SPEAKING UP FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

On November 1, HSUS Vice President for the Environment Jan A. Hartke testified at a field hearing on the transition to a sustainable energy future before two subcommittees of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This hearing was one of a series of hearings held in conjunction with President George Bush’s request to Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins to provide the president with energy options available to craft a national energy policy.

Energy policies can have a devastating impact on animals, whether through huge dams that flood rain forests or oil spills that kill birds and otters. Mr. Hartke pointed to the availability of tremendous technological advances in energy efficiency and recommended a swift transition to clean, safe, humane, and renewable energy technologies. Mr. Hartke said that greater emphasis on renewable energy sources would make the United States less dependent on foreign oil and enhance U.S. energy security.

Clean, safe, and renewable technologies will form the foundation for the energy structure of the next century. It is important to make the transition to humane and sustainable energy sources that will not harm millions of animals and drive an unprecedented number of species to extinction.

Earlier in 1990, The HSUS joined other environmental organizations and business groups seeking to reinstate tax incentives to promote the continued development of the struggling alternative energy industry. Before Congress adjourned, it passed legislation that extends investment credits to solar and geothermal energy producers until December 31, 1991. Effective for four years, the bill will encourage a lesser dependence on conventional energy sources which will, in turn, promote a cleaner environment for all. Copies of Jan Hartke’s testimony are available from the Environment Department, The HSUS, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

1990 SESSION COMES TO A CLOSE

In the early morning hours of Sunday, October 28, 1990, the longest election-year session of Congress since World War II came to a close.

January 1991 marks the beginning of the 102nd Congress, and every bill not passed in 1990 must be reintroduced and reconsidered. This is a good time to reflect on what we achieved for animals in 1989–90.

Our major legislative achievement occurred as the clock ran down on the 101st Congress. The House of Representatives agreed with the Senate and gave final approval to the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, which contained the “Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act.” This victory was the culmination of almost two years of HSUS work on legislation sponsored by Representative Barbara Boxer of California and Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware. As a leader in the Dolphin Coalition, which includes almost 40 animal-protection and environmental groups, The HSUS worked closely with major tuna processors, which in 1990 added their support to this effort. Deserving special thanks for passage of this legislation are Rep. Gerry Studds of Massachusetts, and Sens. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina and John Kerry of Massachusetts. As passed, the legislation recognizes that dolphins and other marine mammals are frequently killed in the course of tuna-fishing operations in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and in driftnets worldwide; recognizes that consumers want to know if the tuna they have purchased has been falsely labeled as to the effect its harvesting has had on dolphins; and establishes a standard for the use of the words “Dolphin Safe” on the label. This standard prevents the use of “Dolphin Safe” if the tuna in that can has been caught with purse seines in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean or with driftnets worldwide and provides for enforcement through penalties for false statements on tuna labels.

HSUS lobbying efforts also paid off handsomely with the passage of the 1990 Farm Bill, which contains several provisions promoting animal protection. Our coalition with family-farm groups, which began three years ago with the animal-patenting issue, was expanded to include humane sustainable agriculture. Congress placed greater emphasis on animal agriculture when it reauthorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Sustainable Agriculture Research and
CONGRESSIONAL KUDOS IN ORDER

In addition to those mentioned elsewhere in the Federal Report, the following members deserve special recognition for their efforts:


- Rep. Dan Glickman of Kansas, for his careful attention to the constitutional rights of individuals interested in animal protection.


- Sens. Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Wendell Ford of Kentucky, for legislation that makes it harder for dealers to obtain pets under false pretenses and sell them for use in research.

- Rep. Toby Roth of Wisconsin, for successfully championing a farm bill provision giving USDA authority to seek temporary restraining orders and injunctions against violators of the Animal Welfare Act.

- Rep. William Natcher of Kentucky, Sen. Quentin Burdick of North Dakota, and Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, who were responsible for the additional fiscal year '91 $3 million appropriation for the National Toxicology Program, which seeks alternatives to animal research.

- Rep. Bill Green of New York, for introducing landmark wildlife-refuge reform legislation that would end recreational hunting and commercial trapping on refuges. The bill, which had 72 cosponsors, will be reintroduced in 1991.

- Rep. Dean Gallo of New Jersey and Sen. Alan Cranston of California, for spearheading the successful, HSUS-promoted congressional effort to designate April 1990 officially as "National Prevent-a-Litter Month."


Education program for five years, at $40 million per year, and specified that this progressive program "encourage research designed to increase our knowledge concerning agricultural production systems that...promote the well-being of animals."

Congress approved as well an HSUS-supported organic-foods-certification program that sets forth national standards for organically raised food, including livestock and poultry. This is probably one of the most significant pieces of legislation affecting farm animals that has ever been passed, because organically raised farm animals are treated more humanely and lead more natural lives. Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont is primarily responsible for senate work on the research and organic provisions of the Farm Bill.

AWA COMMENTS SENT TO USDA

Following intense pressure from senior congressional leaders and The HSUS, the USDA published the long-awaited draft regulations for the care, treatment, and transportation of dogs, cats, and primates under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

On October 1, The HSUS submitted 149 pages of comments on proposed rules, with HSUS staff members from the investigations, companion animals, wildlife, laboratory animals, and government relations departments laboring to produce a comprehensive analysis of the strengths and shortcomings of the draft regulations. The comments are a product of the professional experiences of HSUS experts. We called for tougher standards for compliance with the AWA and for easily measurable and enforceable "engineering standards" (such as specific cage sizes) instead of the vague, subjective "performance standards" sought by the animal-research community.

The HSUS assessment of the draft regulations will be reviewed when USDA officials prepare the final standards, scheduled to be published by early February 1991.