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West Coast Regional Office

REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

SPRING/SUMMER 1982

RODEO — CRUELTY DISGUISED AS SPORT

Rodeo is big business where the bucks matter as much as the bucking. Each year thousands of professionally sanctioned rodeos attract millions of spectators and pay competing cowboys millions of dollars in prize money. Unfortunately, the many animals supplied by stock contractors to be roped, ridden, wrestled, and “busted” on the rodeo circuit will be the big losers.

Rodeo contestants claim that the animals seldom get hurt and they lead enviable lives. A recent news article stated, “Today’s pro rodeo bucking horse spends approximately five minutes a year ‘working’ by either bucking PRCA cowboys off or carrying them to the pay window.” When analyzed, that claim gives a clear illustration of the terribly difficult and stressful life these animals actually lead.

In bronc riding, the horse is ridden only eight seconds at each outing. It takes more than 37 outings to equal five minutes “work,” meaning the horse is really used for a bronc riding event about every two and a half days through the three month rodeo season. This, however, is just the action the public sees. Behind the scenes, animals are used over and over again in practice and training sessions. Greater abuses probably occur in practice than in public because cruelties that might disqualify a cowboy in competition are just a learning experience in training.

Each outing in public or private brings the possibility of bruises from nervous rearing or shying while in the chute, abrasion injuries from being raked by the rider’s spurs, and muscle or tendon injuries sustained while bucking and charging about the arena. Additionally, there is the pain and terror of being shocked out of the chute with an electric prod, and the short and long term effects of the flank strap that is used to make the horse buck wildly.

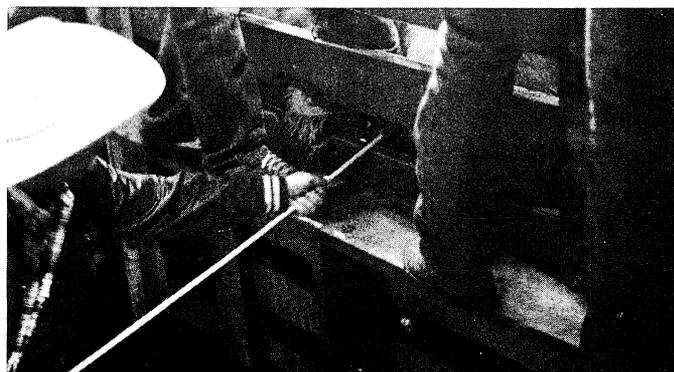
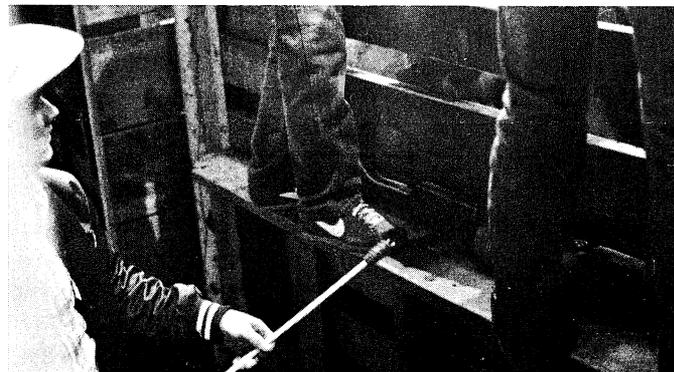
Calves, bulls, and steers used in rodeo face different abuses in the ring, but virtually all rodeo animals have in common the day-to-day drudgery and stress of being transported constantly from place to place in conditions that, in the long run, can be dangerous to the animal’s health. Though a horse or bull may seem ill-tempered, wild-eyed, and mean as it bucks around the arena, what spectators are really seeing is a terrified, tormented animal making money for its rider, its owner, and the rodeo sponsors, while living in misery itself.

Calf roping is possibly the most pitiful event in rodeo. A calf may be running 27 miles per hour when the lasso tightens around its neck, jerking it to a sudden stop. The

cowboy flings it to the ground and must tie three of its legs in ten seconds or less. If the calf hits the end of the rope with enough force, it will be jerked off its feet and slammed to the ground. The force of the impact can cause bruising and hemorrhaging around the neck and shoulders.

In steer busting, the animal must be jerked to the ground by the rope. The cowboy lassoes the steer around the neck or horns (usually horns), loops the lariat around the rear end of the steer, and gallops his horse off at an angle that will trip the steer. The steer’s legs are knocked from under him and he is flipped into the air, sometimes being swung around 180° and slammed to the ground on his back. Other events such as team steer roping and steer

(continued page 2)



Rodeo association rules for humane treatment are ignored as illustrated by this sequence of photos taken behind the chutes at last year’s Grand National Rodeo in the Cow Palace. Moments before the rider and bucking horse are released from the chute an electric prod is used on the horse’s abdomen even though the rules state the “animal shall be touched only on the hip or shoulder area with the prod.”

HSUS/SAKACH

Rodeo Cruelty (continued)

wrestling are even more popular and may result in broken bones and injuries to the horns and neck muscles.

Rodeo associations defend their events against humanitarian complaints by pointing to a list of rules that allegedly insure humane treatment of livestock. Some of these rules are much too lax and some inherently cruel acts are overlooked altogether. Conditions are even worse for animals in the non-sanctioned, bush-league rodeos that account for almost 70% of all rodeos in this country.

HSUS AND AHA ISSUE JOINT POLICY STATEMENT ON RODEO CRUELTY

The Humane Society of the United States and the American Humane Association have reached common accord in their positions on uses of animals in rodeo events. Both societies have issued a joint rodeo policy statement that reads as follows:

"The Humane Society of the United States and the American Humane Association are opposed to rodeos because they result in torment, harassment, and stress being inflicted upon the participating animals and expose rodeo stock to the probability of pain, injury, or death. We denounce this type of unnecessary exploitation and the use of devices such as electric prods, sharpened sticks, spurs, flank straps, and other rodeo tack which cause animals to react violently. We find these abuses cannot be justified.

We have determined that professionally sanctioned rodeos often ignore the established guidelines intended to prevent cruelty. Furthermore, we have determined that abuse and suffering occur during nonsanctioned or amateur competitions and especially when animals are used repetitively for practice. Therefore, we believe that a program of official humane supervision cannot effectively prevent the cruelties inherent in rodeo.

The HSUS and AHA contend that rodeos are not an accurate or harmless portrayal of ranching skills; rather, they display and encourage an insensitivity to and acceptance of brutal treatment of animals in the name of sport. Such callous disregard of our moral obligations toward other living creatures has a negative impact on society as a whole and on impressionable children in particular. It is, therefore, our mutual policy to oppose all rodeos, to educate the public about our humane objections, and to encourage like-minded individuals and groups to seek the elimination of rodeo cruelties through a program of local activism."

The WCRO invites and encourages all members and local societies to join with us in affirming this policy. Humanitarians wishing a copy of the statement should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope along with their request to: HSUS/WCRO, 1713 J Street, #305, Sacramento, CA 95814. Organizations wishing to join with us in this statement should state so on their organizational letterhead and forward their response to The HSUS, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 200037, attention John A. Hoyt.

Shelter Studies Completed

CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO ANIMAL CONTROL

WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach has completed a study of the animal sheltering facility and animal control operations for the City of San Bernardino. The WCRO received a formal request for the evaluation from Mayor W. R. "Bob" Holcomb, the City Council, City Administrator, and the Animal Advisory Commission. Following the study, a report of Sakach's findings with recommendations for improvements were forwarded to officials. A letter of thanks has been received from Mayor Holcomb stating, in part, "It is with appreciation for the professional and courteous manner in which you conducted your review of the City of San Bernardino's Animal Shelter and operations that I report that the City's Animal Advisory Commission, in concert with Animal Control Department staff, have already resolved several of the major concerns identified in your report." The letter also stated that our recommended policy and procedural changes have already been addressed. A number of revisions have been implemented, minor structural modifications have begun, and major structural modifications are being prepared for the annual budget process.

ALAMEDA COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

In response to requests from the Alameda County Grand Jury and County Animal Control Supervisor Rick Gerber, an in-depth study of the County's animal control program and sheltering facilities was undertaken by Eric Sakach of this office. A report of Sakach's findings with recommendations for improvements has been sent to area officials.

ANIMAL NEEDS: National and Regional

The West Coast Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States coordinates national programs with direct attention to this region. You are aware that our major concern is the prevention of cruelty and suffering to animals.

Among our several programs which address the needs of animals is one which provides for your financial needs and at the same time creates a future gift for animal welfare.

If you would like to know more about the dual benefits of our Life Income Program, please send for the society's brochure entitled "Planning for the Future."

Mail to: Paul G. Irwin,
Vice President/Treasurer
The Humane Society
of the United States
2100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

DIRECTOR'S DESK



1982 has been a busy year for legislation. In California, passage of Senator David Roberti's SB 1438, which prohibits dogs and cats being released from shelters for research purposes, has been a major goal for over 100 humane organizations. Petitions with over 200,000 names on them have been turned in. Four hundred and thirty eight doctors signed a statement: "Pound seizure is an ill-conceived practice, damaging to the good name of science and to its quality. The use of animals from shelters for experimentation is not only unnecessary and unethical, it is detrimental to sound research."

If Assemblyman Larry Kapiloff's AB 3048 passes the Senate, children and animals will not be allowed to ride in the backs of pickup trucks unsecured.

The mountain lion moratorium bill, SB 1333, passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly. We're sorry that this bill is not a permanent moratorium, but only for three years.

Guard dog training schools at present do not have to be licensed or bonded. Assemblyman Richard Katz introduced AB 2456 to meet this need. The bill went through the Assembly and is now on the Senate side.

If you'd like a list of California legislation that becomes law, drop us a line and, when the session is over, we will send you one.

Char Dremow
DIRECTOR

An Education In Illegal Animal Fighting Ventures At Cerritos Community College

Co-sponsored by the South East Area Animal Control Authority, Cerritos Community College, in Norwalk, California, hosted a seminar on illegal animal fighting ventures for law enforcement personnel in mid-May. About 100 peace officers, humane officers, and animal control officers attended. The program was conducted by WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach and HSUS Director of Investigations Frantz Dantzer.

IT'S FREE!

Leaving your pet in a parked car when it's warm or humid can be a deadly mistake. The HSUS has produced a new "Warning" flyer and poster to spread the word and you can help. Get permission to display the poster and flyer at your local department store, grocery store, veterinarian's office, or any place where cars are parked. Send your name and address to "Summer Warning," The Humane Society of the United States, 1713 J Street, #305, Sacramento, CA 95814. We will send you 10 flyers and a display poster free of charge.

AB 2600 IS DEAD, BUT THE MOMENTUM IS ALIVE . . .



Also appearing during hearings on AB 2600 was Nariz, an eight year old shepard mix which lost its nose in a steel jaw trap.

In the course of trying to get AB 2600 through the California Legislature, the bill was compromised in such a manner that the entire thrust of it was lost.

Using HSUS' model bill allowing for predator and disease control, Assemblyman Sam Farr's AB 2600 would have banned the private or commercial use of the steel jaw trap. We were cognizant that a total ban would not have made it through even the first committee. To show strength and support for this needed legislation, The HSUS, West Coast Regional Office, formed a coalition of 83 organizations, every major humane organization in California, the California Animal Control Officers' Association, numerous animal control agencies, and the Executive Board of the Contra Costa Veterinary Association.

The HSUS coalition gathered over 70,000 signatures on petitions and held three large press conferences. The Marin Humane Society and WCRO initiated a Children and Youth Against the Steel Jaw Trap Campaign. Another capitol press conference highlighted Marshall Elementary School children with their posters and petitions to ban the trap. Humanitarians won editorials against the trap in the LOS ANGELES TIMES, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, SAN JOSE MERCURY, LOS ANGELES HERALD EXAMINER, and many papers carried articles on trapping and Letters to the Editor. Numerous radio and television interviews were given by coalition members and the WCRO.

AB 2600 passed the first committee, a first in itself for legislation of this sort, which was opposed all the way by the Cattlemen's Association, National Rifle Association, California Federation of Wildlife, Woolgrowers Association, AFL/CIO, the fur industry, trappers' groups, California Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Game, California Farm Bureau, and local farm bureaus. However, in order to push the bill through the second committee, Assemblyman Farr made a number of amendments which were unacceptable to the HSUS coalition.

While this is disheartening news, we are not through. There is more momentum now than ever before on getting rid of this cruel device. Just as with past legislation banning the decompression chamber and experiments on live animals in elementary and high schools, difficult issues in the California Legislature take a number of tries.

The WCRO is revamping the petitions and redoing the Children and Youth Against the Steel Jaw Trap Kit. The HSUS will continue the fight for the welfare of animals.

NAAHE On The West Coast

The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, a division of The Humane Society of the United States, and the Northwest Humane Educators' Association co-hosted a two-day humane education workshop in Portland, Oregon on May 14-15, 1982.

The workshop was a working meeting with opportunities for the participants to become actively involved in their own learning experience. Gauging from the evaluation sheets passed out at the end of the meeting, the participants clearly had received practical assistance for beginning and/or improving their humane education efforts.

Featured speakers were: Kathy Savesky, Director, NAAHE; Walter Morey, a children's author; Dian Kaufman, Director of Humane Education, Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society; Carol Moulton, a freelance writer; Char Drennon, Director, HSUS, West Coast Regional Office; and Judi Kukulka, Humane Information Associate, HSUS, West Coast Regional Office.

During the meeting our newly released NAAHE **People and Animals: A Humane Education Curriculum Guide** was discussed in detail and ideas were given for putting it to good use. Also, Kathy Savesky and Judi Kukulka had visited the state departments of education in Washington, Oregon, and California to discuss with officials how humane educators in their states could best assist teachers through the use of the curriculum guide. The response was exceptional and Kathy and Judi met with the Oregon and Washington workshop participants to share the positive suggestions and guidance offered by their respective state officials. Judi later met with California humane educators on June 18, 1982 in Monterey for a one-day WHEA mini-workshop on the use of the guide. She shared with them the information and guidelines offered at the California State Department of Education visit.

If you are not familiar with HSUS's new national curriculum guide or you know an educator you'd like introduced to it, send your and/or their name and address

to the West Coast Regional Office and we'll send an informative brochure by return mail. We are proud the guide has been so well received by state officials, teachers, and humane educators. It was field tested by 350 teachers in seventeen states and in Ontario, Canada. An overwhelming 80% indicated they would use the guide on a regular basis. HUMANE EDUCATION has definitely arrived.

High Marks For HSUS Academy and Students

HSUS' Animal Control Academy held its 100-hour Animal Control Certification program at Peninsula Humane Society's Humane Education Center in San Mateo, California, in February. Forty-four students from five states, including Alaska, attended the program which was co-sponsored by the Marin Humane Society.

HSUS' Academy opened its door in 1979 in cooperation with the University of Alabama's Law Enforcement Academy to answer a demand for professional training in animal control. Academy instructors include recognized authorities in animal care and control, university professors, and law enforcement officials. The students take an entrance exam; then, after two weeks of rigorous study, they retake the exam to determine their progress. Students at San Mateo improved their scores by as many as 20 points. The highest final grade was 98 out of a possible 100, and the class average was 89. They also receive eight units of continuing education credit and the opportunity to exchange ideas and information with others.

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Requests for assistance should be addressed to Charlene Drennon, West Coast Regional Director, 1713 J St., Suite 305, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916-447-3295). All contributions made to the HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.

The Humane Society of the United States

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