HSUS SEEKS 1993 APPROPRIATIONS

The HSUS is gearing up for the Fiscal Year 1993 appropriations cycle and will target a number of federal agencies with specific programs affecting animals. We will testily on a number of ongoing, animal-related federal programs. We will continue our vigil for substantial increases in funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including additional funding that will enable the USDA to conduct more frequent and rigorous inspections of laboratory and commercial dog-breeding facilities covered by the AWA. We will also strongly support the development and implementation of nonlethal animal-control methods under the USDA’s Animal Damage Control program.

The success of our lobbying efforts for ‘92 will give us increased incentive to once again win funding for several programs. Last year The HSUS successfully lobbied Congress for first-time funding for the National Organic Standards Board, the key to a national organic-labeling program. We will be seeking additional funding. HSUS efforts were instrumental in the development of the new management plan for our nation’s wild horses, which includes a humane method of contraception. We will remind Congress of the necessity for and value of this management plan. Together with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Humane Association, The HSUS will seek additional funding for the National Toxicology Program, an interagency program within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that establishes new toxicology validation of nonanimal alternatives to research. We will also seek funding for the Biological Models Materials Resources program, which is administered by NIH and offers monetary grants to scientists for research that uses alternatives to animals. Such efforts on alternatives will be enhanced by specific provisions of H.R. 2507, the NIH reauthorization bill, introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman of California. H.R. 2507 contains language promoting the use of animal alternatives in research through NIH, if passed in the House in July 1991. Efforts are being made to reconcile it with a similar bill in the Senate.

ANIMAL-FACILITY BREAK-IN BILLS

Late last year, at the request of the chairman of the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, Kika de La Garza of Texas, H.R. 2407, the Farm Animal and Research Facility Protection Act, was introduced to the full committee from the House Agriculture Department Operations Subcommittee. H.R. 2407 has almost 250 co-sponsors, and a similar bill, S. 544, sponsored by Sen. Howell Heflin of Alabama, has already been passed by the Senate. The HSUS has opposed these bills and continues its efforts against them because specific provisions would impede legitimate investigations and prevent the exposure of animal cruelty and misuse outlined in the AWA. We will continue to press Congress for assurance of protection for legitimate whistle-blowers who witness animal cruelty.

THANK YOU!

The HSUS extends its thanks to the following members of Congress who have recently taken the lead in promoting legislation on behalf of animals. Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, president of GLOBE International, and Rep. Gerry Sikorski of Minnesota, president of GLOBE U.S., for their continued leadership on environmental issues in both the Congress and the international arena. Rep. Jolene Unsoeld of Washington, for her continued leadership, in both the Congress and international organizations, on the effort to ban large-scale driftnet fishing worldwide.

RUNNING AFOIL

Last May two major cockfighting busts in Ohio, the result of a months-long undercover investigation by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, netted nearly 500 arrests and the confiscation of 700 game fowl. The HSUS played a major role in this effort (see the Fall 1991 HSUS News). Although the raids were a huge success, things went downhill once local officials got involved. Charges against some individuals were dropped in one jurisdiction because the sheriff had failed to notify the paperwork. The judge hearing a case against other individuals was unconvincing the confiscated game cocks were intended for use in fighting and ordered the birds returned to their owners.

In another jurisdiction, officials were forced to return some game fowl to owners and auction off others. A lower court had ordered the birds, which were intended for fighting, to be euthanatized. However, the Ohio Gamefowl Breeders Association appealed the court’s decision, and the birds were returned to their owners.

A CRUSHING BLOW TO KISER LAKE

Information obtained by the Great Lakes office recently led to a recommendation for denial of a drug license for a USDA-licensed dog dealer and, subsequently, to that dealer’s surprising withdrawal of his application. The Ohio Board of Pharmacy learned that Kiser Lake Kennels was operating without the necessary license for obtaining, storing, and using dangerous drugs after a complaint was lodged by program coordinator Robin Weirach. Ms. Weirach's complaint alleged unlicensed possession of sodium pentobarbital by an Ohio dog warden, who reportedly received it from Kiser Lake Kennels. Kiser Lake Kennels applied to the Ohio Board of Pharmacy for the long-overdue license but the board recommended that the application be denied.

Kiser Lake Kennels has for many years provided euthanasia services to county animal facilities, retaining some live dogs for resale to research facilities, in contradiction of Ohio law. Now that it is clear the kennel lacks the proper license to utilize euthanasia drugs, the practice may stop.

SOCITIES SEEK HSUS HELP

Program coordinator Robin Weirach traveled to Jefferson and Hancock Counties in West Virginia, Floyd, Posey, and Gibson Counties and the city of Terre Haute in Indiana; Perry and Clermont Counties in Ohio; and Ann Arbor, Michigan, to observe shelter operations and review adoption policies.

AN OMINOUS RULING

In December Ohio Attorney General Lee Fisher issued an opinion to the Ohio Veterinary Medical Board which concluded that humane societies are not authorized under state law to own and operate spas/sterilizer clinics and employ veterinarians. The goal of county humane societies in Ohio is the inculcation of humane principles and enforcement of laws for the prevention of cruelty. According to Sandy Rowland, Great Lakes regional director, “Quite disturbing is the fact the attorney general’s office does not see the link between reducing our present pet-overpopulation problem and reducing cruelty to animals.”

Ms. Rowland has sent copies of Mr. Fisher’s opinion to all Ohio humane organizations.
**NEW DAY FOR DEER?**

An $80,000 grant from the USDA to Rutgers University has spurred new interest in immunonocetraception birth control to manage New Jersey's deer population.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office has for decades tried to expose the mismanagement of the white-tailed deer population by the state Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife. The HSUS has been working on our own contraception program, a vaccine that essentially immunoanizes a doe against sperm.

The vaccine is being developed by Jay Kirkpatrick, associate professor at Eastern Montana College, and several other academic investigators (see the Fall 1991 HSUS News). It has been successfully used in tests on deer and wild horses and on zoos animals, but it requires two shots from a dart gun administered one month apart. Dr. Kirkpatrick is trying to develop a one-shot vaccine. Regional director Nina Austenberg was interviewed for a national radio segment for "Down to Earth" with CBS-TV’s Harry Smith about the 50,000 deer killed by autoenemies on the nation’s highways.

**GREAT SWAMP PROTEST #18**

The protest of the deer hunt at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was the first such protest at a national wildlife refuge and for years the only one. In December, for the eighteenth year, demonstrators raised their voices in protest at the Great Swamp in Passaic Township, New Jersey. The group, led by Nina Austenberg, carried signs against hunting in a refuge, as well as against using hunting as a means to control overpopulation.

**COLLECTOR FOUND GUILTY**

On June 1, 1991, New York State Police and animal-protection officials executed warrants at the Estherville Animal Shelter in New York. The HSUS’s Allen Rutberg (left) and Nina Austenberg (second from right) join Rep. Dick Zimmer and HSUS member Karen Con-

Donough. Assisting Ms. McDonough in the raid were investigator Bob Reder of the HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, program coordinator Frank Ribaudo of the New England Regional Office, Samantha Mullen of the New York State Humane Association, and volunteers and transport crews of various New York shelters.

The shelter operator was charged with 100 counts of animal cruelty and after a four-day trial in mid-December, the jury took only twenty minutes to find the operator guilty on all counts. Sentencing has been delayed pending an appeal by the shelter operator, who faces a maximum sentence of a $1,000 fine and one year in jail. In the meantime, the shelter remains open.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Among bills introduced for action in the region’s legislatures are those that would establish animal shelter programs (Connecticut, New Hampshire); institute restraint requirements for animals in open vehicles (Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island); and mandate rabies inoculations for dogs and cats (Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont). The HSUS supports all of the measures.

**BAER ADDRESSES FAIR ASSOCIATION**

On January 18 New England Regional Director Arnold Baer participated in a panel discussion on animal issues at county fairs, sponsored by the Vermont-New Hampshire Fair Association. Animal-pulling events, animal-driving exhibitions, livestock transport and housing, and selling companion animals at fairs were discussed.

**IN AMERICA AVAILABLE**

Last fall the nationally syndicated television show "In America" featured a segment on animal collectors, to which the New England office contributed video footage and still photos. For a copy of this excellent program, contact the New England Regional Office at PO Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423.

**“GETTING THE GOAT IN TENNESSEE”**

Recently the International Goat Days festival was held in Millington, Tennessee. Among many activities planned were goat chariot races, goat milking, and a goat barbecue contest. A “fainting goat” contest, in which goats suffering from a genetic disorder called myotonia congenital are frightened into “fainting” for the amusement of onlookers, was canceled after protests from The HSUS and the Animal Protection Association of Memphis.

**PUPPY MILL RAIDED**

When John and Sandy Boone of the Taylor County (Kentucky) SPCA visited Pleasant Valley Kennels in rural Green County, they were shown dogs of a variety of breeds. Most were overweight, filthy, and suffering from various ailments. Several cages held decomposed dog carcases.

The Boones contacted the Kentucky State Police and animal-protection officials executed warrants at the SPCA, Jefferson County Department of Animal Control and Protection, the Kentucky Humane Society, and local law enforcement and rescue squad personnel. Vets confiscated more than 150 dogs and puppies and five cats. Approximately a dozen dead dogs were found. The owners were charged with cruelty to animals and voluntarily surrendered the animals to the SPCA.

**VALLEY KENNELS RAIDED**

When Col. John Tedford drove to Kentucky from northern California to film a television documentary about animal collectors, he also investigated puppy mills.

On October 3, 1991 the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Arnold Baer received a call from Jim Tedford that "there were dogs in the back of the truck." The two men proceeded to Camp Lejeune with a request for a formal report to the base commander.

At Camp Lejeune with a request for a report to the base commander. At least one of the participants has received nonjudicial punishment. In another incident, the office received a complaint that steel-jaw leghold traps were being used to control a raccoon problem at the base stables at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. We determined that the stable manager had allowed a local trapper to trap inside the barn. It was stopped immediately. According to Col. John Tedford, "Trapping is prohibited throughout the installation." The HSUS is proud to have received excellent cooperation from the military in both cases.

**THE PROTEST AT GREAT SWAMP**

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A fainting-goat organization was one of the exhibitors at the International Goat Days festival in Tennessee.

A roll of film developed at a Tennessee photo lab depicted scenes so disturbing that the photos were turned over to the Sullivan County Humane Society. The photographs show young men apparently torturing and dismembering a little kitten. Carol Bennett, society president, contacted the South Central Regional Office.

The man who had left the film for processing is a U.S. Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He claimed the photographs were taken a year previously in Okinawa and that the other men pictured were also Marines.

Regional Director Phil Snyder sent the photos and the police report to the base commander at Camp Lejeune with a request for an investigation. At least one of the participants has received nonjudicial punishment. In another incident, the office received a complaint that steel-jaw leghold traps were being used to control a raccoon problem at the base stables at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. We determined that the stable manager had allowed a local trapper to trap inside the barn. It was stopped immediately. According to Col. John Tedford, "Trapping is prohibited throughout the installation." The HSUS is proud to have received excellent cooperation from the military in both cases.

A dog sits impassively in a weedy enclosure typical of those found at the Estherville Animal Shelter in New York.

The photographs show the misuse of animals at fairs, sponsored by the National Fair Association. The HSUS monitored other festival activities. The HSUS discourages events that exploit and endanger animals.

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An investigation by the Northern Rockies Re­

gional Office, in con­junction with the county prosecutor, has resulted in the convic­
tion of a Montana horse rancher for cruelty to animals. In addition to a $500 fine and a psychological evalua­
tion, the rancher was given 30 days to treat or sell 34 horses that the inspection team found to be in poor condition. He was granted 160 days to reduce the approxi­mately 300-head herd to the substantially lower carrying capacity of the ranch. The HSUS continues to monitor the situation for compliance.

The reintroduction of black-footed ferrets, an endangered species, is planned in a Montana wildlife refuge.

In early 1992 there were four confirmed cases of intentional dog poisoning in the small community of Rock River, Wyoming. The Northern Rockies Regional Office im­mediately offered a $2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect.

Wyoming Dog Poisonings

PLEASE SAY NO, SHREVEPORT

An investigation by the California Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Fisheries, in conjunction with the Depart­ment of Public Health, is at­
tempting to change this ruling. Several cities and counties, including Placer County, are investigating ways of control­ling hybrids.

West Coast

Bye-bye, Bear Hunts

The days of black-bear hunting in Florida will, we hope, soon stop. A campaign is under way to make killing black bears illegal. Only an estimated 1,000 black bears re­main in the state. The numbers are rapidly declining due to deaths from hunting and auto­mobile accidents. The Florida congressional delegation requested that the federal govern­ment list the black bear as a threatened species, which would immediately stop all hunting. The request was rejected.

An attempt was made to con­vince the Florida Game Com­mission to prohibit the killing of black bears before the 1991 hunting season. The commis­sion refused. Sixty bears were tracked down by dogs and shot at close range, one by one other than state game commis­sioner Ben Row. The ensuing outcry prompted editorials in newspapers state­wide calling for a ban on hunt­ing black bears. A bill has been filed in the legislature that would make it a third-degree felony to kill a bear.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser­vice and the Montana Depart­ment of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks are considering a well-planned, safe, and effective reintroduction project.

Wyoming Dog Poisonings

CRUELTY IN DAIRY AUCTIONS

In its continuing investigation into livestock markets, the Gulf States Office has expanded its focus to include dairy auctions. It has targeted such auctions in Texas, ranked third nationwide in milk production. A number of business-size, stamped envelopes have been sent to dairy auctions in the state. The bill would have made it all but impossible to prose­cute cockfighters in California since they could have claimed they were merely raising and testing the birds.

The bill was defeated in the California Assembly Ways and Means Committee, partially thanks to the well-timed raid. “The legislators voting on this bill came home to nightly news reports of the raid,” said Ms. Drennon.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser­vice and the Montana Depart­ment of Health Services. Its mission is to address both companion­animal health prob­lems, with special emphasis on animal bites, inoculations, identifica­tion, and licensing. An investigation by the S. District Court in Louisiana.

Russell National Wildlife Refuge in Montana. The HSUS is interested in promoting a wolf-hybrid seminar for research subjects from the state. The bill if it would be needed for the Califor­nia Legislative Counsel’s Office.

If you would like a copy of a fact sheet on cat licensing, please send a self-addressed, business-size, stamped enve­lope to: The HSUS, PO Box 471220, Sacramento, CA

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