CA BRANCH August 1968

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Special Report from the Board of Directors

Some of our members are puzzled by mailings they have received from a new organization headed by our former Executive Director. This new organization is not in any way endorsed or approved by HSUS, California Branch.

Based on a preliminary presentation of evidence, The Superior Court, State of California, County of Sacramento, has issued a preliminary injunction enjoining the new organization, our former Executive Director, and all persons acting with them from certain specified types of conduct.

We believe this conduct has contributed to the confusion of our members and we hope that you are all now well aware that the HSUS is in no way a part of this new organization and does not support it. You will be informed of future developments.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR BRANCH

After thoroughly screening a number of candidates for the position the Board of Directors is happy to announce the appointment of Herbert N. Martin as Executive Director of the California Branch.

"Herb" has had a wealth of experience having served 12 years in all phases of Humane work on a national, state and local level. He has travelled the nation as a field consultant to Humane Organizations and Governmental agencies involved in animal welfare and regulation activities.

For 8 years he was the Managing Director of the largest Animal Welfare Organization in the State of Colorado. More recently he was Director of Operations for the Humane Society of Marin, at San Rafael, California.

Martin is no stranger to the numerous animal problems and the need for solution at the grass roots level. He is dedicated to the goal that, with the help of all other dedicated career Humane workers and the aid and support of every HSUS member, these problems can and will be solved.

HUMANE OFFICER PROGRAM

The volunteer Humane Officer Program has been suspended pending a screening of the State-wide operation. It had come to light that for practical and effective enforcement any Humane Officer must have protection, training, guidance and the help of experienced management.

Toward this end a thorough study of the many complex details involved will be made and evaluated for the best plan to follow in the future.

In taking this action the Board of Directors emphasizes that there is absolutely no adverse reflection intended on the former volunteer officers who have given so much and have worked so diligently for the humane cause.
Branch Activities

Busy indeed, and happy to be! With a new, very limited staff the California Branch office is happy to report that 168 brand new members have joined HSUS since May, 1284 notices of "membership renewal" have been mailed. There is fear by the office that they have missed mailing to some members due to their unfamiliarity with the membership system - They beg forgiveness and indulgence.

"Birds of a Feather" pamphlet requests have numbered 861 - These have been answered and new memberships have resulted. 5225 "Rodeo-Commercialized Cruelty" folders have been requested and mailed - This meant a rush trip to the printers for reprints and a drain on the printing fund. 2,000 of the clever "Doggie Bookmarks" were placed in every City and County Library in Ventura County by representatives of the Branch. These have been well received and the kindness message is getting good circulation. Hundreds of the "Population Explosion" leaflets have been requested and mailed as well as "Hot weather warnings" and other available literature.

Dozens of complaints have been received in the past two months covering the subject matter of Pet shops in Monterey Peninsula Zoos - Especially Knowland Park. Clipping of pigeons wings and then "slicing" dogs after them. Children and grown-ups catching crabs, breaking off the two front claws, and throwing the crabs back into the ocean. Poisoning of field mice in the Castroville area. Release of animals to research. Abandoned horse, starving on Mt. Rose. Cruelties of bow and arrow hunting. Riding academy abuses at Hawthorne. Horse neglect in San Fernando Valley. The clubbing of seals for furs on Pribilof Islands. Boys mistreating a dog at Los Alamitos. Starving dog in Oroville. The rodeos in Los Angeles and elsewhere. Greased pig chase Artesia-Downey area. Bull fight scenes on T.V. The tagging of deer and many more varied problems.

What to do?? Action has been taken in so far as possible in these matters, but acknowledging all of the letters from our good informants is way behind. We aren't neglecting you on purpose.

During the past month our acting Director has written 317 personal letters giving advice and information on lost pets; spaying; pet problems; the Tennessee Walking horse and dog license legislation; as well as counsel and encouragement to our members.

A busy office, yes, but there is a great need for a Public Information Center on all Humane Problems.

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE ANTI-CRUELTY BILL

The "Tennessee Walking Horse Anti-Cruelty Bill", better known as Assembly Bill 1812, is not dead. It is being held in the Assembly Criminal Procedure Committee for further study. In the meantime HSUS is very active at the National level on the Tydings Bill - Senate Bill #1765 - to prevent soring or injury to show horses.

SALE OF IMPounded ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH BY ELDORADO COUNTY PROTESTED BY HSUS

As soon as word was received that El Dorado County was planning to negotiate a contract with the U.C. Medical Center at San Francisco for the sale of dogs for experimental laboratory uses HSUS filed a strong protest with the Board of Supervisors of Placerville, California. A Citizens Advisory Committee was proposed to examine methods of disposing of unwanted animals. Our new Executive Director demanded that he be allowed to meet with the Committee and the Board of Supervisors before any final action is taken. Late word received indicates that the Supervisors have decided to table the matter. This will be watched diligently.
CONGRATULATIONS

Directors and members in the Los Angeles area recently conducted an aggressive campaign against the showing of the cruelties depicted in the Motion Picture "Mondo Cane" which was shown on KHJ-TV Channel 9. It is this type of action and cooperation we need to show unity and strength in our fight to abolish cruelty to animals and to prevent those pictures that do depict cruelty in any form from being shown in this country. We urgently request that you keep us informed of any announcements of future showings of pictures of this type so that we may alert the entire membership in time to prepare a direct course of action.

THOUGHTLESS CRUELTY

Sometimes people are cruel without any intention. We can all do a practical Humane job by pointing out the suffering of pets due to hot weather. Shade and plenty of available cool water, in clean utensils, are musts. Leaving pets in closed, locked autos causes suffering and possibly death from heat prostration.

Fleas suck blood and cause severe pain and suffering to pets and persons. Fleas can be controlled by the use of proper insecticides. Ridding the animal itself of fleas is not enough. Fleas do not hatch on the animals, but the eggs incubate and hatch in the bedding, cracks, lawns, rugs, or soil. These areas must be sprayed often - Advise that they use only products labelled "Harmless to children and Pets." Pass the word!

SENIOR CITIZENS

It is heartbreaking - sad, but true - our Branch office has received letters from pensioners who because of their small pensions regrettfully inform us that they can no longer continue as active members. They have been active supporters for years and now - - - - Why can't we have a "Gift Membership Fund" so that these good people can continue to be a part of our team and receive all the news from the National and the Branch? What do you think?

The Humane Society of the United States
California Branch
2015 Jay Street
Sacramento, California 95814

I am using this coupon today because I want the HSUS to maintain and extend its aggressive programs against cruelty to animals. I enclose $________ and ask that it be used in the best interest of animals. (A gift of $5 or more can entitle you to voting membership.)

NAME ____________________________

STREET (correct address) ____________________________

CITY, STATE ______________ ZIP CODE _______