



a five year period and have made the resources of government agencies available to the Federal Provincial Committee. Conversely, state and federal agencies within the United States have no similar program. The only research conducted has been peripheral to programs such as predator damage control. There has been no significant expenditure of funds or commitment of manpower despite the fact that almost twice as many furbearers are taken in the U.S. as in Canada."

The Federal Provincial Committee reports more than 3,000 trapping devices have been patented in Canada and the FP Committee has received 113 new trap designs for instant kill and low stress holding devices. Among the most promising of the devices is a spring powered cable leg snare, a modified conibear instant kill trap, a self aligning instant kill trap, and a padded offset trap. Hodge did express opinion that Americans were placing too much emphasis and hope on the Canadian programs. In response to a question from Hodge, the Chairman of Canadian FP Committee admitted that his group was exclusively concerned with the development of trapping devices appropriate for Canadian climate, habitat, and furbearing species. Hodge said that while portions of the U.S. are comparable to Canada "we must recognize that very likely Canadian research will not provide answers to many U.S. problems."

Commenting on the results of the conference, Hodge noted that the Canadian Government's commitment to humane trapping appears sincere. "They have committed \$436,000 to the development of humane trapping methods over

Society Completing Trapping Study

The Humane Society of the United States is completing a six month study of animal traps and trapping. The study was aimed at gathering data to support HSUS efforts to eliminate trapping entirely. Additionally the data details the annual U.S. fur catch and existing state trapping laws and regulations. The study was prepared by Martha Scott-Garrett, an experienced investigator, who has previously served as a research assistant for projects sponsored by the United States Department of the Interior.

A major objective of the study was to determine whether the management of animal diseases by trapping is necessary. The study points out that removing surplus animals by trapping does not protect wildlife against population buildups which lead to the spread of disease, starvation, and habitat destruction, as claimed by supporters of trapping.

In announcing the study, HSUS President John Hoyt stated "The humane movement is well aware of the arguments which have been offered against the elimination of trapping. The ominous shadow of a rabies or distemper epidemic and the alleged economic destruction of the fur industry have been serious obstacles in the effort to end all trapping. I am satisfied that these potential threats have been overdramatized and misstated. This study represents another element of The HSUS total commitment to our objective of eliminating cruel trapping."

Ms. Garrett's preliminary report was submitted to The HSUS in October and her findings were the subject of a workshop at The HSUS annual conference. Plans are now being considered to capsule the report into a pamphlet which will be available to humane societies for distribution to interested parties.