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HSUS Sues to Restore La Jolla Seal Barrier

The HSUS filed a motion for a temporary restraining order to immediately stop the harassment and injury of harbor seals at a small section of San Diego's beachfront. You can read about WCRO's ongoing efforts to protect the seals in the spring 2004 and fall 2004 issues of the "WCRO Regional News."

In February the HSUS filed suit against the Mayor and City Council of San Diego, challenging the City's decision to remove a guideline rope and advisory signs at Casa Beach (also referred to as Children's Pool beach), which had kept visitors a distance from the 90–200 seals who inhabit the beach, allowing them to thrive and turning Casa Beach into a major tourist destination. Soon after the City Council ordered the removal of the ropes and advisory signs, people began approaching the seals very closely, as well as frightening, chasing, and crowding the animals off of the beach. This near constant harassment has reportedly resulted in injuries to a number of animals. Additionally, a number of seals have given birth prematurely to pups who continued on page 5

A seal rests in the sand at La Jolla's Casa Beach.

"Sanctuary" Horses Find Permanent Homes

In the spring 2004 "WCRO Regional News," we reported that Slick Gardner of Buellton, California, had been charged with multiple felony and misdemeanor counts for, among other things, neglecting more than 500 horses on his 1,200-acre horse "sanctuary."

After nearly a year of legal wrangling, Gardner pleaded no contest to animal cruelty and grand theft in a deal with prosecutors that required him to give up the several hundred horses on his ranch. In exchange for the plea, prosecutors agreed to drop 10 additional animal cruelty and check fraud charges that could have led to a 10-year prison term. As part of Gardner's plea agreement, he faced a maximum of one year in jail and $250,000 in fines and restitution fees.

However, a dispute arose in October 2004. During a hearing on October 22, Superior Court Judge Art Garcia had Gardner jailed after finding it likely that he violated his probation. Gardner was subsequently evicted from the property. Gardner is still appealing his conviction of animal cruelty.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS), several horse rescue organizations, and concerned individuals found permanent homes for most of the horses—some going as far away as Indiana. The fates of the remaining 78 stallions still on Gardner's property were now in question. This past January, HSUS's Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) gelded the stallions to facilitate their adoption. WCRO Regional Coordinator Curt Ransom assisted in handling the horses before, during, and after their surgery. The team, headed by Dr. Eric Davis, consisted of two veterinarians, several veterinary students, a licensed veterinary technician, Santa Barbara animal control officers, and an experienced wild horse handler. Return To Freedom, a wild horse sanctuary in Lompoc, California, loaned a hydraulic squeeze chute to the effort. The chute was necessary to humanely handle these untrained horses.

HSUS gave $5,000 to Return To Freedom for the feeding and care of the horses while they awaited transportation to their new homes. For information on adopting any of the remaining horses, contact our office.

WCRO worked with HSUS's Rural Area Veterinary Services to castrate nearly 80 mustangs to make them more adoptable. The horses had been rescued from neglect at a Buellton, California, "sanctuary." Here they are rounded up before treatment.
WCRo Aids During Florida Hurricanes

Florida was storm weary. But the needs of Panhandle. VVCRO Aids During Florida Hurricanes

Preparing for Disaster

E ach year, WCRo staff members exhibit HSUS disaster preparedness materials, explain how HSUS's disaster services teams work, and conduct training for emergency responders. WCRo's Curt Ransom and Paul Bruce held a recent seminar on emergency animal sheltering at the Rodgers Senior Center in Huntington Beach, California. Huntington Beach Community Emergency Response Team’s Pet Care Team hosted the session.

The well-attended presentation included local humane society workers, animal control officers, veterinarians, and emergency response personnel. Key courses included community planning, worker health and safety, administrative issues, media relations, and the Incident Command Structure. Training for Disaster Animal Response Teams (DART) will be held June 23-25 in Orange County, California. The training is designed to provide the knowledge and hands-on experience needed to make participating effective responders in an animal disaster relief effort. For more information, please contact us. For more about disaster training and response, go to www.hsus.org/disaster.

WCRo Program Coordinator Paul Bruce unloads portable animal crates to transport pets left displaced by Hurricane Charley and Frances.

Arrest Made in Sacramento Cat Burning

Y August 2004, The HSUS offered a $2,500 reward for the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for dousing a kitten with lighter fluid and setting him on fire. Though alive when he was found, the kitten had to be euthanized because of his injuries. On August 30 of last year, Jimmie Jones, a 19-year-old Del Paso resident, was arrested and charged with felony animal cruelty. Jones allegedly told witnesses that the black cat was "bad luck" before he placed her on a barbecue and set him on fire. His case is currently pending trial. The HSUS plans to pay the reward to the person who tipped police to Jones' claims.

The HSUS is offering rewards in the following California cases to help bring animal abusers to justice. In most instances, the reward is $2,500.* Please note that all calls regarding the rewards will be kept strictly confidential.

Phoenix: The cat was burned in Cameron Park on November 29, 2004. Anyone with information about this case should call El Dorado County Animal Control at 530-621-7595.

Sacramento: $5,000 is offered in Sacramento blowgun attacks on dogs and cats at Miller Park Marina and Southside Park in September 2004. Call 916-808-5855 with information.

Los Angeles: A cow was killed with a bow and arrow in the Supervisor’s Glade area, northeast of Montague, California. Please call 530-842-5564 or 530-928-5363 with information.

Fifteen ducks were shot with pellet guns in Eureka’s Sequoia Park duck pond in July of 2004. This past February 10, more ducks were found shot. Contact the Eureka Police Department at 707-441-4178.

The HSUS and the Peninsula Humane Society have combined to offer a $3,000 reward in the case of unexplained drowning of two dogs at a Millbrae, California, residence on August 14, 2004. Call 650-340-7022, ext. 602.

$10,000 is offered in the case involving the shooting deaths of at least five feral cats at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles last July. Call the Los Angeles County Police Department at 310-225-8000.

Stopper the sea lion was found shot in a Napa vineyard in July 2004. Anyone with information is asked to call Ed Matovik at 707-812-4445.

$4,000 is offered in the case of two cats found suffocated in a plastic crate in the Bowman area of Placer County on March 15, 2004. Call Placer County Animal Control at 530-496-5248.

$5,000 is offered in the case of mutilation and decapitation of a rabbit in February 2004 at Davis High School in Davis, California. Contact the Davis Police Department at 530-747-5400.

*Any reward more than $2,500 is in combination with other groups or individuals.

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First Strike in Palm Springs

T he case of the black cat burns in Davis, California, showed their concern for animals and people when human and animal violence, and to identify some of the origins of violence, predict its patterns, intervene effectively before violence occurs, and prevent its escalation.

Certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, the workshop was sponsored by Desert Paws, a Palm Springs-based non-profit group, and hosted by the Palm Springs Police Department, Peace officers, prosecutors, humane and animal control officers, veterinarians, social workers, and other professionals attended. The workshop was co-sponsored by Dr. Randall Lockwood, HSUS vice president for research and educational outreach, and WCRo Director Eric Saksa.

You can learn more about the First Strike campaign at www.hsus.org/firststrike.

Animal Cruelty/ Human Violence

The Humane Society of the United States

First Strike in Palm Springs...
Contra Costa Coyotes Walk a Fine Line

Coyotes in California's Bay Area are increasingly coming into conflict with local residents. The latest incidents occurred last summer when San Jose officials began receiving numerous calls regarding missing pets and close encounters with coyotes in residential neighborhoods. Most of the calls came from the Villas of Almaden housing development, where two years ago, five coyotes were trapped and destroyed by Contra Costa County Vector Control.

Under increasing public pressure, the San Jose City Council voted on an emergency ordinance to allow the use of padded, steel-jawed leg hold traps to combat the perceived threat. Though narrowly defeated, the ordinance was scheduled to come up for consideration again in late October. At that meeting, WCRQ Program Coordinator Paul Bruce, Little Blue Society's Mary Pagliert, and the Animal Protection Institute's Camilla Fox joined with other animal protection groups in speaking out against the use of the traps and encouraging the council and residents to seek more humane alternatives, such as keeping pets indoors, installing fencing around livestock, and not leaving pet food or garbage accessible. By a slim six to five margin, the ordinance was again defeated.

Bay Area communities from Los Gatos to Santa Rosa have seen a recent rise in coyote/pet conflicts. To find out about humane ways of dealing with wildlife conflicts, go to www.wildneighboors.org.

The HSUS and The Fund for Animals Join Forces

The HSUS and The Fund for Animals (The Fund) officially joined forces in an unprecedented and historic combination on January 1, 2005. This is the first time in the history of the animal protection movement that two national, high-profile organizations have united in order to advance their common mission.

“The groups have decided to join forces not out of necessity but because we believe we can do more to help animals together than we can do operating separately,” said David O. Webers, M.D., chair of The HSUS board of directors.

The two groups plan to operate their advocacy programs under the banner of The HSUS, HSUS, and The Fund for Animals. This integration of programs and personnel will allow the combined organization to be more efficient in its efforts to achieve a broad range of animal protection goals.

The HSUS and The Fund for Animals have a long history of the animal protection movement that two national, high-profile organizations have joined forces not out of necessity but because we believe we can do more to help animals together than we can do operating separately.”

WCRO, RAVS on the Rez

In recent months, WCRO has journeyed often with Rural Area Veterinary Service (RAVS) teams. RAVS is the HSUS program that brings free veterinary services to underserved rural and Native American communities around the globe. Volunteer veterinary students work with experienced veterinarians to provide essential animal health services such as sterilizations and vaccinations, as well as educational programs on a variety of topics, including disease prevention and animal care.

Last year, WCRO Regional Coordinator Curt Ramsam (below) traveled with the RAVS team to the Duck Valley and Duck Water reservations in Nevada. In April 2005, he again joined the team in Duck Valley and Jackpot, Nevada, and also went to Fort Hall, Idaho. In Jackpot, Ramsam assisted local humane advocates in capturing cats from a feral cat colony to be spayed and neutered at the RAVS clinic.

Early this year, WCRO's Paul Brice joined the RAVS team in Covelo, California. The team recently sterilized 98 dogs and cats and vaccinated 200 for rabies.

Bruce is a registered veterinary technician whose medical knowledge was a great asset to the team.

Humane education is an important aspect of RAVS clinics, so the team made presentations at schools and community centers and offered tours of the clinics, which proved an ideal way of engaging students' interest in both animal care and the RAVS program. Most importantly, regional personnel also provide teachers and other local educators with humane education materials.

Legislative Update

For up-to-date reports of proposed legislation in California, Hawaii, and Nevada, go to WCRO's Web page at www.wcus.org/wcros. Click on the "WCRO Legislative Activity" link and then on your state.

California
- Animal fighting penalties. S.B. 156 increases the penalty for a second or subsequent violation of the animal fighting statute from a misdemeanor (punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for up to one year) to a felony punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for up to three years. Support.
- Internet hunting. S.B. 1028 makes it unlawful for anyone to take birds or mammals—located both in state and out of state—by means of computer-assisted remote hunting; establish or operate a computer-assisted remote hunting site in the state for the purpose of permitting the taking of any bird or mammal; possess or confine any bird or mammal in furtherance of an activity prohibited by the bill; and import or export any bird or mammal, or any part thereof, taken by computer-assisted remote hunting. Support.
- Listening and responding to the need for an enhanced focus onmathrm prevention and animal care.
- Providing for innovative sessions, as well as educational programs on a variety of topics, including disease prevention and animal care.

Hawaii
- Dog breed discrimination. S.B. 137 prohibits an insurance company from terminating, modifying, or refusing to renew any insurance policy on the basis of the policy holder's dog breed when the dog has no history of biting. Support.
- Establishing marine reserves. H.B. 399 designates marine reserves encompassing a minimum of 20 percent of the state's marine waters around each of the main Hawaiian islands. Support.

Nevada
- Vicious dogs and animal fighting. A.B. 318 provides that a dog is vicious if he kills or inflicts serious injury on a person or domesticated animal. Support.
- Oppose. Licensing requirements for trapping exotic pests. A.B. 87 exempts structural pest control operators from licensing requirements for trapping mammals.

Two CA Lawmakers Get Awards

Two California legislators have been honored with legislative achievement awards from The HSUS for outstanding efforts to pass laws that protect animals.

California Assemblyman Paul Koretz sponsored and passed A.B. 1857, which banned the declawing of large cats such as tigers and lions, the first such law in the country. Special recognition goes to Koretz' chief of staff Theresa Stark for her tireless lobbying for A.B. 1857. Assemblyman Korets has been a long time champion of the animals. He sponsored a passing resolution to make Hollywood an animal-cruelty-free zone, and in 2003 he sponsored bills to ban pound seizure and bear hounding. While these bills did not pass, they were excellent tools for education, and we hope to see them again.

California Sen. John Burton sponsored and championed the passage of S.B. 1520, the bill to outlaw the force-feeding of ducks and geese for the production of foie gras. This legislation also bans the sale of foie gras that is produced in such a manner. The law goes into effect in 2012 to give the producers time to adapt to the new requirements or shut down. This is the first law in the country to ban this type of abuse.

I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative. Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency. Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS. Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS. Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

Promising the protection of all animals

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES WCRQ Regional News Spring 2005

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES WCRQ Regional News Spring 2005
Director's Report

By Eric Sakach
Director of the West Coast Regional Office

Helping Animals Is Easier Than You Think

Hardly a week goes by that I don’t hear from someone wanting to know what he or she can do to help animals. And anyone who knows me knows that I’m never short on suggestions.

Generally, one of the first things I’ll suggest is becoming a member of The HSUS. The simple act of becoming a member (or renewing your membership) with The HSUS is possibly the easiest way to demonstrate your concern while supporting our efforts to help companion animals and wildlife, as well as animals on farms and used in research. A membership with The HSUS will help fund our educational, legislative, investigative, and outreach projects throughout the region, across the U.S., and around the world.

If you’re already a member, why not consider making a memorial donation in honor of a pet, friend, or relative? You can through our Kindred Spirits program. And if you’d like to contribute in a more structured way, our planned giving office has suggestions about estate planning, annuities, and even gifts of stock that can help avoid capital gains taxes.

While our Urban Wildlife Sanctuary Program can show you how to create a habitat for your wild neighbors right in your own backyard, our Wildlife Land Trust can help you if you have land that you would like to preserve as a lasting wildlife habitat.

If you’re already a member and you want to be more active, try speaking out for animals. Our Web site www.hsus.org always has action alerts about national, state, or county matters that affect animals.

Are you interested in learning more about the legislative process and how you can become an important part of it? The Humane Activist Network is HSUS’s national grassroots network of people who work to pass animal protection legislation. Your participation will help make the Network a success. By working together, we can amplify our voice for animals and make a real difference.

So you see, it’s easy to help animals. All you need to do is ask.

Making your yard more friendly to wildlife is just one of many easy ways to help animals.

Training on a Large Scale

On a daily basis, animal care and control officers confront cases that involve numerous neglected and abused animals. These always difficult situations can involve hundreds of animals of multiple species on a single property. At HSUS’s Animal Care Expo 2005 in Atlanta, Georgia, a day-long workshop, Large-Scale Animal Investigations for Smaller Agencies and Budgets, covered many of the legal and logistical aspects of handling a difficult multi-animal investigation and rescue. This vital training was designed to empower smaller agencies to address cases that are not normally handled due to their overwhelming nature. Attendees learned how a small or even unsheltered agency can process animals as evidence for cruelty law enforcement. They were shown the necessary on-site documentation—including photographs, paperwork, videos, and sketching skills—essential for a successful cruelty rescue or impound.

Also, options were explored for prosecuting the case without physically impounding all or any of the animals. Other novel concepts discussed included creative enforcement and sentencing and sheltering at multiple agencies.

If your agency is interested in forming a local task force for disaster events and investigating hoarding, livestock, and animal fighting cases, please contact our office.

Contacting HSUS

Write: HSUS West Coast Regional Office P.O. Box 417220 Sacramento, CA 95841-7220 Call: 916-344-1710 Fax: 916-344-1808 Web Page: www.hsus.org/wcro

Promoting the protection of all animals