Follow this and additional works at: http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn

Recommended Citation
http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn/37

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the Animal Studies Repository. For more information, please contact eyahner@humanesociety.org.
TREATMENT OF ELEPHANTS DEMANDS ATTENTION

Since San Diego zoo officials accused trainers at the San Diego Wild Animal Park of cruelly beating an 18-year-old female African elephant named Dunda last February (see HSUS NEWS, Fall 1988), the issue of what constitutes abuse of elephants versus what is considered acceptable discipline has drawn considerable attention from all directions.

California State Senator Dan McCorquodale, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife, held a public hearing in southern California to investigate the alleged beating of Dunda. Without denying that the beatings occurred, representatives of the San Diego Zoological Society attempted to defend its actions.

HSUS Captive Wildlife Specialist David Herbet presented the findings of his investigation on behalf of ten animal-welfare and environmental organizations. As a direct result of those hearings, Senator McCorquodale moved forward with the formation of a broad-based task force made up of representatives of zoological institutions, animal-welfare organizations, and government regulatory agencies. The task force, it was hoped, would define abuse and develop guidelines for the humane handling of wild and exotic animals in captivity. Later, these guidelines can be reinforced through legislation, if necessary.

Attempts early on to define abuse by the California Association of Zoos and Aquariums for the task force were cited as being "too vague" by WCRO investigator Eric Sakach, who serves as a member of the task force. "They failed to address (continued on page 2)
What new changes are needed in elephant education, he said.

The HSUS believes that zoos have a national purpose whatsoever. Zoo professionals need to address a number of critical issues now, according to HSUS' David Herbet. The Society considers discipline of any kind that results in the types of injuries sustained by Dunda unacceptable. “We believe that if elephants must be physically disciplined to be kept in captivity, then the time has come to reveal the legitimacy of such captivity,” he said.

The HSUS is urging the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums to use all possible resources to recommend sensible and humane guidelines for management of elephants. “If zoo directors don’t make a concerted effort to point out an honest concern over these problems in an expeditious manner, says Sakach, “it’s likely that rules will be formulated for them.”

Meanwhile, allegations of abuse of elephants at other zoos have surfaced. The WCR will continue to seek measures to ensure that all captive animals are treated with the highest degree of humaneness, care and professionalism.

In January, the United States Supreme Court affirmed that a spectator at a cockfighting event can be charged with a crime in California (see Winter 1988 WCR REPORT). The justices rejected a challenge to a long-standing California law which makes it a crime for ‘any person who, for amusement or gain, causes any bull, bear, cock or other animal . . . to fight with like kind of animal or creature.’ According to the law, anyone who ‘aid[s], abets or is present at such fighting . . . as a spectator is guilty of a misdemeanor.’

Contending that it is unconstitutional to charge ‘mere spectators’ or innocent passers-by with a crime, a lawyer representing a dozen or more, charged in Fresno with being present at a cockfight, appealed their case to the U.S. Supreme Court. A state appellate court in Fresno upheld the misdemeanor penalty against persons who ‘knowingly’ attend cockfights saying that ‘knowingly present spectators who purposefully watch cockfighting encourage the ‘sport’.”

In January, Field Investigator Kurt Lapham travelled to the Northwest on an assignment to inspect the合法性 of such captivity,” he said.

area are striving to improve, and in many cases, rebuilding their existing facilities in order to meet the growing demands of their various communities. As in every area of the country, there is of course a need for more humane education, better funding, and larger facilities. However, community concern in many areas has prompted a flood of interest in developing new and creative ways to meet those needs. There is a sense of the old meeting the new, foreshadowing great things for animals throughout the northwest in the years to come.

ELEPHANTS TO HSUS’ DAVID HERBET: THE SOCIETY HAS A NATIONAL PURPOSE WHATSOEVER.

A comprehensive report on the humane Society of the Willamette Valley was forwarded to that organization’s board of directors in September after an on-site inspection by HSUS’ Sakach. The evaluation was requested by HSWV Executive Director Tim Garnsey. Since 1973, individual Docktor stores have been the subject of unsuccessful attempts by district attorneys in Santa Clara, San Mateo, Alameda, Sacramento, and Los Angeles Counties. This lawsuit seeks to impose legal and financial responsibility on the parent Docktor corporation in Massachusetts, which has made millions of dollars franchising these pet stores.

Making a Difference for Animals” was the theme of the 1987 HSUS Annual Conference, and it couldn’t have been more true in 1989 for two bears at the Royer Park Zoo in Roseville, California. It began in 1987 when vandalism broke the locks on the bears’ cage and the bears decided to tour the rest of the zoo for themselves. Although both the bears behaved and stayed within the park’s boundaries until they were recaptured and returned to their cage a short time later, the incident drew public attention to the bears’ living quarters.

Among those good citizens who were the veterinarian who had been called in to assist in recapuring the bears, Dr. Frank Lux, and his wife Joanne. Concerned about the welfare of the animal contacted the WCRO and HSUS Investigator Kurt Lapham visited the zoo to inspect the cage.

In his subsequent report to city officials, Lapham reported, among other things, that the exhibitions weren’t aesthetically pleasing and they lacked any educational value. “With the exception of a tree limb,” said Lapham, “the exhibits were stark and unattractive.” Lapham further suggested that the zoo should be closed down unless there was a sincere effort to upgrade the facility and provide for the animals in an appropriate manner.

The response from city officials was that improvements would depend on community interest. A major concern was what would become of the animals if there were no interest in improving the facility on the part of the community. Finally, after a meeting with personnel from the City’s Parks and Recreation Department, Dr. Lux and his wife were granted permission to hold a fundraiser in the park for the bears.

The result is that today, in 1989, the bears have a new and better facility in Roseville, and it is to the animals’ benefit. We are proud of the community effort to build the zoo and provide for the animals in an appropriate manner.

Since 1973, Docktor stores have been the subject of unsuccessful attempts by district attorneys in Santa Clara, San Mateo, Alameda, Sacramento, and Los Angeles Counties. This lawsuit seeks to impose legal and financial responsibility on the parent Docktor corporation in Massachusetts, which has made millions of dollars franchising these pet stores.

PET CENTER SUED (continued from page 1)

WCRO Investigator Kurt Lapham participated in a press conference called by Blake to announce the filing of the lawsuit. Detailing past problems, Lapham said owners prefer to kill a defective animal, returned by a customer rather than pay the cost of having it treated. “To the store, it’s cheaper to replace the animal than have it cared for,” he said.

Progress for Animals in the Northwest

In January, Field Investigator Kurt Lapham travelled to the Northwestern United States for an extensive two-state shelter visitation trip, reaching from Eugene, Oregon to Beil­ingham, Washington. “I was really pleased to finally meet in person people I had previously known only over the phone,” said Lapham. “Although I have occasion to travel to the Northwest, those trips are always for a special event or investigation, and rarely leave time for visiting local shelters and meeting staff members.

Lapham noted that the shelters in the
LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

WASHINGTON

HB 1614 — On February 17, Dr. Susan Lieberman, Associate Director of Wildlife & Environment for The HSUS, testified before the Washington State House Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife. Dr. Lieberman was supporting Representative Ken Jacobsen’s exotic bird bill, HB 1614, which would prohibit the sale of any bird or bird egg taken from the wild, and ban the importation of such birds or eggs into the state of Washington. HB 1614 would not prohibit the sale of captive-bred birds; it will allow licensed bird breeders to import wild birds on a limited basis, so as not to genetically overbreed their captive stock.

Although HB 1614 was held up in committee, the WCRO is urging all of its Washington members to call or write their state representatives, and ask for the reintroduction of a similar bill next session.

CALIFORNIA

SB 1110 — California State Senator Milton Marks, who will be sponsoring steel-jaw trap legislation this year (see story below), will also be carrying a bill similar to Assemblyman Tom Bates’ AB 2653, which failed passage in the 1988 legislature. The Senator’s bill will seek to increase the size of milk-fed veal calf crates, enabling the calves to stand up, lie down, turn around, and make other normal postural adjustments. Please write to your state legislators and urge them to support this important piece of legislation.

SB 60 — Senator Alan Robbins has introduced a bill requiring the labeling of all cosmetic and household products that test on animals. SB 60 states, in part, “All cosmetic and household products offered for sale or exchange in this state for which live animals were used in the consumer safety testing of those products, shall contain upon their label or package a conspicuous statement indicating that live animals were used for that testing.” Please write to your state legislators, and urge their support.

AB 2001 — In response to all of the interest generated over last session’s Puppy Mill Bill (AB 4500), Assemblyman Sam Farr has introduced a new bill in an attempt to combat the serious problems consumers are experiencing with animals purchased from pet stores. Among other provisions, Mr. Farr’s bill will prohibit the sale of any dog in a pet shop if it is less than 12 weeks old; require frequent veterinary examinations of the animal while it is on the store’s premises; set warranty provisions; and allow the consumer reimbursement of up to $2,000 if the animal becomes ill or dies during the warranty period, because it was sick at the time of the sale.

The pet industry is countering Mr. Farr’s bill with a much weaker one of their own (AB 786, by Assemblyman Richard Polanco). It calls for less stringent veterinary exams, and replacement of the animal, or a refund of the purchase price of a dead animal, if it is certified by a veterinarian (within 14 days of sale) to have been unfit for sale due to illness. The WCRO urges all of its members to contact Mr. Polanco, asking him to drop his bill in favor of AB 2001, and also to contact their legislators, urging strong support of AB 2001, especially the “twelve-week” clause.

AB 860 — Assemblyman Richard Katz is continuing his support of the California mountain lion. He has introduced AB 860, which is a two-pronged effort that will prohibit the sport-hunting of mountain lions, declaring them a specially protected mammal; and create the Habitat Conservation Fund, to appropriate $15,000,000 dollars annually from the General Fund, to be used to acquire habitat for the protection of mountain lions, deer, and endangered and threatened species.

A similarly-worded statewide initiative has been launched by the California Wildlife Protection Committee. Beginning in June, 1989, they will have five months to gather almost 600,000 signatures of registered voters — the number needed to qualify the initiative for the June 1990 ballot.

Both of these measures are very important. For more information, or to lend much needed support, contact: Assemblyman Richard Katz, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814 (for AB 860); the California Wildlife Protection Committee, 909-12th Street, Suite 203, Sacramento, CA 95814 (for the initiative).

All California State legislators can be reached at: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

STEEL - JAW TRAPS: On the way out?

The use of steel-jawed leghold traps is becoming increasingly unpopular across the United States, as efforts by animal welfare and conservation groups to educate the public to the horrors of trapping become more successful. This educational push has been fueled by new, and ongoing, anti-fur campaigns.

In California, increasing public awareness has resulted in steel-jaw trap bans in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Nevada Counties (San Francisco City and County had banned the trap some years ago), and similar efforts are now under way in several other California counties. Senator Milton Marks has once again introduced a bill calling for a total ban on steel-jawed leghold traps in California. We are urging our members to write to their state senators and assembly members, and urge their support of the Senator’s bill, SB 756.

The WCRO will also continue its campaign to ban the steel-jaw trap county-by-county; if you are interested in doing so in your county, please write: TRAPPING, West Coast Regional Office, 1713 J Street, Suite 211, Sacramento, CA 95814.

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 that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State _____
Zip code __________________________

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Charlene Drennon, Director
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.

© 1989 by the HSUS. All rights reserved 3/89