, Kansas, kennel operator and a southeast Kansas kennel owner a choice of selling her dogs within sixty days or facing charges of cruelty.

BOYCOTT STIRS UP BREEDERS
As a result of the HSUS boycott of midwestern puppy mills, reports are already surfacing that breeders in the midwest are complaining about steep reductions in prices because there was no market, the busiest time of the year, but at the end of the year were now getting only $35 away to cut down on overhead. Brokers who buy a puppy or kitten in the industry's busiest time of the year are now getting only $35 away to cut down on overhead. Brokers who buy a puppy or kitten in the industry's busiest time of the year are now getting only $35 away to cut down on overhead.

Last year puppy-mill puppies like these were selling for $65 each. Due to the HSUS boycott, prices have dropped to $35.

RACEHORSES AT RISK
Soon after the HSUS Southern Regional Office defeated legislative attempts by racetracks to defeat an anti-horse-doping law, the state Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering issued an emergency order lifting all restrictions on betting on corticosteroids.

The HSUS contends that the Division's action is in violation of the very state law the agency is supposed to enforce. We have already attempted unsuccessfully to persuade Gov. Bob Martinez's office to require his political appointees to comply with state law. We are now considering legal action against the Division of Pari-Mutual Wagering for evading its law-enforcement responsibilities.

PROTECTION FOR NEW PET OWNERS
Beginning October 1, people who buy a puppy or kitten in Florida will have a state-supported guarantee of the animal's health. A new law, sponsored by Rep. Bob Sindler and State Sen. Denise Leonard, requires that most dogs and cats sold in the state be checked by a veterinarian before sale and accompanied by a certificate of health. It provides for the return of sick animals for reimbursement and for reimbursement of related veterinary costs incurred by those owners who keep their ailing animal.

By requiring pet dealers to be financially responsible for the animals' health, we hope breeders will be forced to provide more humane treatment.

ANIMAL-CRUELTY CONVICTION
Florida had its first jury conviction for felony animal cruelty since the new law went into effect less than a year ago. Everston Eugene Webb was found guilty of aggravated animal abuse after stabbing his young dog to death with a butcher knife.

A circuit judge sentenced Mr. Webb to three and a half years in prison after expressing concern that, without proper punishment, Mr. Webb might turn his violent temper against a person. The HSUS strongly supported the aggravated animal abuse legislation in the 1989 Florida legislative session.

SHOULD TOURISTS FEED DOLPHINS?
Dolphin-feeding cruises are the latest craze in coastal tourism, but experts warn it may turn the popular pastime into a disastrous practice for animals and humans alike. The Southeast office supports a proposed rule by the National Marine Fisheries Service that would prohibit public feeding of marine mammals.

GULF STATES

ANNUAL TURKEY DROP CANNED
In Yellville, Arkansas, promoters of the Annual Turkey Drop have decided to discontinue this cruel event. After much negative publicity generated by the Gulf States Regional Office and the National Enquirer, Gov. Bill Clinton urged the town to find a "less offensive" manner to celebrate its festivity. Regional Director James Nue attributes this victory to the hundreds of calls and letters from animal protectors.

NEW COCKFIGHT CAMPAIGN
In Oklahoma, Program Coordinator Dorothy Weller launched the Gulf States office's anti-cockfighting campaign through newspaper, television, radio, and radio interviews. Oklahomans are encouraged to become politically active in this campaign. Call the Gulf States office at (512) 854-3442 for more information.

NEW REGION TACKLES ISSUES
With the assistance of South Central regional staff, Tyker Gonzales, president of Prevent a Litter (PAL), successfully orchestrated the passage of a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for Craven County, North Carolina. This was the first ordinance addressing animal control to be passed in Craven County.

South Central staff provided testimony along with members of Friends of Animals and local animal-protection groups to halt the passage of an ordinance allowing carriage-horse services in Asheville, North Carolina. A similar ordinance is pending in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Board of Commissioners in Durham, North Carolina, adopted an ordinance regulating the care and treatment of animals in pet shops, including minimum standards of care, permits, selling of animals, and record keeping. The Animal Protection Society of Durham actively supported this ordinance, and the South Central Regional Office worked with Durham County attorney Willis S. Darby in recommending changes in the final draft.