Protection for Mountain Lions One Step Closer

The efforts of approximately 5,000 volunteers, donating more than 100,000 hours of their time, have placed the California Wildlife Protection Act on the June 1990 state ballot.

The act would make illegal the killing of a mountain lion for reasons other than protection of life or property (including livestock); appropriate $20 million per year for the next 30 years to protect wilderness areas for rare and endangered species; and appropriate an additional $10 million per year for 30 years specifically to protect habitat for mountain lions, deer, and native oak.

By creating a minimum funding floor, the Act would force the state to make wilderness purchases a priority. In the last 40 years, California has lost more than 4.8 million acres of wilderness to urban encroachment and continues to lose this critical land at an alarming rate, threatening nearly one-third of California's mammals with extinction.

Opposition to the initiative by the Cattlemen's Association and other groups has already started, so extensive volunteer help and donations will be crucial for a victory in June. The WCRO is helping to gather much-needed endorsements and making every effort to see that word of this important issue reaches large segments of the public. If you would like to help, please contact: California Wildlife Protection Committee, 1012 J Street, #202, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 444-2287.

The California mountain lion would receive specific protection from hunting under the Wildlife Protection Act. This initiative is on the June 1990 state ballot.

Join in the Earth Day Celebrations

April 22, 1990, will mark the 20th anniversary of Earth Day and begin a long-term global commitment to build a safe, just, and sustainable planet. John A. Hoyt, president of The HSUS, has joined Earth Day's prestigious board of directors and pledged The HSUS's help to promote and observe this important event.

Commitment to strive for environmental healing is a personal one, and each of us can choose from among a myriad of Earth Day activities to become personally involved. Your first step may be to take the Earth Day 1990 pledge (contact the WCRO for a copy) to affirm your desire to recycle and conserve energy and water; to buy and use those products least harmful to the environment; and to support political candidates who demonstrate an abiding concern for the environment.

Earth Day 1990 will feature many demonstrations and resolutions, including the introduction of the Valdez Principles, a set of broad standards for evaluating continued on page 2
by Char Drennon

A new comment is an outstanding opportunity for rededication to old goals and for setting new priorities. The HSUS, founded in 1906, was reorganized in 1990 in new offices: 5301 Madison Ave., Suite 202, PO Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841; (916) 373-1710. The post office will only forward mail for one year, distributed between the four area shelters in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington, D.C. The post office will only forward mail for one year.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is identifying and supporting farmers who choose humane and ecologically sound production systems that avoid dependence upon antibiotics, hormones, pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, and inappropriate biotechnologies. In particular, The HSUS, with the National Safe Family Farm Coalition (NSFFC) and other concerned groups, is actively campaigning against the use of bovine growth hormone (BGH), which stimulates greater milk production in dairy cattle. Side effects such as infected udders, increased likelihood of disease, and lower rates of reproduction have been associated with the use of BGH. To ensure the consumer’s freedom of choice to purchase hormone-free, antibiotic-free food, the campaign seeks the incorporation of descriptive labels on dairy products. Labeling could also designate other farm products as “free range” (as opposed to intensive confinement systems) and “organic.”

The HSUS encourages our members to support humane sustainable agriculture practices and educate farmers on the benefits of humane raised products. We can all actively promote healthful conditions for the land, the environment, farm animals, and wildlife by being conscientious consumers.

For more information on the anti-BGH campaign or humane sustainable agriculture in general, contact: The HSUS/HSA Program, 1200 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037; (202) 452-1100.

Earth Day continued from page 1

The HSUS will offer this poster and other materials at Earth Day festivities in Washington, DC.

The HSUS Promotes Humane Sustainable Agriculture

Earth Day 1990 activities; the California mountain lion and the gift basket initiative; “It’s Their World Too” and distribute posters, literature, T-shirts, and other materials.

For more information on Earth Day and to learn of activities in your area, please contact: Earth Day 1990, PO Box 4A, Annapolis Union, Stanford, CA 94308; (415) 321-1990.

The HSUS will offer this poster and other materials at Earth Day festivities in Washington, DC.

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is a federal statute that protects animals from research abuses and other acts of cruelty. The AWA is administered by the USDA, which enforces the law through a series of inspectors who conduct routine inspections of animal research facilities, laboratories, and veterinary medicine laboratories. The AWA requires that all animals used in research be treated humanely and with care, and that the use of animals be justified by scientific need. The AWA also prohibits the use of animals in research that is not consistent with the best scientific practice.

The HSUS has a long history of advocating for the protection of animals in research, and has been a leading voice in the fight for stronger enforcement of the AWA. The HSUS has also been involved in litigation to enforce the law, including a successful lawsuit against the USDA for failing to enforce the AWA.

The HSUS has also been involved in public education campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of animal welfare in research, and has worked with researchers and others to develop more humane research methods.

The HSUS continues to work to ensure that all animals are treated humanely in research, and to support the development of more humane research methods. We encourage all animal researchers to take part in these efforts, and to work to make research more humane and ethical.
LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

The following list is a brief synopsis of recently passed and current California state legislation.

NEW LAWS

SB 756: (Sen. Milton Marks) This new law mandates strict licensing and identification when using steel-jaw traps and calls for such traps to be checked on a daily basis.

SB 892: (Sen. Dan McCorquodale) This new law is designed to help protect captive elephants by outlawing the use of such disciplinary measures as deprivation of food, water, or rest; the use of electricity; and punishment that results in scarring or breakage of an elephant’s skin.

AB 1842: (Assemblywoman Jackie Speier) This new law makes it a misdemeanor for any person to possess, import, sell, give away, etc., any animal commonly kept as a pet or companion for the sole purpose of using that animal for food. It covers animals such as dogs, cats, guinea pigs, etc., and exempts livestock, fish, and other “agricultural commodities.”

BILLS PENDING

AB 786: (Assemblyman Richard Polanco) Introduced as a regulatory measure for the pet shop trade, this bill is in fact sponsored by the pet industry and has halted the passage of stronger legislation. It does not provide for veterinary reimbursement for sick animals beyond the cost of the diagnosis and does not solve the problem of sick puppies entering the state. Write your senator and urge his/her opposition.

SB 1110: (Sen. Milton Marks) Mandates that veal farmers allow enough room for their calves to stand up, lie down, turn around, and make other normal postural adjustments. Write your assemblymember and urge his/her support.

SB 1587: (Sen. David Roberti) Will make it a felony to possess a fighting cock or other animal intended for use in a fighting exhibition. Write your assemblymember and urge his/her support.

AB 2461: “The LD-50/Draize Acute Eye-Irritancy Tests Ban” (Assemblyman Jack O’Connell). Due to heavy opposition, the LD-50 Test has been amended out of the bill; it will now cover only the Draize test used in testing cosmetics and household products. Write your senator and urge his/her support.

AB 2524: (Assemblyman Rusty Areias) This bill is an apparent effort to halt passage of SB 1110 (see above). It calls for a study to determine whether veal crates adversely affect the health and well-being of the calf. Write your senator and urge his/her opposition.

The Marine Resources Protection Act of 1990: (Assemblywoman Doris Allen) The Act would prohibit the use of gill nets inside a three-mile limit from south of Point Arguello to the Mexican border, thereby protecting sea otters, seals, whales, dolphins, and “non-target” fish. Signatures are now being collected to qualify the Act for the November 1990 ballot. If you would like to help with this very important issue, please contact: Committee to Ban Gill Nets, PO Box 2323, Cypress, CA 90630; (714) 828-9269.

NOTE: If you do not know who your state senator or assemblymember is, please contact your local library or League of Women Voters for information. All California legislators can be reached at: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 322-9900.

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