were reluctant to seize horses. Not surprisingly, even with the help of two local humane societies and ten Virginia humane officers, The HSUS encountered the same shortage of housing for the animals seized at the Front Royal auction. Even though The HSUS had made the commitment to pick up all expenses for the seized horses, it was months before we were able to convince local prosecutors to charge horse abusers for their crimes and to locate suitable places to house the animals.

In the midst of the investigations, Ms. Rogers vowed that someday she would open a humane society for neglected horses that would otherwise languish and die in the barns and fields of Virginia. She armed herself with information from the HSUS Companion Animals Department on how to establish and operate a shelter. That she had no money, no land, and no stable did not deter her.

On Valentine’s Day 1990, a small Virginia newspaper ran a series of articles profiling local horse owners. Although most articles contained touching stories about human couples, the reporter wrote a segment on Pat Rogers, describing her love for abused horses and her determination to open a humane society. The story included a photo Gail Eisnitz had taken of a horse named Bitsy.

The two women had found Bitsy lying on a stall floor, hidden away in the darkest recesses of an auction barn. A five-year-old.ex-racing Thoroughbred, the horse had apparently been abandoned by her owner and left to die until somebody decided to cart her off to auction. Bitsy was so starved and crippled that she sold for only $750. The women fed her hay and made sure a veterinarian administered pain medication before she was sent on her last journey—to the slaughterhouse.

Pat Rogers’s unique story and the pathetic picture of Bitsy shocked hunt-country readers. Ms. Rogers’s phone started ringing with offers of support. Among the callers was attorney and former Federal Communications Commissioner Mark S. Fowler. He took a personal interest in the project and later became the first president of her humane society.

Ms. Rogers showed community leaders the graphic photos shot during the HSUS investigation. Her presentations generated support and much needed funds. A Leesburg, Virginia, landowner offered to allow the Equine Rescue League to use her sixty-six-acre farm to stable the seized horses. Although the farm, Churchland, was already in great condition, a corps of ERL volunteers built additional run-in sheds and fences and prepared the existing box stalls for their new occupants.

Within the first month of operation, sixty-three debilitated horses were given refuge by the ERL. Some had been taken from uncreting owners, others had been purchased at Virginia auctions. Seven pregnant, emaciated mares in the first group foaled within days of their arrival. Without the ERL, the mares and their foals would probably have died.

On May 11, 1991, Gail Eisnitz attended the ERL’s grand opening celebration. Over a thousand visitors milked about the grounds. During the celebration, Ms. Rogers and Ms. Eisnitz talked once again of Bitsy, who might have been saved, if only there had been a place to keep her. During the course of the HSUS investigation, they found hundreds of Bitsys but could not save them. Almost every one was shipped to slaughter because there was no place authorities could put them at the time. Now, at least in Virginia, there is...

**MARINE MAMMALS**

**Whales at a Crisis Point**

**Exploitation vs enlightened protection**

There is no way to predict the future of the great whales. The fate of these peaceful creatures is intertwined with that of all nature in the 1990s. Will humans continue to exploit the rest of the world for exploitation’s sake? Will greed prevail? Will the old “resource management” mindset win out over a new ethic of protection of nature?

These questions came to center stage at the May 1989 meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), held in Iceland. For several years the IWC has wrestled with its original mandate of “making possible the orderly development of the whaling industry” and with growing public pressure to end the exploitation of whales. This year was no different. In diplomatic circles it is rarely possible to confront such tough questions head on. It has been virtually impossible to find government officials willing to speak out in favor of protecting animals simply because of their intrinsic value. Most governments remain shackled to the wildlife-management tradition, managing (that is, killing) wildlife “for its own good” and the (financial) good of man. Most nations accept the notion that wildlife is a resource for man’s rational utilization. People the world over want whales protected, not hunted and harpooned. The
When the IWC adopted an indefinite moratorium on whaling in 1986, Japan has defied the IWC ban by hiding behind the smokescreen of "scientific whaling."

In 1986, the new model does push the world towards a more rationally determined level of whaling, should it ever begin again. The likelihood of full-scale whaling remaining intact for 1992 is unlikely, or, more likely, 1993. Although The HSUS is opposed to any whaling, the new model does push the world towards a more rationally determined level of whaling, should it ever begin again.

The Japanese policy does not favor the resumption of whaling on the other hand, was the last to be exploited. The HSUS supports the position of New Zealand, which refused to endorse the revised management procedure. Its commissioner said, "I sometimes wonder whether the beauty of a smoothly functioning mathematical model may at times blind the operator to the lethal effects of its application in the field. . . . No matter how scientifically sensible such a management procedure may seem, it will appear to the people of New Zealand that we are repeating past mistakes—playing God and reshaping the environment."

It was refreshing to see the New Zealanders rise above the scientific quagmire and raise the question of ethics. New Zealand policy does not favor the resumption of commercial whaling. Most governments, that of the United States included, feel uneasy taking this kind of moral high ground.

The HSUS supports New Zealand in its efforts to protect not only whales but dolphins as well. We intend to work to raise the level of debate in this country to one involving ethics as well as science.

President Bush should hear from all Americans who believe that the time has come to end commercial whaling—and wholesale slaughter—forever. The HSUS will redouble its efforts at numerous international gatherings, including the world summit on the environment, scheduled to be held in Brazil in June 1992.

It was at a meeting in 1972 that the first call for a whaling moratorium emerged. The twentieth anniversary of that meeting offers the opportunity to move into the twenty-first century with the new ethics of enlightened protection of nature.