WCRO Fall 1986

Follow this and additional works at: http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn

Recommended Citation

"WCRO Fall 1986" (1986). West Coast Regional Office. 14.
http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn/14

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the Animal Studies Repository. For more information, please contact eyahner@humanesociety.org.
HORSES FACE INJURY, DEATH IN SENSELESS SUICIDE RACE

From the starting hill 150 feet back, the official's pistol cracks and the thunder of pounding hooves builds rapidly. Within seconds, twenty horses and riders fly over the edge of the steep incline known as Suicide Hill. Clouds of dust billow from the face of the hill as the frantic horses descend at breakneck speed, sometimes tumbling and crashing into each other, to the bank of the Okanogan River some 200 feet below. The water explodes as the first horses hit the river.

The riders who have been able to hold on so far use stout quirts and plastic baseball bats to beat the water, and sometimes their horses, as they charge across the rocky bottom of the river. The frenzied pace quickens as the contestants emerge at the opposite side of the river and then gallop full-speed to the rodeo arena and the finish line.

Instinctively following the group are two horses that had fallen on the hill; their fallen riders are already being brought across the river by one of the boats there to rescue riders who might be too injured to survive the river.

Billed as the “premier” event of the Omak Stampede in Omak, Washington, the Suicide Race began as a publicity gimmick in 1935. The idea was conceived as a means of getting free publicity for the small-town rodeo. It worked, and since then, the Suicide (continued on page 2)
Race has been widely publicized. While the Suicide Race has brought a measure of fame and fortune to Omak, most of what has been written about the race has centered on the "bravery" of the human participants. No mention is made of the risk involved. The race is virtually without rules and is usually enough to require hospitalization; there has been one fatality. Most of what has been written and said about the race has centered on the risk to the participating horses, and overal contestants after viewing the races. The races that cap each of the four heats, one horse shot, HSUS Field Investigator Eric Sakach and North Central Regional Director Tom Kendall, Spokane, Washington, to discuss past problems and combine future efforts to end the cruelty. Sakach, "Local citizens see this event as a boon to their economy, so they're quite supportive of it. However, the cruelty. While the Omak Stampede race is sponsored by Coors, Pepsi, Kentucky, the Winranger-Jenner-Jones Foundation for national sponsor of the Suicide Race is Coke-Cola. We believe this sponsorship by national advertisers makes it hard to recruit researchers on the west coast. As reported in the last WCRO Report, there were 71 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. USDA/APHIS finally set a hearing date of August 26, 1986. Mr. Hickey has continued to operate in the months since he was charged. Then, just a few days before the hearing date, USDA/APHIS contacted him to say it had been canceled, and no new date had been set. Mr. Hickey was allegedly ill.

If a USDA field officer takes strong criticism of the animal-welfare movement in cases such as this. However, in cases where the field officer had properly filed their complaints only to have them stalled at either the main USDA/APHIS office in Hyattsville, Maryland, or in the Office of the General Counsel (OGC). It took the OGC six months from the issuance of the complaint to bring the case to hearing. Another example is the Robert Fieber exotic animal case (see article on front page). USDA/APHIS filed formal information updates with the OGC in October 1985. That office still has not moved forward on a hearing. If you know of any cases where you feel to the risk of the participating horses, however, the rules of the race are dependent on the outcome of the race. The race is virtually without rules and is usually enough to require hospitalization; there has been one fatality. Most of what has been written and said about the race has centered on the risk to the participating horses, and overal contestants after viewing the races. The races that cap each of the four heats, one horse shot, HSUS Field Investigator Eric Sakach and North Central Regional Director Tom Kendall, Spokane, Washington, to discuss past problems and combine future efforts to end the cruelty. Sakach, "Local citizens see this event as a boon to their economy, so they're quite supportive of it. However, the cruelty. While the Omak Stampede race is sponsored by Coors, Pepsi, Kentucky, the Winranger-Jenner-Jones Foundation for national sponsor of the Suicide Race is Coke-Cola. We believe this sponsorship by national advertisers makes it hard to recruit researchers on the west coast. As reported in the last WCRO Report, there were 71 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. USDA/APHIS finally set a hearing date of August 26, 1986. Mr. Hickey has continued to operate in the months since he was charged. Then, just a few days before the hearing date, USDA/APHIS contacted him to say it had been canceled, and no new date had been set. Mr. Hickey was allegedly ill.

If a USDA field officer takes strong criticism of the animal-welfare movement in cases such as this. However, in cases where the field officer had properly filed their complaints only to have them stalled at either the main USDA/APHIS office in Hyattsville, Maryland, or in the Office of the General Counsel (OGC). It took the OGC six months from the issuance of the complaint to bring the case to hearing. Another example is the Robert Fieber exotic animal case (see article on front page). USDA/APHIS filed formal information updates with the OGC in October 1985. That office still has not moved forward on a hearing. If you know of any cases where you feel...
A JOINT
EFFORT

The General Federation of Women's Clubs and The HSUS have begun a two-year "Cooperative Program for Animals." Each club in the GFWC may choose one or more of six animal-related issues to work on: Companion Animals, Wildlife Conservation, Endangered Species (the GFWC International President's special project), State Legislation, International Wildlife Protection, Kids and Kindness.

If a club chooses to pursue an animal issue, The HSUS will work closely with them to ensure success. The HSUS has prepared a detailed packet of information and materials on each issue.

RECOGNITION FOR
A SPECIAL TEACHER

The WCRO is proud to announce that Fenna Gatty, a kindergarten–through–fourth grade science teacher at Searles Elementary School in Union City, California, has received special recognition from the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE), a division of The HSUS. She was chosen as a finalist in the nomination Teacher of the Year.

Do you know a special teacher? NAAHE is now accepting nominations for the 1987 National Humane Education Teacher of the Year Award.

To be eligible for consideration, the nominee must be a practicing classroom teacher in kindergarten–through–grade twelve who regularly employs humane education techniques and philosophy as part of class lessons.

To receive a 1987 Humane Education Teacher of Year nomination form, contact the West Coast Regional Office. Nominations must be received no later than January 17, 1987.

INDIVIDUALS DO COUNT

Many times over the years members have contacted the WCRO with the same question—"I really want to help educate others, but what can one person possibly do?" Judi Kukulka, WCRO program coordinator, tested two ideas this summer and was pleasantly surprised by the results.

Each summer The HSUS offers free fliers and posters that warn how dangerous it is for people to leave their pets in parked cars in warm weather. This year, Kukulka contacted all 17 libraries in Sacramento County. She spent one full day visiting as many of them as possible, 10, and sent the remaining seven a letter. All ten libraries visited agreed to display a poster and distribute fliers. Four of the libraries that were sent a letter also agreed.

Kukulka next made a list of car dealerships in Sacramento County and sent a letter asking them to insert a flier in the glove compartment, or new car warranty package of the cars they sell, and to display a poster in their service area or showroom. A number of dealerships agreed. Toyota of Sacramento used 200 fliers in just fifteen days and requested an additional 500.

Both projects took a minimum time and money, and over 2,800 pieces of literature have been seen by or distributed to the public. Just imagine how many people could be reached if all of you who are able would help with this important campaign next year.

The Regional Report is a publication of
The Humane Society of the United States
West Coast Regional Office
1713 J Street, Suite 211
Sacramento, CA 95814

Reflect for a moment....

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN
I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States.

Your will can provide for animals after you're gone.

Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City ____________________________  State ________
ZIP code _______________________
Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

©1986 by The HSUS. All rights reserved.