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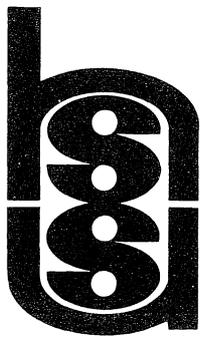
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# Update

Vol. 4, No. 1  
January 1976

## INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY

With the addition of Frantz Dantzler and Phil Steward to the headquarters staff, work in the Investigations and Field Service Department is in an upward swing with considerable activity building in several areas.

1. Western Samoa Shark Fight: The Department has been investigating newspaper reports of a proposed staged fight between an Australian shark hunter named Ben Cropp and a Great White Shark. The fight will be promoted and televised worldwide on closed circuit systems by Hollywood film promoter Bill Sargent. It will be filmed and transmitted by satellite. It will be staged off the coast of Western Samoa (an independent nation) and shark hunter Cropp is to be paid \$1 million. The plan is to kill the shark underwater after it has been starved for two days before the fight.

We have sent a formal letter of protest to the Chief of State of Western Samoa. We are also attempting to find out what cable will be used (probably AT & T) to transmit the fight to theatres in the United States. Also, we are trying to find a means of stopping the telecast through appeal to the Federal Communications Commission.

Date of the fight: March 8, 1976.

2. Kentucky Governor's Inaugural Parade Float: This inaugural parade, with its objectionable float, took place on December 9, 1975. The float consisted of a raccoon chained to the top of an upright log where it was treed by three coon dogs. During the parade the dog handlers would prod the raccoon and the dogs to stir them into action. The resultant fear and unnecessary torture was clearly a violation of Kentucky anti-cruelty laws and we investigated.

We found that the float had been entered by the Grant County Frontiers (Ky.), a group organized to develop a float showing the early frontier days in Kentucky history. We were able to obtain photographs from a news reporter in Frankfort who covered the event. Also, we found the Kentucky Educational Television Service had filmed the entire parade with scenes showing the offensive float and the abuse being perpetrated upon the coon and the dogs. This film is available to us.

We have also determined that the spokesman and chairman for the Grant County Frontiers float is Representative Clay Crupper of the Kentucky legislature. We have discovered the owners of the raccoon and the dogs are Doug and Greg Webster of Grant County. With all of this information and material

in hand, we are now sending Phil Steward to Frankfort to meet with the Commonwealth Attorney and present the case as a violation of state anti-cruelty laws. We will seek indictments by the Franklin County Grand Jury against Representative Crupper and the Websters. The meeting is scheduled for January 12 and we will be telling you about the outcome either in the next Update or the News.

3. Roosevelt Sales Stables, Edison, N.J.: You will recall reading in the Autumn 1975 News about the tragic end of many American pleasure horses shipped overseas from the United States to slaughter markets in foreign countries. We have now determined that Roosevelt Sales Stables, a livestock auction in Edison, New Jersey, is shipping to Richmond, a point of embarkation. Reports allege that some 300 to 400 horses of all types and breeds are sold at this auction every Wednesday night. Reportedly, many are sick, injured or dead upon arrival at the sale. A further complaint is that one out of ten horses sold are shipped by the purchaser to a private stable for pleasure horses.

We have arranged an immediate investigation and inspection of the operation and will take any remedial action possible to correct this appalling situation.

#### IMPORTATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN SEALSKINS

In this particular case, the Fouke Fur Company has asked the National Fisheries Service to waive the moratorium on importation of Cape Fur Seals to permit entry of 70,000 skins per year for a ten year period. HSUS vigorously opposed the proposal and sent Sue Pressman to Africa to witness part of the kill. Subsequently, Sue was the key witness at hearings here in Washington and, testifying on behalf of HSUS and Monitor (a consortium of organizations with which we work on such issues as marine mammals, endangered species, etc.), she charged that the killing was inhumane.

HSUS and Monitor also challenged the importation on the grounds of inadequate application of sound principles of resource protection and conservation. The most important argument however, from our point of view, was how the seals were taken since the Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits importation of marine mammals "taken in a manner deemed inhumane by the Secretary (of Commerce)". We submitted all available evidence on this point.

Unfortunately, the Administrative Law Judge ruled that the waiver should be granted subject to annual review by the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The judge proposed the Director check annually all requirements that must be met before issuing the waiver: age of seals, integrity of the optimum sustainable population, humaneness of the kill, etc.

General Counsel Murdaugh S. Madden believes the judge simply ducked wrestling with any of the real issues before him. The judge's opinion, moreover, is purely advisory and our strategy (and Monitor's) will now be to convince the National Marine Fisheries Service that the Secretary of Commerce should not let it stand.

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BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: ANIMAL ABUSES

Reports of various promotions using the Bicentennial Celebration as an excuse to promote horses, oxen, and other animals in rides and races are already trickling into HSUS headquarters here in Washington. For example, promotion has begun for the "Bicentennial Grand Horse Race" which will start near Jamestown, New York, cut through the northwest corner of Pennsylvania, cross central Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, swing up through Missouri into Nebraska, southern Wyoming, Utah and Nevada and finish near Sacramento, California. The ride, over 3,000 miles long, is scheduled to begin in the summer.

On January 2, Bicentennial enthusiasts took to covered wagons, horse-back and even a horse-drawn wheelchair to begin a six month, cross country trek to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. This group began its journey at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. They make up the California and Hawaii contingent of the Bicentennial Wagon Trail Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania. The plan is for the caravans from each of the 50 states to converge at Valley Forge on July 4, 1976.

HSUS feels the potential for abuse of animals in these and similar cases is very high. Many people involved will not be familiar or concerned with the needs of the animals. HSUS is asking Bicentennial Commissions not to sanction this kind of promotion. Here are some ways in which humanitarians and local humane societies can help:

1. Publicize that animals may be exploited or injured in these events by running stories in humane society newsletters.
2. Write to law enforcement agencies in the area to alert them to possible violations of anti-cruelty statutes.
3. Urge local Bicentennial Commissions not to endorse such promotions.
4. Encourage humane society members and humanitarians to write letters to the editors of local newspapers asking people not to participate.
5. Encourage humanitarians to write local civic and service organizations asking them not to participate or endorse Bicentennial events which exploit animals.
6. Make sponsors who advertise these promotions aware that the event will be monitored for violations of anti-cruelty laws and violators will be prosecuted.
7. Make sure all news media are aware of the humane movement's position on this issue and appear, when possible, on television and radio talk shows to discuss it.

### BICENTENNIAL ANIMAL CONTEST

You will be reading a detailed report of the results of this highly successful election in the next News magazine. Ballots were cast by more than 73,000 children across the country--at schools, local humane societies, and even some county fairs which had set up special voting booths.

The horse was elected winner with 20,289 votes. The bald eagle placed second and the white-tailed deer third. Votes also were cast for such species as the buffalo, grizzly bears, whales, wolves, cattle, coyotes, beavers, wild turkeys, passenger pigeons, mules and salmon.

The election was publicized nationwide. It was featured on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show and on National Public Radio. CBS radio carried the news in New York and Boston. Associated Press picked up the story on its wire service, with a suitable photograph showing Dale Hylton and Charlie Herrmann counting the ballots. There were articles in the New York Times, the New York Daily News, and hundreds of local newspapers. It was a resounding success much credit for which must go, of course, to Dale and Charlie.

### NEW EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

John Dommers and Charlie Herrmann are in the process of producing a sound filmstrip series that will tell the story of the contribution of animals to American history. It is titled SAGA (The Story of Animals and the Growth of America) and will consist of at least six strips of 15 minutes each. It will be marketed and distributed nationally by TRDC (Teaching Resources Development Center) with a targeted audience of Grades 5 through 10. The cost is not yet known but we will do the writing and photography to help minimize production expense. Tentative completion date is June 1976.

In March, John Dommers and Charlie Herrmann will travel to the West Coast to join Char Drennon in a series of humane education workshops. The workshops will be held in California and Washington. With the careful and extensive organizing being done by Char, large audiences are expected.

A reminder: the multi-media program in humane education--Sharing: You and the Animal World-- is available and is being distributed. This is the three unit series that was delayed for a while but may now be ordered by schools, teachers, humane societies or other interested persons from Youth Education, Inc., 10 East 40th Street, New York, New York 10016. The unit price is \$22.50; the set price is \$60.

### WAR ON WOLVES IN ALASKA

Under the usual camouflage of proper wildlife management the State of Alaska has begun to wage war upon the wolf by authorizing the Fish and Game Department to begin eliminating wolves in two game management units while ordering a wolf control program, subject to available funds, in a third unit. The three units involved cover an area about the size of the state of Pennsylvania, a staggering acreage when considered in relation to other states. The chief reason given for these alarming programs is a decrease in Alaska's moose population. The plan of Alaska's Fish and Game Department to implement the programs is to fly by helicopter into an area northeast of Anchorage and

east of Mt. McKinley and kill all of the wolves they can find. They would then continue to fly in the area, killing any other wolves that wander inside for the next three to five years. Some of these wolves are already wearing radio collars placed by scientists in an earlier experiment; now those radio collars will be used to let helicopter-borne marksmen find the animals and kill them.

We believe, of course, that it is inaccurate to say the wolves are destroyers of the moose population. The species cull the moose herds of the weak and injured animals and provide food for the lower food chain animals such as the wolverine, owl, raven and others that scavenge heavily on the remains of wolf kills. There are other factors, too. Please read the attached letter of protest we have sent to Governor Jay S. Hammond of Alaska. It sets forth the reasons for protesting these wolf control programs. We hope you will be able to pass its contents along to other interested persons and organizations.

Incidentally, please note that the Alaskan Wolf is not on the Endangered Species List. The Eastern Timber and Rocky Mountain Timber wolves are.

#### NEW TUNA FISHING RULES INADEQUATE

The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 directed the National Marine Fisheries Service to reduce the number of porpoises killed by tuna netting to "insignificant levels approaching zero." (The problem is caused by the tendency of yellowfin tuna schools to follow porpoises which, in turn, has led fishermen to set their nets where they find porpoises.)

The National Marine Fisheries Service regulations were issued in December 1975 and took effect on January 1, 1976. Disappointingly, they set no quota on the number of porpoises that may be killed incidental to the netting of tuna in 1976. Without a quota, the killing is certain to be much greater. The regulations, however, do require the 1976 death rate be at least 30 per cent lower than the 1975 figure, based upon projected estimates to be made by the government next spring. If the projection shows no reduction, it is expected a quota will be established.

It seems clear the government has yielded to industry pressure in developing the new regulations. HSUS will continue to do all it can to persuade officials that better regulations are not just needed but essential if thousands of porpoises are to be spared.

It is currently estimated that 130,000 porpoises were killed in tuna nets during 1975, as against 113,000 in 1974. The trend is obviously upward.

#### MOTION PICTURE PROGRAM

As part of her investigation into cruelty to animals in motion picture and television production, Sue Pressman visited in December the set of the movie, Hawmps, being filmed near Tucson, Arizona. The movie is being produced by Mulberry Square Productions who were responsible for the highly successful Benji. The new movie is a true account of how camels were once considered for use by the U.S. Cavalry. There were 30 camels on the set.

Sue found no evidence of abuse of the camels although she later read a newspaper report that they were pulled by tractors to "teach them to walk." This seems improbable although she did find that chase scenes with the camels had been completed before she got to the set. There was no actionable abuse, however, while she was there.

Sue discovered also that cats were used in at least one scene in the production. The animals were obtained from the Tucson Humane Society on a loan basis. The caging was small and inadequate and Sue discussed this with representatives of the Tucson Humane Society. She also discussed the responsibilities of the local society to animals used in motion pictures produced at the Old Tucson movie site in its territory. She suggested local contact with movie production companies be maintained and there be representation of the society at meetings of the Arizona Motion Picture Commission to get first hand information of pictures being filmed in Arizona.

She also discovered that Frank and Mrs. Inn, present on the set, carry six of Benji's puppies with them at all times for training purposes. Benji himself was kept loose under comfortable temperature conditions in a large panel truck.

Plans for other investigative work by Sue on movie sets have been made. We will report them as they occur.

#### COURT CASE CHALLENGES TRAPPING REGULATIONS

There always has been an apparent judicial conflict between state anti-cruelty laws and the hunting and trapping regulations established by state game departments. The reason: responsibility for enforcement of humane treatment of animals laws is vested in duly incorporated humane societies and state and local law enforcement agencies and, therefore, there is at least the implied obligation for state and local government agencies (including Fish and Game agencies) to comply with anti-cruelty laws.

It is doubtful that game department regulations are consistent with these laws. Such regulations often allow and even condone conduct that is a violation of animal welfare legislation. Possession of a hunting or trapping license does not negate the suffering to which an animal victim is usually subjected.

In this connection, the Connecticut Humane Society recently filed suit challenging state trapping regulations on the grounds they violated state law. The judge issued a show cause order requiring the Game Department to give testimony as to why he should not issue a permanent injunction against the leg-hold trap. We now have received the judge's decision. He has ruled that elimination of the trap is a matter for the legislature rather than the courts. With this verdict in hand, HSUS New England Regional office and Norma Terris Humane Education Center have called a meeting this week to consider future strategy in the fight against the leghold trap. Representatives of the Connecticut Humane Society, the Massachusetts SPCA, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Connecticut Sportsmen's Alliance, the Department of Environmental Protection, SHAME, Inc. (an environmental and animal welfare group), and HSUS

Director of Research and Data Services Guy Hodge will attend.

The Connecticut case does not end the possibility of exploring further this approach. There is some reason to think the judge's decision may have been swayed by Game Department claims that an injunction would result in rabies epidemics and population explosions among furbearers. In any case, there is interest in similar litigation in Virginia which could have a profoundly different result.

1975 HSUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As you probably already know, the 1976 Annual Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. on October 21-24. There will be other meetings (NAAHE, for example) immediately preceding October 21 and information relating to them will be passed on to you when arrangements have been firmed up.

In the meantime, we are most anxious to come up with a good theme for this year's Conference. It would be appropriate, of course, to tie the theme into the Bicentennial Celebration.

We would appreciate any ideas you or members of your staff can send us.

oOoOoOo

The Honorable Jay S. Hammond  
The Governor of Alaska  
State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Hammond:

It has come to our attention that Alaska is determined to wage war against the wolf under a camouflage of self-justification known as wildlife management. But obvious and basic environmental facts are being twisted and distorted in the name of predator control, a situation that cries out to concerned citizens in Alaska and the world.

We understand the present plan to go well beyond last year's proposal to reduce wolf numbers in the Tanana Flats region of Game Unit 20A. Now, the Alaska Board of Game is proposing wolf control programs in Game Unit 20A, Game Unit 5 in Southeast Alaska, and complete extermination of wolves in Unit 13.

The chief reason given for these alarming programs is a decrease in Alaska's moose population. The wolf cannot be considered the culprit in the decrease of the moose; in fact, he should be considered part of the solution, left alone to carry out his purpose in the wild.

It is inaccurate to say that wolves are destroyers of the moose population. From another point of view, they can be considered refiners--cullers of the herds who pull down the weakest animals they can find. At the same time the wolf provides food for the lower food chain animals. According to Dr. Michael Fox, extermination of the wolf in Scandinavia has resulted in a decline in the wolverine, arctic fox, owl, raven and other animals that scavenge heavily on the remains of wolf kills.

Dr. Lee Talbot of the President's Council on Environmental Quality was recently asked about the potential effects of local or widespread extermination of a particular animal. He immediately pointed out that the total effect can never be known, for there are symbiotic relations and ecological changes that must be considered. Moreover, following the decline of a harvested animal, other animals might well move into the area and, through competition, cause further depletion of harvested species.

Another alarming fact, recently brought to public attention, is that Alaska predator control is in the hands of the Board of Game, a group composed of political appointees. This seems incompatible at best, and contradictory at worst, with your stated stand that wildlife programs should be free of partisan politics. We strongly feel that you should be more accessible to the opinions of biologists free from political constraints.

For example, it has also been brought to our attention that you have been given studies by your own state's field biologists that oppose aerial hunting on scientific grounds. You also have studies available (e.g. Gordon Haber's) pointing out that wolf control programs are unnecessary and ecologically harmful. Thus, political considerations may be driving your department into supporting ecologically unsound predator control programs.

The wolf must not be viewed as a competitor of man, but as a component of all nature. To purposely destroy such a necessary member of the ecosystem when without knowing what the total effect might be is simply unjustifiable.

The Department of Interior currently lists two species of the wolf on the Endangered Species List: the Eastern Timber and the Rocky Mountain Timber. The Alaskan Wolf, happily is not yet on the list and you can keep it that way. You are in a unique position to help this species overcome the outrageous attacks men have inflicted on all wolves. We implore you to stop the hunt and to allow the moose population to recover naturally with normal wolf populations in the environment.

Sincerely,

John A. Hoyt  
President