Dolphins may gain more protection from fishing vessels using purse-seine nets if pending dolphin-conservation bills become law.

**DOLPHIN MEASURES MOVE IN CONGRESS**

Landmark dolphin-protection legislation could be approved by Congress before it adjourns in October. On June 17 Rep. Gerry Studds of Massachusetts introduced H.R. 5419, the International Dolphin Conservation Act of 1992, which would provide for a five-year global moratorium on the use of purse-seine nets to catch tuna if those nations agree to observe the moratorium; reduce dolphin mortality prior to the moratorium; and allow impartial observers on 100 percent of vessels that now use purse-seine nets to catch tuna.

The bill was approved by two House committees and awaits a vote by the full House. The companion bill in the Senate, S. 3003, introduced by Sen. John Kerry, also of Massachusetts, is being reviewed by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. That committee held a hearing on the bill on July 23. The HSUS was part of a coalition that successfully lobbied the Senate Commerce Committee to pass the bill. The Endangered Species Coalition, congressional supporters of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) successfully held off two legislative challenges this summer. Rep. Billy Tauzin of Louisiana withdrew an amendment to the Coast Guard Authorization Bill that would have circumvented ESA protection of the threatened northern spotted owl and exempted logging on federally owned northwestern forests from compliance with the ESA and other environmental laws.

**HSUS FIGHTS TO MAINTAIN THE ESA**

With the aid of an intensive lobbying effort by The HSUS and its allies in Congress, the ESA and its protections for species could be lost if weaker legislation is passed in place of the ESA.

Opponents of such strong endangered-species protection provisions have introduced S. 2762 (sponsored by Sen. Slade Gorton of Washington) and H.R. 5256 (sponsored by Rep. Bob Smith of Oregon), which would circumvent ESA protection of the threatened northern spotted owl and exempt logging on federally owned northwestern forests from compliance with the ESA and other environmental laws.

**CONGRESS PASSES BREAK-IN BILLS**

In August the House and the Senate passed a modified version of the Farm Animal and Research Facilities Protection Act, now called the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, and sent it to President Bush for signature. Another bill covering crimes at facilities funded by the Public Health Service was incorporated into the omnibus National Institutes of Health (NIH) Reauthorization Act, which was expected to pass Congress and go to the president in August or September.

The HSUS, the U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI, and the Judicial Conference of the United States questioned the need for such legislation, since crimes such as vandalism, arson, and destruction of property are already covered by state and local laws. The HSUS was concerned that the break-in bills were so broad that they would threaten legitimate investigations and deter whistleblowers from reporting possible violations of animal-protection laws.

We conveyed these serious concerns to leaders of the House Agriculture and Judiciary Committees and are pleased to report that, as sent to the president, the farm-animal protection bill should not now threaten whistleblowers or The HSUS's and other organizations' legitimate investigations. Although the NIH reauthorization bill still contains a provision that could be interpreted as threatening to whistleblowers, authors Henry Waxman of California and Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts publicly assured the Congress that such was not the intent and that copying information that might indicate a violation of animal-protection laws would not be a crime.

**DOWNER BILLS INTRODUCED**

Since the March 5 hearing before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, The HSUS has continued to work to stop the suffering of downers (see the Summer 1992 HSUS News). Two bills have been introduced that would reduce the handling and suffering of nonambulatory animals: S. 2796, sponsored by Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, and H.R. 5680, introduced by Rep. Gary Ackerman of New York. The bills, both of which are known as the Downed Animal Protection Act of 1992, would create a nationally uniform "no-downer" policy at livestock markets.

Both bills have the full support of The HSUS, and we will press hard for their passage next year.

**WILD-BIRD BILLS MAKE PROGRESS**

On April 29 Rep. Gerry Studds of Massachusetts broke the congressional deadlock on two bills calling for a

**THANKS TO ONE AND ALL!**

The HSUS would like to give special recognition to the following members of Congress who have made exceptional efforts for the protection of animals and the environment.

- Reps. Henry Waxman of California and Richard Gephardt of Missouri for introducing H.Con.Res. 246, which states that Congress will oppose any trade agreements that jeopardize U.S. environmental, labor, public health, or consumer-safety standards.

on the commercial importation of wild birds to the United States by introducing another bill, H.R. 5013, the Wild Bird Conservation Act.

H.R. 5013 would limit or prohibit imports of exotic birds when necessary to ensure that exotic wild-bird populations are not harmed by the trade and that exotic birds in trade are not subject to inhumane treatment. The HSUS is part of a coalition represented at a House hearing held June 16 on H.R. 5013 and a Senate hearing on July 31.

The bill was approved by two House committees in July and was passed by the full House on August 11. Sen. Max Baucus of Montana will direct the movement of a bill similar to H.R. 5013 in the Senate. The HSUS will be exploring avenues to strengthen the Wild Bird Conservation Act as it moves through the Senate.

Act, required the secretary of the DOI to “prescribe such requirements . . . necessary for the transportation of wild animals and birds under humane and healthful conditions.” The act states that “it shall be unlawful for any person, including any importer, knowingly to cause or permit any wild animal or bird to be transported to the United States . . . under inhumane or unhealthful conditions.”

On June 17 the DOI issued the long-awaited regulations governing such transport. The regulations govern care, food and water requirements, handling, temperature and ventilation requirements, enclosure size, and vehicle-stocking density. Issuance of the regulations had been held up since 1989. HSUS and other animal organizations met with USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services Jo Ann Smith and other USDA staff to discuss further the need for stricter enforcement of the regulations.

Public protest has kept an additional $300,000 from being taken out of the APC Fund. The program was supported by municipalities because of its ability to keep dealer costs down and control the spread of rabies. If low-cost spaying and neutering are not available, the animals will be the ones who suffer.

In July, the HSUS documented the USDA’s lax enforcement of the AWA for exhibited animals, such as these African lions.

Dressed wild parrots await shipment in Honduras: the DOI recently issued regulations governing trade in all wild animals.

HEARING HELD ON EXHIBITION ANIMALS

On July 8 the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing on the treatment of animals in exhibition, such as in zoos, aquaria, and circuses, and on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

John W. Grandy, Ph.D., HSUS vice president, Wildlife and Habitat Protection, presented strong evidence documenting the USDA’s inability to enforce effectively the regulations of the AWA in zoos, circuses, and traveling acts. The evidence included specific cases in which exhibit animals suffered and, in some instances, died due to inadequate care.

The HSUS recommended establishment of a blue-ribbon advisory committee, including representatives from the animal-protection community, to review and recommend improvements in relevant regulations; establishment of more stringent licensing standards for animal exhibitors; development of more stringent space requirements for exhibition animals; and development of more stringent guidelines for the humane handling and care of exhibition animals.

On July 30 The HSUS and other organizations met with USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services Jo Ann Smith and other USDA staff to discuss further the need for stricter enforcement of the regulations governing such animals.

At least $600,000 was transferred from the APC Fund to the Rabies Trust Fund. Advocates for Animal Welfare and Local Law 89, which was opposed by the HSUS, was given $75,000 to fund the Rabies Trust Fund.

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CARRIAGE HORSES PROTECTED BY VETO

Thanks to New York City Mayor David Dinkins, who opposed Introductory Number 1410-A, a horse-carriage bill, the Carriage Horse Protection Act, Local Law 89, remains in effect. The Carriage Horse Action Committee, the HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, and other animal-protection organizations worked long and hard to stop the weakening of the current protective regulations for the horses.

In May representatives from animal-protection groups, animal shelters, and kennel clubs, as well as private citizens, must line up in front of the New Jersey statehouse to protest the health department’s mishandling of the state Animal Population Control (APC) Fund.

The APC Fund was created expressly to provide low-cost spaying and neutering, through a program with participating veterinarians, for pets of people on public assistance and pets adopted from shelters. The program was total funded by a surcharge of $3 on dog licenses.

The legislation entitles an animal spayed or neutered and receive rabies and preservative inoculations for $10. Funding is provided for the most part, by a license-differential fee for unsterilized dogs.

The bill is the fruit of seven months’ work by a coalition of state and national animal-protection groups. After its first meeting at the New England Regional Office, the bill gained momentum.

Essential to passage was Rep. Mary Mushinsky’s (standing at left), pose at the New Jersey statehouse.

"Rabiesgate" protesters, including regional director Nina Aus­ tenberg (standing at left), pose at the New Jersey statehouse.

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REGIONS REVIEW

MID-ATLANTIC

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