MORE THAN 600 activists from all over the country attended a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) March 27-29 in Washington, D.C. “Celebrating the Diversity of Life,” sponsored by the Endangered Species Coalition, of which The HSUS is an active member, highlighted the ESA’s past successes and described the challenges that ESA supporters will face in the upcoming congressional fight over reauthorization.

Dynamic speakers inspired conference participants. Pulitzer Prize-winning author and biologist Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D., dazzled his audience with a glimpse into the staggering array of plant and animal species inhabiting the American tropics and passionately appealed for their preservation. Stephen Jay Gould, Ph.D., eminent paleontologist and prolific science writer, placed the modern biodiversity crisis in geological perspective, warning that human activities may be creating a “mass extinction” from which the planet will not recover for eons.

Many participants remained in Washington after the conference to visit their congressional representatives and urge support for a strong ESA. Working closely with the Clinton administration, Rep. Gerry Studds (left) and Sens. Max Baucus (above) and John Chaffee have developed a good draft bill that was introduced in the House (as H.R. 2043) and Senate (as S. 921) on May 6. The HSUS is joining other members of the Endangered Species Coalition in seeking cosponsors for this exciting new legislation.

THE HSUS’S YOUTH-education division, The National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHHE), announces the addition of two new publications—KIND News Primary and KIND News International—to its list of children’s newspapers.

In response to a growing interest in humane-education materials for children in the early elementary grades, KIND News Primary was developed for first- and second-grade students and as a read-aloud in kindergarten. Like its counterparts, KIND News Jr. and KIND News Sr., the primary-level publication is founded on the theme of respect and compassion for people, ani-

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A SOCKS BY ANY OTHER NAME

Imagine a beauty contest with 1,200 contestants. Now imagine that they all look pretty much alike. That's just what happened when the ANA Hotel in Washington, D.C., sponsored a “Socks Appeal” contest to benefit The HSUS. The goal was to find a cat who resembles Socks Clinton, the nation's First Cat, and also represents the best in feline values. The initial challenge was trying to tell the difference between more than a thousand hopefuls. Most of them were, in fact, black and white, just like Socks. There was also a handful of orange cats, grays, tabbies, and tigers, not to mention two rabbits. (Love truly is blind.)

And the winner is Lucy (below), a charming kitty who lives with Gina Lauria and Steve Coonan of Wallingford, Connecticut. She was crowned by a panel of celebrity judges including Rue McClanahan, star of CBS-TV’s “Golden Palace”; Jim Davis, creator of Garfield; Dave Bender, of “Fox Morning News”; and Jane Calloway, of Cat Fancy magazine.

According to her “Kitty Bio Sheet,” Lucy's “turn-ons” are canned fish and a fresh box of kitty litter; “favorite book,” The Cat in the Hat; “biggest fears,” German shepherds and hairdryers.

Lucy and her family will visit Washington this summer as guests of the ANA Hotel for a four-day stay in the Presidential Suite. The ANA also will present Lucy with a one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted cat bed that is a scale model of the White House. Lucy will be featured in the 1994 HSUS calendar.
HSUS FOOD CAMPAIGN GAINING SPEED

In April The HSUS launched its campaign to raise awareness of the plight of battery-caged hens and to convince major grocery-store chains in selected geographical areas to carry eggs from free-roaming hens. We have some successes to report.

In Columbus, Ohio, the Kroger Co. is offering customers in stores in Columbus, Toledo, select areas in southern Ohio, and West Virginia eggs from free-roaming hens.

In Denver, Colorado, all of the Albertson's stores, Pub stores, and five additional King Soopers stores will be carrying uncaged-hen eggs. (About two-thirds of the King Soopers carried the eggs before our campaign gathered steam.)

Although the campaign began just recently in San Francisco, we are seeing incredible public support for our goal of freeing laying hens from overcrowded wire cages.

If you live in San Francisco, Denver, or Columbus, please make a special effort to thank the management of these stores when purchasing uncaged-hen eggs. Our thanks go to the many local groups that helped to make this effort a success.

Ethics provides the insights of the board members and staff of The HSUS's Center for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE) into the appropriate uses of animals and the land.

Fred Kirschenmann writes on an ethic for sustainable agriculture; Elizabeth Lawrence describes the owl's psychic importance; Evelyn Martin reflects on land and habitat; and the "CRLE Report" describes the reflections of HSUS Chief Executive John A. Hoyt, HSUS President Paul G. Irwin, Thomas Berry, and others on a workable Earth ethic.

Earth Ethics is committed to articulating the values and practices essential to a humane, sustainable society. If you would like to subscribe, please send a check for $12.00 to Earth Ethics, CRLE, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037. For $20.00 you can become a Friend of the Center, which entitles you to reduced rates for CRLE conferences and publications.

LOOKING FOR THE Federal Report in this issue of the HSUS News? That department will no longer appear in the News, but you can turn instead to the Animal Activist Alert, the HSUS's award-winning quarterly newsletter on legislation and animal issues. All HSUS members are eligible to receive the AAA free of charge—just contact The HSUS to add your name to the mailing list.