HSUS Opposes Bear Hunting

Last November, The HSUS helped to pass a ballot initiative in Colorado which banned the use of dogs and bait in the hunting of bears, and ended the spring bear hunt. The measure passed by an inspiring 70 percent margin. Many Colorado hunters supported the initiative, saying it was unsporting to hunt bears with hounds outfitted with radio telemetry collars. Incredibly, this method of hunting is still allowed in California!

For those unfamiliar with how this “sport” is conducted, consider the following. A bunch of bear-hunting buddies releases a pack of hounds wearing telemetry collars to locate and chase a black bear through the woods, sometimes for hours. The collar emits a “beep” sent to a receiver that allows the hunters to sit in their truck and follow the chase.

The exhausted bear eventually climbs a tree to escape the dogs. Hiding in the refuge, it is shot and killed by the “sportsmen” once they arrive on the scene. Frequently, a bear will turn to fight the pursuing dogs – resulting in severe injuries or death to the dogs.

Earlier this year, Senator Nick Petris introduced SB 67, which would outlaw the use of dogs in hunting bears. The HSUS and other groups strongly support this bill. Even California Department of Fish and Game Director Boyd Gibbon has stated publicly that while he is a hunter, he opposes such unsportsmanlike events. SB 67 has come up against intense pressure from the NRA and other pro-hunting groups. After two attempts to pass the Senate Natural Resources Committee, SB 67 was made into a two-year bill. It could be heard as soon as January, but there are no plans to bring it back at this time.

HSUS members who are interested in banning the use of dogs to hunt bears should send a card (with their address) to the WCRO asking to receive special legislative updates on this issue. To receive a fact sheet on bear hunting in California, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: BEAR FACT SHEET, HSUS/ WCRO, P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220.

Another Chance For Yogi

In August 1992, The HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office (GLRO) and the Wood County Sheriff’s Office in Bowling Green, Ohio, rescued a one-and-a-half-year-old, two-hundred-pound American black bear from a miserable existence. The bear, named Yogi, had been purchased as a pet from one of the many exotic animal auctions in the midwest. He had spent that summer chained to a junked automobile without protection from the sun. Yogi’s diet consisted of mostly surplus baked goods, and it was reported that he was frequently given whiskey and beer.

After receiving complaints from witnesses, the GLRO worked with local law enforcement officers and succeeded in getting Yogi confiscated. Yogi’s owner, who was charged with three counts of animal cruelty, accepted a conviction on one count in a pretrial settlement ensuring Yogi would never be returned to him. A ninety-day jail sentence and $500 fine were suspended, subject to the terms of a strict four-year probationary period.

The next difficult task facing GLRO staff was where to place Yogi. Their search continued on page 2.
In response to the increasing demand, a growing list of supermarkets are now selling eggs that come from uncaged hens. Hens that are able to scratch, dust bathe, lay their eggs in nests, exercise, and even fly. And these eggs cost only pennies more than eggs from battery-caged hens. Safeway Stores already stock these eggs in its San Francisco locations and in 70 stores along the front range of Colorado. More farmers would like to be able to raise birds this way too, but they need help letting supermarkets know that consumers care. This will give consumers a voice in how laying hens are treated and will allow other farmers to begin producing eggs more humanely.

Whether you live in the San Francisco Bay area or not, you can help by letting your grocer know that you want eggs from uncaged hens carried in your local supermarket, and by thanking them if they already do. Do the same with your local bakery and favorite restaurants. And please let us know if your local grocer or other food establishments stock or use eggs from uncaged hens. To receive our special action packet which describes how you can start an egg effort in your community, write to: EGGS, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.
San Diego is Site for Animal Care EXPO ’94

If the attendance records set by past Expos are any indication, then Animal Care EXPO ’94, to be held March 16-19, 1994, in beautiful San Diego, California, promises to be the biggest, most exciting, valuable, and talked-about event of the year for animal care and protection professionals everywhere.

EXPO ’94 will offer a world class showcase of products and services for humane animal sheltering and control agencies, featuring over 100 exhibitors, more than 25 workshops, a choice of six day-long certificate courses, and an opportunity to enroll for further training credit in The HSUS Learning Track System (LTS).

The LTS consists of four categories of workshops from beginning to advanced levels with the opportunity to gain professional credits and materials in the areas of: 1) Animal Handling and Control; 2) Animal Care and Placement; 3) Community Relations; and 4) Supervision/Management and Board Development.

Day-long Pre-EXPO certificate courses will be offered on March 16 in such areas as shelter design, animal behavior problems, chemical capture, euthanasia, disaster planning/management, and board development.

There will also be a number of special events including a luncheon sponsored by ALPO and the second “Animal Control Olympic Games,” sponsored by Animal Care Equipment and Services.

Two important organizations are holding their annual meetings in conjunction with EXPO ’94, the California Animal Control Directors Association (CACDA) and the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA). In addition, the Western Humane Education and Environment Association (WHEEA) will hold a one-day seminar on March 15 to help humane society and animal control personnel reach out to their communities and into local schools.

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/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.