Region Sponsors Workshop

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office sponsored a humane education workshop in Sacramento on Aug. 17, 1974. The 1-day workshop, planned and chaired by Charlene Drennon, director of education and information for the region, introduced a new program to coordinate humane education materials and programs on the West Coast.

More than 70 representatives from outstanding local humane societies and animal control agencies, as well as teachers from California and Nevada, shared their ideas on humane education.

Among the speakers were Madelon Tormanen, director of education for the Humane Society of Marin County, Greta Van der Steere, director of education for the Peninsula Humane Society, and Thelma Shipman of the Central California SPCA.

Mrs. Tormanen described classes she teaches in humane education at the Marin Humane Society’s Humane Education Center, as well as the structure of courses she plans to teach on the college level.

Ms. Van der Steere outlined a complete curriculum in humane education she created for local elementary school teachers.

Mrs. Shipman told of her involvement in teaching humane education and demonstrated her puppet show format which she performs on TV’s “The Brother Buzz Show.”

John Dommers, director of the HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education Center, gave a 2-hour presentation on blending humane education into curriculum. Dommers described in detail the various methods and techniques found to be effective in teaching children and young adults the humane ethic. Among his presentations were poems and slide/sound documentaries.

Expansive displays offering visual aids, pamphlets, and brochures on the HSUS (continued on page 3.)

California Cruelty Law In Jeopardy

The Humane Society of the United States has intervened as a friend of the court in a California legal proceeding which threatens to void as unconstitutional one of the basic sections of the California Penal Code concerned with the prevention of cruelty to animals.

In a brief submitted to the California Court of Appeals, The Humane Society supports the California Attorney General in the prosecution of a commercial kennel owner who was charged with not providing “proper care and attention” to the animals in her possession, in violation of California Penal Code Section 597f.

The kennel owner was convicted by a jury, but the conviction was overturned by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, which found that the law establishes a “vague standard” for animal care and as such is unconstitutional.

The California law being challenged was purposely written to be nonspecific and is similar to those found in many state penal codes. It is intended to set minimal standards for the general care of all animals, whether they be personally owned or commercially used. Other California anti-cruelty laws cover the treatment of specific animals in specific situations.

California Penal Code Section 597f simply sets penalties for the lack of “proper care and attention” of animals. The legal argument directed at voiding the law challenges whether the phrase “proper care and attention” has enough meaning to animal owners and caretakers to give them some idea as to what guidelines might constitute criminal neglect or mistreatment of their animals.

HSUS argues in its brief that the lan-
Cruelty

The University of California at Davis has signed a research agreement with the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture to study the use of chemicals to reduce sheep losses to coyotes.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office takes special interest in this agreement in that it has occurred in the midst of legal action taken by HSUS against the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

HSUS has asked a federal district court to halt a coyote poisoning program recently authorized by EPA. The EPA program permits the use of the M-44, a mechanical "coyote getter" filled with a charge of cyanide, until June 1, 1975.

The suit charges the EPA with violating requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the U. S. Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act.

HSUS was recently denied a preliminary injunction that would have suspended the use of the cyanide device. The suit is expected to come to trial later this year.

Cruelty Continued

Section 597f is not vague, but takes the use of food, 'water, air, sanitation, exercise, in that it has occurred in the midst of U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Stuart Madden stated: "To declare a statute unconstitutional into his mouth, causing certain and agonizing death.

HSUS Study Improves Shelter

A study conducted by the HSUS West Coast Regional Office has brought major improvements to the Sacramento (Calif.) Animal Control Center.

After 190 hours of investigation, Regional Director Herbert N. Martin and Field Representative Michael Smith concluded, in a report that the facility was "vile a breeding ground for disease and infection affecting animals and man as could be found in the City of Sacramento."

The report, submitted to the city manager's office, stated that among other problems the control center was filthy, allowed its animals to starve or go without medical aid, and was operated by untrained officers.

The report was released by the city manager's office to the local news media. Intense public reaction forced the city manager to direct City Engineer Ron Parker to submit a list of recommendations for improvement of the animal center to the city council.

"These recommendations compare favorably with suggestions submitted by this office in a report last month."

After considering the city staff proposal the city council approved a far-reaching building improvement program, as well as changes in the operation of the center. Over $40,000 was allocated for the program.

Improvements include long-range staff increases and an increase in operating hours. "Cats in a Rand open on weekends, installation of night deposit cages, new walls better quarantine and segregate animals, better food and feeding boxes, better record keeping, and improved instruction of the public."

"HSUS and the animals of Sacramento have won a victory," Martin said. "But the impetus for a sustained program of pound improvement must come from the community itself through the local humane organization and the city council."

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance on statewide or local problems in those states should be addressed to the regional office.

Humane Front Watches Bill

The California Legislature is currently considering a complete revision of the animal protection provisions of its penal code. The HSUS West Coast Regional Office and other humane organizations have formed a united humane front to overawe package bill SB-39 as it moves through the legislature.

The bill, first introduced in 1972, is a complete revision of the Penal Code. HSUS was invited by the California Legislature to submit a draft of animal protection provisions for consideration and possible adoption into the revised code.

Since its introduction, public hearings have been held on controversial portions of the bill. As the bill progressed, it became apparent to HSUS legal counsel and the humane movement that hearings would not be held on the anticruelly provisions. In effect, no hearings were held during the entire time the bill was being considered in the Senate.

Regional Information Director Charlene Drennon became alarmed at the progress of the bill and queried the chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee, which was considering the bill. "rs. Drennon was told no special hearings were planned for the animal provisions.

Facing with the possibility of inadequate legislation being passed into law, HSUS sent out a special bulletin alerting others to the provisions in the state to the situation.

Committee Chairman Alan Sieroty was deluged with cables from coyote groups. The massive response forced Sieroty to call for special hearings on the animal protection sections of the bill. HSUS and other humane organizations participated in the hearings.

At present SB-39 is still before the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee. The humane front is continuing to watch its progress.

Spay Clinic Assistance

The West Coast Regional Office will supply local volunteers and community humane societies with information on how to establish a spay-neuter program.

The regional office will share information it has gathered from official reports on the establishment and current status of reduced cost spay-neuter clinics in many California communities.

The HSUS Front Regional Office serves California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance on statewide or local problems in those states should be addressed to the regional office.
Steel Jaw Trap Ban (SB 1551, Robbins/Behr)—prohibits use of steel jawed traps unless padded; sets up regulations for humane trapping: died in committee.

Trapping of Non-game Animals (AB 3261, Chappie)—allows trapping of non-game animals; provides traps must be checked daily and bait placed so birds cannot see it; licenses all trappers: awaiting Governor’s signature.

Exotic Animals (SB 1766, Behr)—prohibits importation and possession of exotic animals unless permit is obtained from Fish and Game Dept.: awaiting Governor’s signature.

Veterinary Technicians (SB 1811, Carpenter)—establishes veterinary assistants programs; requires veterinary board to be appointed by Governor: awaiting Governor’s signature.

Theft of Animals (SB 1902, Robbins)—provides that theft of any animal valued at $50 or more will be grand theft: to be reintroduced at next legislative session.

Humane Officer Training (SB 2037, Dills)—sets up standards and training for humane officers: interim study.

Bird Protection (AB 2289, Keene)—adds golden eagle and brown pelican to fully protected bird list: signed by Governor on Aug. 27.

Animals Breeders (AB 3922, Berman)—provides for licensing of all dog and cat breeders in the state; sets up animal breeders’ license board: to be reintroduced at next legislative session.

Licensing of Dog Groomers (AB 4420, Dixon)—provides for licensing of dog groomers: interim study.

Penal Code Revision (SB 39, Grunsky)—includes cruelty to animals statutes; HSUS testified on animal portions: provisions being worked out in Assembly Criminal Justice Committee.

Legalize Dog Racing (AB 70, Powers)—which HSUS opposes, failed to get out of committee: similar legislation to be reintroduced next legislative session.

Turtle Product Importation (AB 3536, Keysor)—allows importation of green sea turtle products under Fish and Game permit system: awaiting Governor’s signature.

Contributions, Bequests

Any person wanting to contribute to the work and program of the West Coast Regional Office is asked to send his gift to: 1713 J St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Every dollar received will be used effectively to underwrite the activities of the West Coast Regional Office. Bequests may be drawn in favor of The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. If you want your bequest to be used exclusively in anti-cruelty work in the West Coast Region, simply state so in your bequest, and your wishes will be scrupulously carried out. If you now have a will that names the HSUS California Branch as a beneficiary, please change the name to The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.