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CHINO GEESE-BUREAUCRATIC BUNGLING!

In 1975 hundreds of wild geese migrating from Canada to the Salton Sea were slaughtered just outside the Chino prison. The prison officials hazed the geese off the grounds and into range of the waiting hunters' guns.

Dr. Alice DeGroot, a local resident, counted over 150 pickup trucks full of hunters lined up to shoot the geese. Dr. DeGroot reported bloodied geese falling all around. “The sound of the geese whose mates were killed was eerie”, she said. Finally, the sheriff was forced to call off all hunting in the area. Because the problem involved the California state prison system, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Fish and Game, bureaucrats promised that there would be meetings between these agencies and interested citizen groups to decide how feeding grounds might be provided. As fall 1976 approached and nothing had been done, the HSUS Sacramento office began work to head off a 1976-77 slaughter. Over 6000 geese were expected into the area. After numerous fruitless phone calls (the DFG and others called it a complex problem without solution) the HSUS sent telegrams to get the hazing permits canceled. We called on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to halt all hunting in the area to avoid a repeat of the previous year’s debacle. The HSUS also offered to meet with any department to attempt to find a solution.

Dr. Doug Ryan, a humanitarian in the Chino area angered by lack of cooperation from officials, began taking license numbers and pictures of hunters taking over the limit and violating private property rights. Ironically, there is only one overworked DFG field man in the Chino area to enforce hunting regulations. Dr. Ryan called the sheriff after witnessing hunters aim and fire in the direction of children leaving a school bus. He reports that the sheriff did not respond.

As we go to press, we are still working to head off the inevitable. The HSUS believes that the geese must be allowed to feed at the prison until alternate goose pasture can be provided. The tragedy of the Chino geese is a chain reaction; it began with the prison happily allowing the geese to graze there until the DFG stopped California officials from using the prison grounds as a private hunting reserve. According to a newspaper report, in 1973 the prison superintendent and his friends were arrested for illegal hunting on the grounds. No solution will be forthcoming until the government agencies involved stop passing the buck. We have sent the DFG a list of 40 management questions and await their answer.

The HSUS is preparing petitions to the Governor asking his support in getting the agencies to work together to provide a feeding area in the Del Prado Basin where these beautiful birds can feed undisturbed.

Help Save California’s Endangered Species Law

If Assemblyman Frank Vicencia’s new bill AB 137 passes, Penal Code Section 653o would be repealed in part allowing products from endangered species including feral roaming horses, alligators, sea otters, and dolphins to be sold in California. Help us save the endangered species section that now forbids such sales. To express your views contact your own state legislator c/o State Capitol, Sacramento 95814.
HAD the initiative passed in November, Hardie would have had much to gain. When he wrote the proposition, he worked it so that he would have almost virtual control of what potentially could have been a billion dollar operation in the state.

But the animals would have lost as has been proven in states where greyhound racing is legal. The Humane Society of the United States was in the forefront of the opposition and the West Coast Regional Office was besieged with letters from people concerned about the animals in dog racing. It is the policy of The Humane Society of the United States to oppose dog racing because of the cruel training methods, the large scale breeding of greyhounds in the hopes of producing a winner, the often cruel methods by which non-winners are sometimes killed, and because this so-called sport is an inhumane and unjustified exploitation of animals for profit. The Society works to prevent the legalization of dog racing and the establishment of racing tracks in communities where none now exists.

The initiative purported to prohibit the use of live rats as lures in training greyhounds to race, but it did not mandate investigation or enforcement of that provision. The initiative provided for retirement farms for racing dogs, but it couldn't protect them from being shipped out of state where they could have been disposed of without violating the initiative's provisions.

It didn't prohibit the killing of greyhound puppies unsuitable for racing, which may be up to 80 percent of the litter.

The HSUS-WCRO produced a brochure, “Let’s Put Greyhound Racing Out Of The Running” informing people of cruelties in the dog racing industry and it denounced Proposition 13 for what it really was, a farce.

On November 2nd, 1976, Californians chose to vote against Proposition 13 and for the animals.

California voters going to the polls in November’s General Election, were faced with Proposition 13, an initiative to legalize betting on greyhound dog racing in California. The results were better than 3-to-1 against the deeply worded measure.

George G. Hardie, the moving force behind Proposition 13, first began his efforts to legalize betting on greyhound dog racing in Sacramento in late 1974. As a result of his lobbying efforts, AB455, which would have achieved this, was introduced. When the bill failed in committee, Hardie organized a huge signature gathering campaign, and succeeded in obtaining enough signatures to get the initiative on the ballot.

On September 18, 1976, two horses died at the Western Championship Finals Rodeo in Folsom, California. The first horse, a mare, was killed in a (at first) attack after picking up a cowboy who had just completed a successful ride. The second horse was killed when it charged into a fence and broke its neck during the saddle bronc event (pictured above). The horses were killed because of the cruel training methods, the large scale breeding of greyhounds in the hopes of producing a winner, the often cruel methods by which non-winners are sometimes killed, and because this so-called sport is an inhumane and unjustified exploitation of animals for profit. The Society works to prevent the legalization of dog racing and the establishment of racing tracks in communities where none now exists.

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Disaster . . .
(Continued from page 3)

Dantzler, "but I think it was through our persistence that hay was air dropped and trucked to stranded cattle."

The Bonneville County Humane Society and its president, Gail Snider, were key factors and of invaluable assistance in coordinating animal relief efforts.

"There is no established disaster relief system for animals," said Dantzler, "the Idaho flood and other disasters HSUS has been involved in make it crystal clear such a system is needed."

HUMANE EDUCATION HAPPENINGS 1977

February 25th and 26th ............... Sheraton Inn Fresno, California
Co-hosted by Central California SPCA
March 4th and 5th ............... Vacation Village San Diego, California
Co-hosted by Animal Care Center, Rancho Sante Fe

FEATURING
John J. Dommers, Director of Education for The Humane Society of the United States, and outstanding West Coast humane educators.

INTERESTED IN HUMANE EDUCATION?
FOR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT
HSUS-WCRO (916) 447-3295

The above ad ran in the Sacramento Bee on December 14, 1976 paid for by Pets and Pals. Any group interested in running a similar ad must first contact HSUS-WCRO for permission.

CALIFORNIA WHALE DAY —HUGE SUCCESS—

Eric Sakach and Judi Kukulka of WCRO manned a booth at the all-day "California Celebrates The Whale" event in Sacramento, California. Over 5,000 people interested in saving the whale attended. The event was sponsored by California’s Governor Jerry Brown. Several hundred interested people signed up at the HSUS booth to receive information about HSUS humane education programs.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance should be addressed to Charlene Drennon, West Coast Regional Director, 1713 J St., Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916-447-3295). All contributions made to the HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.