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Maine Restores Division of Animal Welfare Cuts

Governor Joseph E. Brennan’s office has stated in an April 22, 1981, letter to The HSUS New England Regional Office that the proposal to cut funds for the work of the Division of Animal Welfare has been dropped. The Maine Federation of Humane Societies organized a “Leash In” to protest the cuts last September. The Regional Office at the same time urged Maine HSUS members to write letters to the Governor. The proposed cut funds were restored by Legislative Action. On Friday, May 22, 1981, Governor Brennan signed the budget for fiscal ’82 and ’83. It would appear that the animals of Maine will benefit from the efforts of humanitarians.

Interesting!

Miss Celia Steele of Hartford, CT, noticed that the G. Fox Department Store downtown was selling tadpoles in a plastic container as part of a package to create an instant aquarium. She complained to the management expressing her concern for the animals’ welfare and the questionable educational effect upon children. She reports that the store stopped selling the tadpoles.

Connecticut’s General Assembly Mandates Sanitation Regulations for Poultry Farms

Intensive poultry farming has caused serious fly infestations over the past several years in at least four eastern Connecticut communities—Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin and Lebanon. Public concern prompted the Connecticut General Assembly to pass a bill mandating controls of the storage, spreading, and transportation of manure, and other sanitation aspects of poultry farms.

Testifying at a public hearing conducted by the Environment Committee, HSUS supported the measure and urged the Legislature to look at all aspects of this industry, including the welfare of the chickens that are often viewed only as “egg laying machines.” Regional Director John W. Inman described HSUS concern about animal husbandry systems that rely heavily on the use of antibiotics, other drugs and vaccines. He said that farm personnel and designers of animal facilities and equipment need adequate training in methods of husbandry that are compatible with the animals’ ethological and welfare needs. On some farms sick animals receive no attention at all. Treatment of illnesses, or humane euthanasia, needs to be given to sick livestock. Other concerns of The HSUS include the methods of destruction used for “culled chicks,” abuses connected with the “debeaking process,” the removal of combs and wattles, and overcrowding in battery cages. Although this bill is only concerned with human welfare that might be adversely affected by fly infestation, it is a beginning that will serve to focus public attention on the manner in which our food animals are raised.
The New England Regional Report is a publication of:

The Humane Society of the United States New England Regional Office
Box 362
East Haddam, CT 06423

John Inman, Jr., Director
The HSUS New England Regional Office serves the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Does Your Society Have Regular Contact With Teachers?
Here's a Good Way...

The HSUS, as you know is committed to education. Our magazine, *Humane Education*, is the leading publication of its kind in the field. It is available by subscription or through membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, the educational division of HSUS. NAAHE membership has many additional benefits for persons engaged in humane education programs. A subscription to *Humane Education* is $7. Membership dues in NAAHE are $10 per year for an individual or $25 per year for an organization. Both memberships include a subscription to the magazine.

As part of a special offer from NAAHE, organizational members are offered the option of purchasing additional subscriptions for local schools and/or teachers for only $4 each. An organization on the West Coast recently allocated funds from its education budget to take advantage of this offer and purchase 58 complimentary subscriptions. Why not consider a similar project to benefit your local schools?

**Happiness is...**

A teacher or other humane educator who gets a gift subscription to HSUS's *Humane Education* magazine—from you!

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Connnecticut Humane Society Celebrates Centennial

The Connecticut Humane Society is observing its 100th birthday this year with special events scheduled throughout the entire year. The HSUS New England Regional Office congratulates General Manager Gus Helberg and his staff on the service that the society is rendering to the animals of Connecticut, particularly in the areas of animal rescue and sheltering and cruelty investigation.

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Moose Hunting Returns to Maine

The legislative document's statement of fact on moose hunting made it very clear the most important reason this activity has been revived is that the legislators have been told that the proceeds will generate about $450,000 in revenues.

In response to this bill, an animal organization has been formed to work at putting a referendum question before the voters of Maine asking about suspension of the legislation. The HSUS urges all humanitarians in the state to support this effort with letters and telegrams and thus help stop the proposed hunting of Maine's official animal.

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Connecticut Leghold Trap Ban Fails

On May 6, 1981, in spite of an aggressive effort by Connecticut humanitarians, the Connecticut Senate voted 21 to 19 to continue the use of the barbed wire, antiquated steel jaw leghold trap. It was particularly interesting, in the debate among the senators before their vote, that the concept of "animal rights" was raised.

Senator Eugene Skowronski, chairman of the Environment Committee, and an attorney from Derby, Connecticut, broached the subject in his support for the cruel device. He argued that the animals' rights to life does not outweigh the trappers' right to kill them for fun or profit. Other arguments included wildlife population explosions into urban and suburban neighborhoods, the threat of rabies, the great danger to Connecticut's agricultural economy, and the "time honored tradition" of this great fur industry upon which "America was founded."

Other senators argued that the will of the majority of Connecticut residents who had spoken on the issue should be ignored. They urged the Senate to go along with the will of the trappers who wanted to keep the steel leg trap. Unfortunately, the Senate did just that, and the trap ban effort failed this time.

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### Dates to Remember:

**July 14-17, 1981**
New Hampshire Animal Control Association at University of New Hampshire, Durham.
Contact: Phil Darling, (603) 474-9071.

**September 14-16, 1981**
Massachusetts SPCA Workshop for Animal Control Officers at Macomber Farm, Framingham.
Contact: Bill Curran, (617) 237-2310.

**October 14-16, 1981**
Humane Society of the United States Annual Conference, Chase-Park Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, MO.
Contact: Jack Inman, (203) 434-1940.

**November 11-14, 1981**
National Animal Control Association Annual Conference, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Framingham, MA.
Contact: Bill Curran, (617) 237-2310.
Reflect for a moment... how can I help animals even when I no longer share their world...?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States. Your will can provide for animals after you're gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material which will assist in planning a will.

HSUS Visits New England State Education Officials

Over the past several months Anita Coburn, a new staff person of The HSUS, has been meeting with State Department of Education officials in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, and other states throughout the country. In her meetings, Anita has been distributing copies of Kind, and Humane Education, and has been describing the new Humane Education Curriculum Guide that was developed under the leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE). In each case Anita left a copy of the Guide for review and comment. The Guide was recently field tested in 350 classrooms across the country and in Canada and is being revised for publication this fall.

At the Connecticut State Department of Education Office, (L to R) Arthur E. Soderland, Social Studies Programming Director, Anita Coburn, and Francis A. McElaney, Associate Commissioner, Division of Instructional Services discuss HSUS' new Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade Curriculum Guides.

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