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Research Animal Dealer Arrested, Charged with Cruelty to Animals

Henry "Bud" Knudsen, owner of Knudsen's Animal Laboratory Service in Lathrop, California, was arrested by deputies of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department in November when they responded to complaints of "noise and stench" at his facility. The deputies discovered a scene of horror: 18 dead dogs, an equal number of dead cats, and 88 starving animals, some feeding on the decaying remains of their dead penmates.

Knudsen was charged with 124 counts of cruelty to animals, one count for each animal found on his property. To streamline the case, however, the district attorney reduced the charges to a mere four counts despite a flood of protesting letters and telegrams generated by The HSUS West Coast Regional Office. Trial has been set for April 4th, 1985, in Manteca Municipal Court, and the WCRO has asked that the defendant not be allowed to own or possess any animals.

According to officials of the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS), Knudsen is the only federally licensed dealer (continued on next page)
Cockfight Raids Coincide with HSUS Conference in San Diego

Directives of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department Vice Unit, assisted by HSUS investigators and officers of the San Diego Animal Control Department, Animal Control Humane Society, National City Department of Animal Control, and the City of Stockton Animal Control’s facility.

Director’s Comment

by Char Drennon

Meanwhile, Director Drennon, seeking the best possible care for the seized animals, got in touch with the Marin Humane Society, the Peninsula Humane Society, the Oakland SPCA, the Humane Society of the Santa Clara Valley, the Santa Cruz SPCA, and the Monterey County SPCA. All of them offered to help take care of the animals, and Dren­non notified county officials accordingly. After an agreement through the district attorney’s office, each humane society picked up a group of animals and took them to its facility where they were given veterinary treatment and personal attention.

Some cockfights were identified by Oregon residents as having been given away through “Free to Good Home” advertise­ments and were reunited with their owners. One dog named “Shinebrite” (the golden retriever involved in a cockfighting per­formance) was identified by its owner when the Peninsula Humane Society ran pictures of the cockfight in the newspapers. The dog had been stolen from the backyard of the owner’s home in Ukiah over a year ago.

In this issue of our newsletter, we’ve reported some things we’ve been working on, but there are many others, of course. The Humane So­ciety of the United States has now filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for stopping an illegal rooster. A number of­ these refuges are located in the western states. We have facts, figures, a press release, and other materials for anyone wanting to help educate the public on this important issue. All you have to do is request the materials from us.

We anticipate a great deal of legislative ac­tivity in the West Coast region in 1985. For example, Oregon already has a bill in the planning stage to prohibit private ownership of exotic animals, and anoth­er to strengthen cruelty statutes and give more authority to humane officers. Nevada will have legislation to outlaw pound won­der. California will have approximately 13 important animal-welfare bills. WCCO is already helping to draft some of these bills and is committed to testi­fy on others. When the bills are ready and introduced, we will send HSUS members a newsletter with full details.

Meanwhile, we have good news. Our office has the capability to divide members who wish to be active into districts, and to notify them at an alert the same day we become aware of the need to do so. If you want to be active this legislative session, please join our Alert Team by filling out the membership form.

We appreciate the help and support of all of you and the humane and animal-control or­ganizations that choose to work closely with us.

Our thanks also to the humane organizations that worked so hard on the Knudsen case (see cover article), especially the Delta-Stockton Humane Society.

Don’t forget to look for Snuggles the Seal in your stores starting in February. For every Snuggles purchased, Mattel, the toy man­ufacturer, will donate to The HSUS to help save the seals.
The HSUS has joined forces with several leading animal-welfare groups to oppose the use of public funds for the dissemination of Project WILD materials. The Project WILD teaching unit, principally sponsored by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which operates largely on funds derived from hunter and trapper license fees, is being widely distributed to elementary and secondary schools throughout the country.

Project WILD appears to be an objective environmental course on the surface. Closer study reveals, however, it subtly promotes hunting and trapping. The HSUS is currently preparing balancing materials that will represent alternative points of view.

Here's what you can do to help: Find out if Project WILD has been implemented in schools in your community. If so, please write this office for the joint position statement. Contact your local school administrators, school board chairman, and Parent Teachers' Association and share your concern about the program.

In another area, The HSUS believes that dissection and harmful experiments on animals are unnecessary and inappropriate for junior and senior high school students and is working to eliminate them. As a first step, the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE), the education division of The HSUS, has written two pamphlets—one for students and one for teachers—that contain guidelines for humane study of animals. Obtain a free copy of these brochures by sending a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to this office.

The Regional Report is a publication of
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The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. All contributions made to The HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.

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