Eighty persons from six northeastern states gathered in East Hartford, CT for two days at the beginning of October to attend an HSUS workshop on community animal control problems. Participants included representatives of 19 animal welfare organizations, 9 city, county and state government animal control agencies, and other interested individuals.

The highlight of the two-day conference was the keynote address by HSUS President John Hoyt. He told the audience: "The fundamental question that must be addressed by all of us who are involved in the process of utilizing animals for the benefits and enjoyment of man is this: To what extent is such utilization appropriate, and what are the constraints that should define and limit such activity?"

The audience heard presentations by Phyllis Wright on animal sheltering; Frantz Dantzler on complaint investigation procedures and public relations, and John Dommers and Kathy Savesky on humane education programs.

The meeting was one of a series of workshops that HSUS holds around the nation each year. One of the purposes of these workshops is to promote an exchange of ideas among participants, and between HSUS staff and participants.

Enthusiasm and interest stayed at a high level throughout the workshop. Those in attendance expressed interest in having more workshops where the practical aspects of animal control work are emphasized.

Trapping Debate In New Hampshire

In recent months, the trapping issue has been in the news in many parts of the country. New England humanitarians have long been concerned with the cruelties of the steel jaw trap. In mid-November, the Advocates for Controlled Trapping (A.C.T.) sponsored a trapping debate at the Harris Center in Hancock, New Hampshire, in order to dramatize and clarify the issues involved.

Opposing the steel jaw trap were John Inman, HSUS' New England Regional Director, and David Wills, Executive Director of the Nashua Humane Society in New Hampshire.

Defending the trap were Michael Benioff, Benioff's Furs, Inc., Allentown, PA; and James Glass of Columbus, Ohio, member of the board of directors of The National Wildlife Federation.

During the debate, a New Hampshire coon hunter gave his opinion that if A.C.T. suc-
HSUS CONTINUES OPPOSITION TO SEAL CLUBBING

In 1978, approximately 180,000 Harp Seal pups will be clubbed and processed into ornaments and trinkets. The cruelty of this killing, combined with the utter triviality of the end products, has triggered protests from animal lovers all over the world. In an attempt to defend this exploitation of animals, representatives of the Labrador and Newfoundland government and sealing industry held a press conference in Boston on January 12, 1978.

While these spokesmen struggled to convince reporters that the seal slaughter is humane, well regulated, and morally, ecologically justifiable, a large group of people from a variety of animal welfare groups staged a protest demonstration. Regional Director John Inman joined the group at protesting the 1978 “harvest” of Harp Seal pups on the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

On April 27, 1977, HSUS President John Hoyt sent a letter to Dr. Harry RowseU stating HSUS’ position on the seal hunt. Dr. RowseU, Executive Director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care, has been cited as an authority in defending the seal harvest.

Hoyt’s letter made it clear that HSUS opposes the hunt for many reasons. Among those reasons:

- “We do not believe that killing animals for unnecessary products as regards human needs and survival is morally or ethically appropriate.”
- “The fur industry as a whole has little regard for animal life, endangered species included. To oppose a particular segment of this industry’s business is consistent with opposing the industry as a whole.”
- “We are concerned to instill an ethical and moral conscience within society regarding the sacredness of life. We do not believe that this annual harvest of Harp Seal pups serves that objective and, indeed, contributes to an insensitivity toward animal life generally.”

CONNECTICUT ANIMAL WELFARE GROUPS DISCUSS LEGISLATION NEEDS

On Sunday, January 8, 1978, the New England Regional Director of HSUS and the Connecticut Humane Society co-hosted a meeting of animal welfare organizations based in the state of Connecticut. The purpose was to discuss certain animal welfare issues which may be taken up by the impending session of the Connecticut Legislature. These issues include: 1) dog pound training, 2) lowering mandatory age limit for dog licensing, 3) requiring spaying of female dogs prior to adoption from shelters and pounds, 4) confinement of bitches in heat and roaming dogs, 5) strengthening the Anti-Cruelty Statute.

Attending the meeting were the Honorable Robert G. Truslow, Chairman of the Connecticut Legislative Animal Welfare Task Force; John Inman, Regional Director of HSUS; and Dr. William Haines, President of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, and Mr. Louis Golet, Chief, Canine Control Division, Department of Agriculture, State of Connecticut.

The Needs Of Animals Will Continue Long After You Are Gone

Unfortunately, man’s cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end during your lifetime. But a bequest through your Will will be a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

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: Murdough Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2300 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.
Director's Message

Euthanasia methods were a major topic of concern at the January meeting of Connecticut animal welfare organizations. Basically, the discussion concerned itself with the use of the decompression chamber versus injection with an overdose of sodium pentobarbital.

The position of The Humane Society of the United States is clear. We prefer any method of euthanasia that causes rapid death with the least possible amount of suffering. At present, we believe the direct injection of sodium pentobarbital is the most humane method. However, if we were shown a new method tomorrow that produced a more humane death, we would support it.

Here in New England, Maine is the only state that has passed a bill allowing shelter workers to administer sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia. In the other five states, only veterinarians are allowed to use this controlled drug. Some animal welfare groups in the five states are paying veterinarians to perform euthanasia with sodium pentobarbital because they recognize the cruelty of the decompression chamber.

Shelters that wish to pursue the use of sodium pentobarbital may write to me for a free copy of a paper entitled: "Legal Steps for the Procurement of Sodium Pentobarbital for Euthanasia of Cats and Dogs". All the information you require to employ sodium pentobarbital can be found in this paper prepared by HSUS's Institute for the Study of Animal Problems. The federal Drug Enforcement Administration which is charged with overseeing the use of sodium pentobarbital has a policy allowing properly trained lay persons who are employed by a humane facility to act as agents of a veterinarian and administer the drug. State drug enforcement authorities tend to follow these same policies.

Other states that have allowed lay persons to administer the drug are: Maryland, Virginia, Indiana, and Washington. The New England states need to pass such enabling legislation in order to provide humane deaths for the pets that have been rejected by their citizens.

John W. Irman

The Humane Society of the United States

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