The rocky cliff where seven wild horses plunged to their death because the Bureau of Land Management permitted them to be rounded up.
Quick action by humane investigators saved the lives of 29 wild horses that were rounded up and shipped off to a dog food cannery, in violation of the Federal Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. Acting on a tip received by Wild Horse Annie, Humane Society investigator Hal Perry inspected the area where the round-up was said to have taken place. Wild Horse Annie rented a helicopter for Perry, to enable him to search the entire area from the air. The bodies of seven horses were spotted at the bottom of a cliff.

Because of the rugged terrain, Perry hiked the rest of the way to examine the horses. Five of them had C-shaped hog rings clipped to their nostrils, a technique rustlers use so they can handle wild horses more easily. Called "chooking down," insertion of these hog rings in the nostrils reduces the ability of the horse to breathe by 80 to 90%, thus reducing their mobility. One horse had apparently caught its hoof in the rocks at the edge of the cliff. Its leg had been severed in the fall, and the hoof and part of the leg were discovered, still lodged in the rocks at the top of the cliff. The horses that died at the bottom of the cliff had apparently been rounded up and were being held in the area, waiting transportation to ship them to the canner. The local sheriff said he believed a bobcat had frightened the horses, and with the rings in their noses and unable to fight, they panicked and jumped off the cliff. Perry's thorough investigation failed to reveal any bobcat tracks anywhere in the area.

Perry and Franz Dantzler, Director of The Humane Society's Rocky Mountain Regional Office, returned the following day with an NBC cameraman. The films he took have been shown on nationwide television. Dantzler, too, inspected the dead horses and reported there were no brands, and no evidence they had ever been shod. Inquiries from local residents revealed the horses had been on this range as long as anyone could remember, and all believed them to be wild horses.

Tracing the shipment of the other horses to a cannery, Dantzler traveled to North Platte, Nebraska, and examined the horses. An order had already been issued by the Bureau of Land Management, following an inquiry by The Humane Society, for these horses to be saved and given veterinary care. Five had already died from injuries sustained in the round-up and shipment by truck from Idaho to North Platte. One mare had aborted a foal and she and another horse had been euthanized because they were in such poor condition. Other pregnant mares in the herd were examined by Dantzler, who predicted several would lose their foals. The horses were scheduled to remain at the cannery, under special care, until the government decides what to do with them.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act requires a written permit be issued for the removal of any wild horse from public lands. No permit was issued, although Dantzler learned that Ed Jones, district manager for BLM, had given the Idaho ranchers oral permission to round up the horses. The ranchers claimed they owned the horses, but that they had let them graze on public lands. They said BLM had urged them to get the horses off the public lands.

Dantzler's examination of the horses, revealing the absence of any brands, effectively refutes the ranchers' claims of ownership of the horses.

The Humane Society and the American Horse Protection Association have filed suit in U.S. District Court to force the federal government to enforce the federal law for the protection of wild horses. The possibility of winning the case looks promising, since all the evidence appears to establish that the federal law has been violated, and that the federal Bureau of Land Management has failed to enforce the law over which it has been given responsibility.

Pending the outcome of this case, KIND members can help wild horses best by informing others of the need for greater protection for these animals, perhaps through the establishment of more public lands specifically for use by wild horses. Cite the important points in this report when informing others of the need to protect wild free-roaming horses and burros, a unique American heritage from the past. If you wish to help with a donation to help pay the costs of this investigation, be sure to indicate you want your gift to go to the Wild Horse Fund. A report of the outcome of the court case will appear in a future issue of your newsletter.

Some of the 29 horses saved from slaughter for dog food as a result of quick action by humane organizations.

Dear Humane Society,

I thank you for your very touching television commercial, for your obvious sensitivities and for your invaluable human service to animals rendered homeless and suffering by the neglect of a society that has been forced upon them. Thank you for shocking me into finally taking action for something I've cared about for a long long time. Please tell me what I can do to help you out.

Sincerely,

Vivian Soderholm-Diffatte
SHIPPING ANIMALS—HOW HUMANE IS IT?

For many years The Humane Society has sought to get something done to eliminate the cruelty to animals that often occurs when they are shipped. Only one facility in the U.S. is properly equipped to care for animals in transit. This is the Animalport at JFK International Airport in New York, operated by the ASPCA. The Women’s SPCA in Philadelphia provides similar services, but has only one inspector, operating from a trailer office. There are plans to expand this operation. A third care program has recently been launched by volunteers, at Washington National Airport, near Washington, D.C. They simply come in and inspect all the animal shipments at the REA offices three times a week. They are hopeful they will be able to arrange for proper space soon to help these animals.

The loss of animals in transit is so great that Senator Lowell Weicker (bill S. 399) and Representative Whitehurst (bill H.R. 1264) have introduced bills in Congress to expand the Animal Welfare Act to include regulating the care of animals during shipment.

ANIMAL WELFARE BILLS IN CONGRESS

S. 1032, Senator Birch Bayh - Provides for loans to cities to establish low-cost spay and neuter clinics, and grants to train veterinary assistants.

H.R. 1266, Representative William Whitehurst - Establishes a corporation for accreditation of zoos, and improvement of standards.

S. 399, Senator Lowell Weicker, H.R. 1264, Representative Whitehurst - Regulates air terminals and other shipping points, extending coverage for animals in transit, and expanding the Animal Welfare Act to include birds in pet stores and zoos.

H.R. 37, Representative John Dingell - Expands protection for native U.S. endangered animals and includes animals that might become endangered in future.

S. 819, Senator Birch Bayh, H.R. 36, Representative John Dingell - Bans chemical poisons by federal government, by law, for predator control, giving responsibility to states for controlling and conserving predatory animals.

S. 932, Senator James Abourezk, H.R. 4685, Representative Jerome Waldie - Bans federal funds for primary and secondary schools that permit experimentation on animals in classrooms.

HELP THE HUMANE SOCIETY. Call three or four veterinarians in your community. Ask each one how much he charges for (1) spaying a female cat, (2) spaying a female dog, (3) neutering a male cat, and (4) neutering a male dog. Send this information to KIND.

CRUELTY DESCENDING SKUNKS

There is one needless cruelty often unintentionally encouraged by people who desire a descended skunk as a pet. Over the years I have had quite a number brought in to me and sent in to me often from great distances.

1. The descending is usually done by a trapper rather than a veterinarian and in most cases an ineffective job is done.

2. These misinformed, often humane minded people think a skunk makes a good pet. The major trouble is that they are nocturnal. They sleep when they are supposed to be awake, showing off, and ramble around the house at night when their owners think they should be sleeping.

3. The next move is to get rid of them. The humane thing to do would be to put them to sleep. This they do not want to do, so they often go to considerable expense to see what I get them.

4. They are released into the wild, and because their only defense is gone, they are killed by the first killer dog they meet. If they could climb they might have a chance in the wild, but they cannot climb.

I think there should be a national law against descending of skunks, and I am told that it has been outlawed in some States. However, I do not know if this is true.

Sincerely,

VILAS-ONEIDA WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Carl Marty
Three Lakes, WI. 54562

You may wish to learn if such a law, forbidding the descending of skunks, exists in your state. Write the Legislative Reference Bureau to inquire if there is such a law. Send the reply to KIND for our files, and the original will be returned for your records, when we have made a copy of it. If there is no law, write the State Fish and Game Commission to inquire if such a ban can be passed against the descending of skunks as household pets.

PROTECT THE OTTER

Wisconsin’s Senator Reuben LaFave is introducing a bill to give otters full protection in that state. Ask the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to support this bill.
SUMMER ACTION PROJECT CONTEST

Make a list of animals in your community that need help. They may be homeless cats and dogs, the animals at the zoo, animals at the livestock auction, animals at the pound, or native wildlife. Decide which animals most urgently need help, then detail a plan of action you can follow for helping them. Don't forget one of the most important ways of helping animals—educating others about the problem, and enlisting their help in solving the problem. Make your list complete enough that it will represent all phases of your action plan. Keep record of the results you get as you put your plan into action. A special award will be given to the EcoloKIND member or group that reports the best planned action project, regardless of the results achieved. Action project reports sent to KIND must be postmarked no later than September 1, 1973. If, after you have submitted your entry, you have additional information on achievements to report, you may send it to KIND, and it will be added to your contest entry.

PLANT A GARDEN

Plan now to raise a few vegetables for the family table. Avoid the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Use animal manure to fertilize your soil. Learn how to make a compost pile. Identify insects and learn how to use natural controls. Interplant some vegetables in the flower garden. Select attractive plants like flowering cabbage, parsley, lettuce, or strawberries. Plant flowers in your vegetable garden that help repel insects, such as marigolds, mint, bergamot. If you live in the country, plant food for wildlife in a remote corner of the back field. Your county agricultural agent can help you with advice on this project.

HELP EASTER ANIMALS

The fourth grade class in Greensboro, N.C., has created quite a stir in their school, and at the state capitol. They have asked that legislation be introduced to ban the sale of infant animals as Easter toys. They have made posters to circulate and display at school, they have written legislators, and have even circulated a report on which legislators have supported the bill and which are against it. They are helping animals and at the same time learning a lot about the legislative process.

If fourth graders can do all this, why can't EcoloKIND members? Try writing the Legislative Reference Bureau at your state capitol to learn if such a law already exists in your state. Request a copy of it and send it to KIND, so our files can be brought up to date. We'll make a copy and return the original for your files. If there is no such law in your state, plan now to mount a campaign to educate the public next year long before the Easter season.

DOGS KILLING FOXES

The North Carolina legislature now proposes open season on hunting foxes with dogs. Register your protest of House Bill #305 to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Dear KIND,

Please send me your public service announcements you have for radio on surplus breeding. I enjoy every minute being a member of your club. There's so many interesting things to do and you teach me so much, too. I really love it. I have three dogs, four cats, five fish, and one horse. I know they're thankful I'm a member of your club. Thanks again.

Sincerely, Laureen Tuttle, Ojai, Ca.

SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST

Watch for chances to take pictures of animals this summer. The great part of hunting with a camera is that the animal you shoot isn't harmed, and its way of life is not threatened in any way. And, because you have a permanent record of the animal you saw and shot with your camera, that animal becomes a part of you and your memory of having seen it, and shared a moment together. Photographs may be color or black and white, and animal subjects may be pets, domestic farm animals, wild animal, or animals in zoos, pet shops, roadside zoos, or other methods of displaying animals. Photos can include action projects for helping animals. All entries for the photo contest must be postmarked no later than September 1, 1973. An award will be given for the best animal photo submitted. Contest participants must be active KIND members under 18. There is no limit to the number of photos you may submit. All photographs submitted become the property of KIND, and cannot be returned.

TICKS

Check your dog every day for ticks this summer, particularly the inner areas of his ears. Do not crush or burn ticks. Instead, drop ticks into a solution of tick dip, alcohol, or kerosene. Be sure and wash your hands after touching ticks.

OIL-SOAKED BIRDS

Now, from the people who gave us oil-soaked birds in the first place, comes instruction on what you can do to save them. Single copies of the leaflet are free and can be ordered from the American Petroleum Institute, 1801 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

YOUR WORLD, MY WORLD

A booklet especially for teenagers about the environment and what we can do to protect it, is available free from the Environmental Protection Agency. Write for a copy from: Public Inquiries, Office of Public Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460.
BIRDS PAIR OFF IN SPRING

Be careful while driving, when you see a bird, since his mate will probably be flying right behind him. In spring, during the mating season, virtually all birds pair off and are never out of sight of their mates. Many birds are killed by cars when the driver, successfully dodging or slowing for one bird that flew in the car's path, didn't realize his mate would probably be right behind. Birds seem to get carried away with the joys of spring, and do more clowning and acrobatics at this time, taking unnecessary chances, and flying across the road in front of moving vehicles. A KIND driver is alert for birds, remembering birds pair off in the spring.

WILDLIFE PINS

KIND now has wildlife pins you can order. Attractively designed enameled pins trimmed with gold or silver plate, they make beautiful gifts. Pins are only $2 each. Be sure to specify which pins you want. In addition to the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, (pictured above), you can order a Kirtland's Warbler, Peregrine Falcon, Mountain Lion, or a Polar Bear.

BUMPER STICKERS

Help inform pet owners on the importance of having their pets spayed or neutered. Order a bumper sticker for your car. Its message: Don't Litter--Have Your Pet Spayed Or Neutered. The address of KIND appears on the bottom of the sticker to promote KIND, and enable people to obtain more information. Bumper stickers are attractive white lettering on a medium green background, and are just $1 each. Profits from the sale of bumper stickers will be used to help animals.

EcoloKIND is published monthly for members ages 15-18 by KIND, youth membership division of The Humane Society of the U.S. R. Dale Hylvton, Editor

Add this newsletter to your kit for supplementary information.

This is recycled paper.