



# Update

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This is the 4th special edition of Update to be prepared by the Department of Research and Data Services. This issue contains information regarding statistical data and scientific studies that might be of special interest to HSUS staff. Similar reports will continue to be issued at irregular intervals.

## CONTENTS

Enforcement of Game Laws. . . . .	1
Competence of Conservation Officers . . . . .	1
Rabies Summary for 1975 . . . . .	2
Guide Dog Facilities. . . . .	2
Horse Racing Injuries . . . . .	3
Poaching. . . . .	7
State Pet Shop and Kennel Laws. . . . .	7
The Humane Movement: A Selected Bibliography . . . . .	8
Humanitarian Attitudes. . . . .	9
Fur Fashion Trends. . . . .	10
Shooting Preserves. . . . .	11
Hunting Injuries and Fatalities . . . . .	12

## Enforcement of Game Laws

The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) has released a report disputing the contention that hunting, trapping, and other forms of wildlife exploitation are carefully regulated activities conducted in accordance with strict laws and regulations. Data relating to the enforcement of wildlife laws was released by William B. Morse, western representative for the Wildlife Management Institute, as part of a paper presented at the July 1976 annual meeting of the Western Association of State Fish and Game Commissioners.

The WMI study showed that the average conservation officer, or game warden as they are more commonly known, polices 7,326 anglers, hunters, and trappers and patrols a district of 495 square miles. In addition to enforcing game laws and regulations conservation officers are also responsible for boat safety, litter prevention, hunter safety, public education, animal damage control, habitat maintenance, wildlife rescue, and population censusing.

The total arrests by conservation officers in 1975 was between 265,000 and 348,000 of which 36.1% related to incidents involving wildlife. The WMI study did not differentiate between violations by hunters and trappers and those committed by non-consumptive users.

A mathematical analysis of conservation officer activities reveals the absurdity of the claim that hunting and trapping are carefully regulated. To tour each square mile within his district during an eight hour tour of duty the conservation officer would be required to travel non-stop throughout the day at a steady speed of 61.8 miles per hour. Certainly this evaluation oversimplifies the conservation officer's law enforcement role. He need not check every square mile or observe every hunter or trapper within his district as part of the daily or weekly law enforcement compliance inspection workload. Yet, it is clear that the pledge of wildlife management agencies with regard to the diligent enforcement of game laws is distinct and contradictory from the realities of limited staff and the overcommitment of funds and manpower. The conservation officer labor force simply does not have the capability to conduct an effective game law compliance and enforcement program.

## Competence of Conservation Officers

Humanitarians are often criticized by the wildlife management fraternity for our supposed deficiencies in technical knowledge and training with regard to wildlife biology. The Wildlife Management Institute study cited in the preceding section provides an interesting counter-perspective. Of the 6,500 conservation officers and supervisors employed nationwide by fish and game agencies only 596 (9.17%) possess degrees in wildlife biology or a related field. Another irony is to be found in the job qualification requirements for conservation officers. Most state fish and game agencies acknowledge an applicant's employment experience in shooting preserves or game-breeding farms as fulfilling a portion of the educational or prior experience requirements. Thus according to the wildlife management fraternity, a person becomes an authority on wildlife by providing domestically

Pilot Dogs  
Columbus, Ohio

### Horse Racing Injuries

Horse racing has been a concern to the humane movement since 1868 when two trotters collapsed and died after racing from Brighton to Worcester, Massachusetts. That event was decried in a newspaper editorial signed by prominent Massachusetts attorney George T. Angell. On March 23, 1868 the Massachusetts SPCA was incorporated by humanitarians who united with Angell in his public condemnation of New England horse races.

It has been alleged that the contemporary version of the Sport of Kings is fraught with animal abuse. Horses share a common birthdate of January 1 of the year that they are born. Young horses are often forced to extreme exertion and physical stress before maturity. It has been reported that the most common causes for retiring horses from racing among three breeds studied--thoroughbreds, standardbreds, and quarter horses--were unsoundness, injury, and disease.

Drugs are often used to mask injuries and minimize inflammation thus circumventing the horse's protective mechanisms and causing it to place additional stress on an injury. Drugs may also be used to stimulate performance. Noted female jockey Mary Bacon spoke out against the use of drugs in March 1975 following her participation in races at the New Orleans State Fair Grounds. In an interview with reporters Ms. Bacon stated, "They're burying our horses. You should look at the horse grave yard. I'm not a veterinarian and I'm just guessing but I have ridden for many years and I think one drug covers another. I know of horses that can't walk in the morning but run in the afternoon. I don't think it's fair to the public to bet on a horse that is not capable of walking in the morning, but is so drugged up that he can get past the vets in the afternoon."

The cost of breeding horses adds another dimension to the problem. While the plush Kentucky horse breeding farms have achieved folklore status the racing industry is actually dominated by dealers and speculators. Veteran trainer Charlie Lewis stated, "We have a lot of people in the business who really don't belong in it. They are attracted by the glamour. It is very fascinating when things are going well. It's very frustrating when they aren't. Those are the key words, fascinating and frustrating. With a little luck, a horse can earn enough money to educate a man's children, or child. With a little bad luck the same horse will keep those children from getting an education. That's the way it goes. It's like a crap game."

According to Lewis the cost of proper feed and care for a thoroughbred horse is a minimum of \$18.00 a day and the competent trainers spend closer to \$25.00. A horse must earn \$6,000 a year to be worth continued speculation, and the breakeven point is approximately \$8,000 annually.

The cost of training and maintaining a horse is up 30% from 1970. A popular method for economizing is to reduce the quality of care provided

According to the Washington Post, on July 3, 1976 Master Derby suffered a hairline fracture to his right front leg during the running of the Cornhusker Handicap at Omaha Track. The 5-year-old colt, which was the 1975 Preakness winner, was forced into early retirement by the injury.

According to the Washington Post, on July 11, 1976 Dearly Precious pulled up lame with an injury to her left front leg following her victory in the Dark Mirage Stakes at Aqueduct Park. The horse had been the 1975 2-year-old filly champion.

According to the Washington Post, on September 4, 1976 Steve Lobell went into shock and nearly died three hours after winning harness racing's richest and most prestigious race--The Hambletonian Stakes. The 3-year-old trotter had been forced to run the final two heats of the race with a 4-inch gash on its leg.

The most revealing element of the Washington Post articles is the fact that the animals involved were champion thoroughbreds. Their value as breeders was such that they would be expected to have been provided with optimal care. Horsemen admit that the quality thoroughbreds suffer fewer fatal injuries than cheap claimers. Indeed, while the Washington Post articles provide evidence of on-track injuries they do not reflect the frequency with which horses breakdown. The Washington Post reports only on horses of note. For example, the Post ignored a September 22, 1976 UPI wire service story from Livonia, Michigan reporting on an accident-marred card at the Detroit Racetrack during which three horses were destroyed. Fly Ace and Poster Painter broke down in the first race. Both horses were destroyed. In the eighth race Osage Blue collapsed and died on the track.

While the humane movement's past assessment of the horse racing industry is unquestionably accurate the sparse evidence which we have accumulated cannot be considered conclusive documentation as to the frequency or extent of injuries to horses during training and racing.

The American horse racing industry has astutely declined to develop statistical data which would document the effects of drugs and training practices. During a 1975 newspaper interview Ray Gillespie, director of statistical bureau for The Jockey Club in Lexington, Kentucky, stated, "We're concerned here with performance and pedigree records. All we know about injuries, statistically, is that a horse runs, then quits running. His or her name simply disappears from the charts. There is no center for collecting such data. There should be, of course. But this industry is so fractionalized, with the various groups concerned only in their special interests, that little is done except to talk about providing such information."

## Poaching

In 1967, James R. Vilkitis, a wildlife researcher, spent a full year poaching game in Idaho. Mr. Vilkitis was collecting statistics and facts for a study which was to become the basis for his Master's degree thesis. A summary of that thesis was published in the November-December 1976 issue of Colorado Outdoors Magazine.

Vilkitis met with wildlife officials in the states in which he conducted his studies and obtained game collection permits which provided immunity from arrest should he be apprehended with big game animals in his possession during closed season. Assuming a new identity, Vilkitis began working with actual game poachers. He kept notes relating to his own kills as well as those of other poachers whom he observed. Vilkitis then compared his information with game department arrest records. The correlation between poaching incidents observed by Vilkitis and poaching arrest records provided interesting information relating to the extent of illegal hunting and game law violations.

Vilkitis found that a poacher's chances of being arrested for a game law violation was 1:200. The chances of a conservation officer even detecting that a crime had taken place was only 1:40. The number of game animals killed by poachers was approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the legal take.

Contrary to popular belief, Vilkitis found that most poaching takes place during the daylight hours. The risk of apprehension is greater at night since it is easier for a conservation officer to track weapons' fire and there is no legal night hunting of big game animals.

## State Pet Shop and Kennel Laws

In October 1976 the HSUS department of Research and Data Services completed a survey of state pet shop and kennel laws which was undertaken in response to a request from the Colorado Department of Health. The survey identified 24 states which have statutory provisions relating to pet shops or kennels. It should be noted, however, that several laws were confined to the licensing of such establishments.

Alaska 1140.530 Prohibits a kennel or pet shop from being maintained in an unsanitary or inhumane manner.

California 597L Prohibits a pet shop from being maintained in an unsanitary or inhumane manner.

Colorado 12-57-101 thru 118 Provides for the licensing and regulation of kennels and pet shops by the Colorado Department of Health.

Delaware 1701 Provides for the licensing of kennels and establishes standards for sanitation and animal care.

Connecticut 22-334(b) Provides for the licensing and regulation of pet shops by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

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### Humanitarian Attitudes

One of the most persistent and damaging problems confronting the humane movement in the United States is the internal turmoil that has fractionalized and immobilized many local animal welfare organizations. Conflicts between society members and officers have led to the division and eventual dissolution of several local humane societies.

The June 1976 issue of *Psychology Today* reports on a study of so-called "good samaritans" jointly conducted by a sociologist, a psychologist, and a criminologist. Although there may be some technical variations in the

The Times indicated that furs, only recently stigmatized as a rarified and indulgent symbol of established affluence and insensitivity toward wildlife, are gaining reacceptance among the public. The effect of the AFI propaganda campaign has been that, "By 1975, the teenage girls who had been telling their mothers not to buy furs were relieved of guilt and ready to buy their own furs."

The information appearing in the New York Times article was in contradiction on several points with statements made by representatives of the fur industry at November 1975 Congressional hearings regarding the Bayh-Anderson humane trapping bill. This finding suggests that the fur industry may be guilty of altering its "facts" and statistical data to suit its purposes. For example, AFI 1971 reports of escalating consumer demand for furs and threats of a substantial rise in fur prices may have been intended to deceive the public into prematurely believing that fur fashions had won reacceptance and fur purchases were a wise investment.

Martha Scott-Garrett, Patti Forkan, and Guy Hodge recently met to develop an outline for a study of the fur industry intended to provide factual documentation of the true status of fur sales and the impact of trapping reforms upon the American Fur Industry. An effort is being made to convince either the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries or the Senate Committee on Commerce to sponsor a fur industry study. These committees were assigned the Bayh-Anderson bill during the last Congress.

### Shooting Preserves

According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation there are approximately 3,000 shooting preserves in the United States where, for a fee, hunters may shoot captive wildlife. During the filming of the television documentary "Guns of Autumn" CBS documented 87 facilities which offer big game animals as targets. Not included in this tally are the private gun clubs, predominantly located in the Southern portion of the United States, which sponsor live pigeon and turkey shoots.

A 1973 directory published by the NSSF listed only four states that did not have at least one public shooting preserve.

Programs vary among individual shooting preserve facilities. Some preserves captively raise their stock while other preserves live capture animals in the wild or pay to have game animals imported from abroad. Surplus zoo animals may be a popular source of stock. Preserves prefer trophy specimen males, and zoos only require a single breeding male to maintain their captive populations.

At least one preserve in Maine permits hunters to shoot animals confined in small cages. At a large Texas preserve chauffeurs take hunters in a pickup truck to areas where feed has been set out for deer. The hunter can select his trophy and shoot it without ever leaving the truck. In Washington a preserve stakes the animal to a short chain and the hunter shoots at it