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The Humane Society of the United States

West Coast Regional Office

REPORT

FALL 1977

WASTE OF LIFE AND TAX DOLLARS



HSUS Photo

The following type of activity may be happening in your county: Dean Lawrence, President of Nevada County Humane Society, and Karen Rosenberg, Editor of Western Slopes Connection newspaper, were outraged at their tax money being wasted on trapping programs that are ineffective, cruel, and unnecessary. They decided to amass facts and figures from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife trapping reports. They reviewed these records for 1975 and then went to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to testify the program should be discontinued. They found that in 1975, \$35,000 was spent on losses which totaled only \$17,889. Not only was twice the amount of money spent, but over half of it (according to the trappers' own reports) went to exterminate skunks and raccoons to make the world safe for chickens whose owners hadn't built "varmint-proof" chicken coops. According to Rosenberg's testimony before the Board of Supervisors, one case was a woman who lost \$13.00 worth of fowl and had the trapper out forty-five times. Another man lost \$3.50 in chickens and called the trapper out twenty-nine times. But what about the claim these programs are needed to control rabid animals? Ms. Rosenberg said, "According

to the California Health Department there have only been 2.5 cases of rabid animals per year confirmed for Nevada County." IS THE PROGRAM CRUEL? The Nevada County citizens found the steeljaw trap was used seven out of ten times by one trapper and nine out of ten by another. Such traps have been outlawed by a number of other counties. Do steeljaw traps catch non-target animals? According to Rosenberg's findings 23 dogs, 2 house cats, 1 burro and a goat had all been cruelly caught in these traps. How effective is a county trapping program? Studies have shown that heavy trapping pressure in a given area actually stimulates the coyote to reproduce at an earlier age, and perhaps bear larger litters, which helps explain why coyotes still abound despite decades of bounty hunting and millions of tax dollars spent. A recent study by Longhurst and Connolly at U.C. Davis concluded that no significant impact on coyote population in a given area can be achieved unless 75% of the coyotes' population is eliminated every year for 50 years. Although the Nevada County Board of Supervisors unanimously refused to listen to Lawrence and Rosenberg's pleas, they don't plan to leave it at that. Dean Lawrence is a past member of the Board of Supervisors and former County Counsel. In 1977 Ms. Rosenberg found, interestingly enough, that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has closed its trapping records to public view using the Privacy Act as the excuse. The HSUS applauds these humanitarians' efforts and has offered to help in their fight. If you have information about trapping in your county, send it in. The HSUS-WCRO is compiling information to be used to outlaw the steeljaw trap.

As We Go To Press...

Dean Lawrence and Karen Rosenberg, as taxpayers are filing suit against the county of Nevada with reference to the trapping contract and The Humane Society of the United States has joined the suit as first plaintiff.

BLOODLESS BULLFIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA



Photo by E. L. Sakach

Promoters of so-called bloodless bullfights are seeking to use a loophole in the California Penal Code to popularize bullfighting in this state. Although officially prohibited by law in 1975, an archaic exemption remains under penal code section 597m, which reads: "This section shall not be construed as prohibiting bloodless bullfights, contests or exhibitions held in connection with religious celebration or religious festivals."

The HSUS-WCRO learned of four such proposed events recently, and with the aid of Monterey SPCA, investigated and brought public pressure to bear on the issue. Spectators were throwing rocks at the animals which were held by ropes. Although this event was stopped and others planned for the Santa Cruz area were cancelled, it's obvious the time has come to remove this exemption from the code. Investigative reporter Marilyn Baker reported that the Archbishop of California, after conferring with the Cardinal, said the position of the Catholic Church is that it will not be associated with or give its blessing to bullfighting in any form. Unfortunately, some legislators we contacted didn't seem in the least upset about this activity. Perhaps if more humanitarians would let their state representatives know that bull fighting and bull baiting is unacceptable under any circumstances, we can get this provision removed.

Cockfighting - A Crackdown

The Humane Society of the United States-West Coast Regional Office has offered its assistance to law enforcement agencies investigating cockfighting. Within the last few months, the WCRO has received numerous requests for help from district attorneys and law enforcement agencies involved in such cases. Unfortunately, many times the cases are so weak that the charges are dropped. The WCRO is hoping that by offering its assistance, the scales will be tipped on cockfighters and there will be more convictions and higher penalties.

CROSSBOW HUNTING PROPOSAL-KILLED

On May 27, 1977 Eric Sakach, Field Representative for The HSUS-WCRO testified at a California Fish and Game Commission meeting, against a proposal to legalize use of the crossbow to kill large and small animals. Upon learning of the proposal, the WCRO alerted other animal welfare groups in the state. Mail-grams and letters of protest were sent to the Commission by the WCRO, humane organizations, humanitarians and law-enforcement agencies. Mr. Sakach testified that such a proposal would only encourage poaching and add one more cruel weapon to the arsenal now used against wildlife. The proposal was not approved; crossbows remain illegal.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

CALIFORNIA

Governor Brown vetoed the sea turtle bill. Had this bill passed it would have opened up a whole industry based on turtle meat and products. *Euthanasia bill AB 1501* is dead. A citizens' committee plans an initiative on the June '78 ballot to outlaw decompression chambers. *Assemblyman Chappie's AB 417* passed assembly. It is now in the Senate Agriculture Committee. It would recognize freeze branding as legal. *AB 946* removing the cock's comb presumption from the code was signed into law (Chapter 307). In the past, if a cock's comb was clipped, it was considered prima facie evidence of intent to fight cocks. *Assemblyman Chimbole's AB 584* allowing a mule racing pilot project is on third reading in the Senate. *Roberti's SB 490* preventing intentional cruelty of killing of animals in making movies is now in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. The Senate Transportation Committee has *Senator Carpenter's SB 925*, which states a driver who hits an animal must stop and report it to a humane society or animal control agency. *AB 1527, Chimbole*, would change the structure of animal control by allowing animal control districts.

OREGON

The Oregon House passed a bill, *HB 2345*, cracking down on dogfighting and cockfighting. *HB 2928* will change the provision for appointment of humane officers.

WASHINGTON STATE

Washington State passed a law allowing humane societies to use sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia.

IF YOU ARE A HSUS MEMBER we can send you more detailed legislative information. For a complete update send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask to be added to the legislative list.

DIRECTOR'S DESK

People persist in purchasing puppies and kittens from pet shops although there are many homeless animals adoptable from animal shelters. There is a new California law designed to protect the animals and the consumer. Pet shops (and other retail dealers) must now furnish the purchaser with a written statement, in a form prescribed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, containing: date of animal's birth; the name, address, and federal USDA dealers ID number; a record of immunizations with dates and types of vaccines used and a record of any known disease, or sickness, the dog or cat has at time of sale. Also, the store must have a written record of any sickness, or disease, observed during the time the animal was in its possession and the treatment given. The WCRO has sent a copy of the new law to humane organizations in California, animal control agencies, Better Business Bureaus, and consumer groups. This law also covers pickup of dogs and cats from the common carrier within 6 hours of arrival and mandatory segregation of sick from healthy animals upon reaching the store. For a copy of this law send a self-addressed stamped envelope to our Sacramento office. If you find a store has not complied with this law, please let us know and also contact your local consumer affairs office. There can be a fine of \$250.00 for noncompliance. In this issue of WCRO News we've had so many things to tell you that we've had to condense and, unfortunately, leave out some activities. Please do come to our HSUS National meeting at Vacation Village, San Diego on October 13-16. You will learn much from the nationally known humane leaders who are scheduled to speak. It will be wonderful for me to meet more of our supporters. I have been getting to know as many of you personally as I possibly can. Eric, Judi, and I are here to help you in your fight to help the animals. We appreciate all your efforts to help us by sending in clippings, reports on animal fighting, and other cruelties. What is happening with animal control in your city or county? Are there spaying and neutering programs or legislative activity? Let us know and we'll take steps to help and let other humanitarians and organizations know what's happening. We need your input and ideas so the WCRO can be working on the things you, our members, care most about. Come to San Diego and find out all that HSUS is doing on a national scale. I think you'll be proud to support our efforts and accomplishments. Working together we can and are helping to stop much cruelty and suffering.

Charlene Drennon
DIRECTOR

TWO APPROACHES TO CONTROL EXCESS BREEDING

City of Los Angeles—Breeder's License Ordinance

If you plan to breed a dog or cat for sale or other compensation in the City of Los Angeles, you will probably need to purchase a \$25 license. An animal breeder's license number will then be issued. No dog or cat can be sold under eight weeks of age and can not be advertised for sale without publishing the breeder's license number. One litter from a domestic household in a twelve month period is considered accessory to residential use. Prior to sale, all dogs and cats must be immunized. At the time of sale, the buyer must be given this immunization information, as well as, a statement of the animal's health.

County of San Diego—Failure to Spay or Neuter Possible Misdemeanor

A new ordinance, effective August 12, 1977, makes it a misdemeanor to fail to spay or neuter cats, or spay female dogs within six months of adopting them from a county animal shelter. The deposit required at the time of adoption will be refunded after showing proof of spaying or neutering. Encil Rains, Director of the Department of Animal Control, said, "This is not the answer—but one answer. It is a positive method of controlling the population of animals."

Predator Control Bill Defeated

SB 575 Stiern which would have extended predator control was killed by the California Assembly Water Committee after much objection by humanitarians.

Remember The Animals In Your Will

The HSUS will send you a booklet without obligation on how to make the best use of your animal welfare bequest. It contains information on selecting recipients and describes how to proceed when you decide to write or change your Will.

Write in complete confidence to:
Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/
General Counsel, The Humane Society of the
United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington,
D.C. 20037.

You Can Fight Trapping



HSUS Photo

HSUS has produced an Awareness Kit on Cruelties of Trapping to help individuals and organizations desiring to conduct anti-trapping campaigns in their states and communities. Each kit contains the following items:

- 10 buttons—"Don't Get Wrapped in a Fur That's Been Trapped"
- 10 bumper stickers with same slogan
- 10 posters of two bobcats in trap with slogan "Fashion Doesn't Justify This Cruelty. Don't Wear Fur."
- 10 handout flyers with same slogan
- 6 additional copies of report on trapping (HSUS special)
- 2 newspaper ads aimed at banning the steeljaw trap
- 2 sets repro photos for newspaper articles
- 2 sets public service scripts for radio
- 1 set sample letters to the editor
- 1 "Posted, No Trapping" sign
- 1 model state law to ban the steeljaw trap
- 1 petition for obtaining pledges to not wear fur

Each set \$4.50. Prices for additional quantities of individual items included in kit. When using HSUS return envelope, specify how many kits.

1977 HSUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO

OCTOBER 13-16 1977

at VACATION VILLAGE

FEATURING:

Dr. Michael Fox, Roger Caras, Dr. John C. Lilly

ENJOY:

Workshops by nationally known humanitarians;
behind the scenes tours of
San Diego Zoo and Sea World

REGISTRATION:

Entire conference including banquet and
Friday picnic \$40 / one day (no meals \$10)

TO RESERVE:

Send your check to HSUS, 2100 L St., NW
Washington D.C. 20037

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

To be made direct with the Vacation Village,
Mission Beach, San Diego, California
714 / 274-4630

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance should be addressed to Charlene Drennon, West Coast Regional Director, 1713 J St., Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916-447-3295). All contributions made to the HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.



The Humane Society
of the United States

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