LUCY MEETS SOCKS

Lucy is a cat with truly winning ways. In a nationwide contest sponsored by Washington, D.C.'s ANA Hotel to benefit The HSUS, she was named the cat with the most "Socks Appeal"—because of her remarkable resemblance to Socks Clinton. In January—much to the relief of The HSUS and other animal-protection organizations—Alaskan Governor Walter Hickel had announced cancellation of a planned "wolf-control" effort involving aerial hunting. In early July, however, Alaska's Board of Game authorized the killing of up to 150 wolves in an area south of Fairbanks, for the proffered purpose of reversing a short-term decline in the area's number of caribou.

The Board of Game plan would allow wolf-hunters to engage in "same-day airborne hunting." Although this practice theoretically entails flying airplanes to sites where wolves are located, landing, and then leaving the planes to hunt, many believe that it actually entails such brutal practices as harassing and shooting wolves from the air and chasing them to exhaustion before killing them.

In a letter to Governor Hickel, HSUS President Paul G. Irwin protested the newly authorized wolf kill. "The proposed 'wolf control' actions still lack any ecological or ethical justification. ... We urge you to end once and for all any consideration of this proposed kill."

ROBERT McCARTER, a biology teacher at Great Valley High School in Malvern, Pennsylvania, is the 1993 winner of the National Humane Education Teacher of the Year Award. This award, given annually by the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE), a division of The HSUS, recognizes the accomplishments of a teacher who incorporates humane and environmental issues into his/her curriculum.

An educator for twenty-three years, Mr. McCarter played a major role in modifying school policy so that students could choose humane alternatives to dissection, before Pennsylvania state law mandated that option in 1992. Mr. McCarter also succeeded in eliminating a chicken-hobby laboratory exercise from his school's biology curriculum.

Mr. McCarter teaches his students respect for all life through activities at the Great Valley Animal Care Facility, located on school property. Founded by Mr. McCarter, the facility houses a wide variety of plants as well as injured wildlife and injured or abandoned companion animals. Students have the opportunity to give the facility's animals personal attention and care.

NAHEE is pleased to honor Mr. McCarter as 1993 National Humane Education Teacher of the Year.

FOR THE PAST FEW months, The HSUS has been investigating the capture of four pseudorca (false killer whale) for Marine World Africa/USA (MWAUSA), a marine park in Vallejo, California. The MMPA requires that marine mammals taken from the wild for public display in the United States be captured in a "humane" manner—for example, by the pain-sensitive method used for live capture of cetaceans, in which a ship drops a net around a group of animals, pulls the net up against the ship's side, hauls the desired animals on board, then loosens the net so the others can swim free. However, the four pseudorcas caught for MWAUSA were captured in a drive fishery, in which fishers herd whales into shallow water, then wade among the panoply of whales and dolphins, seals, sea lions, manatees, sea otters, and polar bears.

A FREE WILLY GALA

On July 14 The HSUS and Tierte Warner Bros. Pictures Inc. sponsored a special pre-release screening of Free Willy, the Warner Brothers movie about a twelve-year-old boy who befriends and eventually frees a captive orca (killer whale). The event, held in Washington, D.C., publicized the plight of captive marine mammals.

Senator Barbara Boxer of California and Representative Gerry Studds of Massachusetts were honorary hosts of the screening, which was attended by executive-branch officials, White House staff members, members of Congress, congressional staff members, and their families, as well as the movie's human star, Jason James Richter.

Timothy Boggs, Time Warner's senior vice president for public policy, welcomed the movie's audience. Patricia Forkan thanked producers Richard Donner and Lauren Schuler-Donner, who were present, for their vision in making Free Willy. Ms. Forkan urged Congress to oppose the capture of additional whales or dolphins for captivity (see page 8), to take action against Norway's resumption of commercial whaling (see page 34), and to strengthen the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), which is due for reauthorization this year. The MMPA forms the legislative basis for preventing the exploitation, harassment, or killing of whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, manatees, sea otters, and polar bears.

A reception, held at the Park Hyatt Hotel, followed the screening. Guests received HSUS tote bags containing Free Willy gift items and an HSUS fact sheet on captive whales and dolphins explaining why the MMPA should prohibit their capture from the wild for public display.

The HSUS hopes that the screening's success and the movie's popularity with the general public will further efforts to keep marine mammals free.
icked animals, killing them one by one.

Because the capture meth­od was not sanctioned by MWAUSA’s permit, the Na­tional Marine Fisheries Ser­vice (NMFS) denied permis­sion to import the four whales. MWAUSA attempted, but failed, to overturn the decision before its permit expired. The marine park must now apply for a new permit. Although the NMFS strongly recom­mended that the four pseudor­cas be returned to the wild, MWAUSA arranged for them to be held at Shirahama Ad­ventur World, a Japanese ma­rine park.

The HSUS investigation in­dicates that drive fisheries are the only method of pseudorca capture used in Japan. There­fore, all pseudorca captures from Japan for U.S. facilities (as many as twenty in the last decade) may have violated the impetus behind Japanese movement—the only land set aside specifically for wildlife and habitat—into killing fields. Congress could turn the National Wildlife Refuge System—the only land set aside specifically for wildlife and habitat—into killing fields. Congress could turn the National Wildlife Refuge System into a killing ground and that any refuge program affecting wildlife would be carried out in the most humane manner possible. We will continue to fight any ef­fort to permit sport hunting and other destructive recre­ational activities on national wildlife refuges.

IN RESPONSE TO A grow­ing need for standardized eval­uations of U.S. animal shel­ters, The HSUS has intro­duced Professional Animal Services, a program offering comprehensive evaluations of animal-control programs and shelters. The core evaluation team consists of an animal-care specialist, a management consultant, and an architect. Other team members—a vet­erinarian, a disaster-manage­ment specialist, or an attor­ney—can be added to suit a particular shelter’s individ­ual needs. The team eval­uates an agency’s building or construction plans, policies and procedures, animal care, and financial man­agement and offers advice. After an on-site visit of two or three days, the consulting team pro­vides the client with a prelimi­nary report. A comprehensive final report follows eight weeks later. An HSUS region­al representative conducts a follow-up visit six months after the initial visit.

For more information on Professional Animal Services and consultation fees, contact the Companion Animal sec­tion of The HSUS.

GOOD NEWS FOR HENS!

In Denver, Safeway, the largest super­market chain in Colorado, has decided to stock eggs from uncaged hens as a result of in­creased demand generated by our “Compassion” campaign (see the Spring and Summer 1993 HSUS News). We hope the campaign will increase awareness of the plight of laying hens confined to small battery cages. Safeway will be carrying eggs from uncaged hens in seventy stores. All ma­jor supermarket chains in Den­ver now carry such eggs.

In response to our Colum­bus, Ohio, campaign, The Kroger Co.—the nation’s largest supermarket chain—is now carry­ing eggs from uncaged hens in its stores in Columbus, Toledo, selected areas of South­ern Ohio, and West Virginia.

After an HSUS campaign ad­vertisement appeared in a San Francisco Sunday newspaper, San Francisco supermarkets received thousands of our coupons requesting that they carry eggs from uncaged hens. One chain doubled the number of its stores carrying the eggs. In the first three months of our campaign, sales of eggs from uncaged hens rose 15 percent in the San Francisco Bay area. The HSUS wishes to thank groups and indi­viduals who helped us achieve such success: in Columbus, the Capital Area Humane So­ciety, Citizens for Humane Action, Delaware County Humane Society, Ohio Law Coalition, Protect Our Earth’s Treasures, Meg Baho, and Betsy Rhodes, in Den­ver, the Denver Dumb Friends League, and in San Francisco, Mar­in Humane Society, Peninsula Hu­mane Society, and the San Francisco SPCA.

STEEL-JAW TRAPS

July 17, 1993, the American Veterinary Med­ical Association (AVMA) adopted a new position on steel-jaw leghold traps. For the first time, the AVMA un­equivocally declared that these traps are inhumane. For many years concerned veterinarians had urged the AVMA to take a strong posi­tion against the steel-jaw leghold trap. In its previous position statement, the AVMA had acknowledged only that the traps are “considered by many to be inhumane.” While recognizing that “steel­jaw leghold traps may cause extensive injury to target and non-target animals,” the poli­cy had sanctioned their use as tools for wildlife “management.”

The HSUS has long fought to end the use of steel-jaw leghold traps. Each year in the United States, millions of animals—both target and non-target animals (including birds, skinks, dogs, and cats)—suffer and die in these traps.

More than sixty counties have banned the steel-jaw leghold trap, yet it remains the device most commonly used by U.S. trappers.

Many alter­natives exist for humane means of re­moving unwanted wildlife con­flicts; there is no ex­ception. These include methods such as capturing and moving animals; the steel-jaw leghold trap. We believe the AVMA’s new policy sends a clear message to the public that these traps are unacceptable. It should provide new momentum for our campaign to ban the use of leghold traps in the United States.

A BILL NOW BEFORE Congress could turn the national wildlife refuge sys­tem—the only land set aside specifically for wildlife and habitat—into killing fields. The National Wildlife Refuge System Management and Pol­icy Act of 1993, introduced by Florida Senator Bob Gra­ham and championed by pro­tive Hunters, a group of environmental activists, has been introduced in the 104th Congress. The bill makes public recreation a principal goal of refuge management, opening the door to other ac­tivities that would harm wildlife on federal land, such as jet-skiing, snowmobiling, and trapping. The HSUS, through legis­lative and litigational chan­nels, has led efforts to ban sport hunting and other harmful activ­i­ties on our nation’s refuges. In testimony before the Senate Clean Water, Fish­eries, and Wildlife Subcom­mittee last summer, HSUS Vice President, Wildlife and Habitat Protection, John W. Grandy, Ph.D., called on Sena­tor Graham to ensure that his proposed legislation would allow only those refuge activ­i­ties beneficial or neutral in their direct effect on wildlife.