HSUS SEEKS TO END RABBIT BLINDING TESTS

An alternative for the Draize test must be found. This test is routinely used on the eyes of albino rabbits to test cosmetics and other chemicals. 65 to 100 million animals each year are being used as test subjects in the laboratories of cosmetic companies, drug manufacturers, and at university and commercial research facilities.

In 1974 an Ohio court held that it’s questionable that the results on a rabbit’s eyes can be extrapolated to human eyes. The cornea of rabbits’ eyes are thinner than that of humans.

The cosmetic and toiletries industry is estimated at a $10 billion dollar per year market. Approximately 4,000 companies manufacture and sell cosmetics. However, ten companies control about 3/5ths of the market according to a survey by Frost and Sullivan, a New York-based research firm.

The HSUS sent detailed arguments to the government agencies involved outlining why the Draize test should be dropped. We asked them to immediately fund research on alternatives. Dr. Andrew Rowan of HSUS’ Institute for the Study of Animal Problems met with a representative of a leading cosmetic manufacturer and asked that a meager one hundredth of one per cent of their gross sales be allocated to the project. Some research done in England in 1978 indicates it may be possible to develop a cell culture alternative.

The main point is that the time has come for government agencies and cosmetic companies to actively pursue research toward this goal.

Several months ago The HSUS joined a national coalition of animal welfare groups to bring recognition and take action to abolish the Draize test. Much work has been done on this project from HSUS headquarters. This summer our West Coast Regional Office headed a campaign in the western states to get HSUS members to sit down and discuss the problem with their congressmen and senators while they were at home in their local offices. We contacted veterinarians, attorneys, civic leaders, and businessmen who agreed to personally call on these legislators. For too long politicians have thought of animal activists as a minority group. Recently they are learning that many people who support their campaigns care very much about their attitude toward animals and the humane ethic. A number of HSUS members were angry to discover some congressmen and senators they had supported had turned a deaf ear to animal-related problems.

YOU CAN HELP. If you are willing to do so, write to the WCRO and we will send you HSUS’ Special Report on the Draize test as well as other useful information.

Oregon Citizens Can Outlaw Steel Traps . . .

An initiative that would forbid sale and use of snare and leghold traps to catch furbearing animals and phase out trapping of predators has qualified for the November ballot in the state of Oregon. Humanitarians managed to collect well over the required 54,773 signatures by the July 3rd due date. It will be designated BALLOT MEASURE #5 and needs a YES YOTE. If passed, it would restrict trapping of predators where livestock has been lost. Losses must be verified by the State Department of Agriculture. After November 10, 1985 steel traps could be used only when human health and safety is endangered. The determination of when human health and safety is at stake will be decided by the Oregon State Health Division. Should such a determination be made by that division a permit would be required allowing trapping only for a limited time and within a clearly defined geographical area.

Violation of provisions of BALLOT MEASURE #5 would impose the penalty of a Class A misdemeanor.

Some veterinarians have formed Oregon Veterinarians Against Trapping, headed by Dr. Robert Fulton of Portland.

(Continued next page)
Oregon Citizens Cont.

Joni O'Donahue is campaign coordinator for Oregonians Against Trapping. Her address is 1436 E. Taylor Street, Portland, OR 97214.

The WCRO is sending ALERTS to HSUS members and friends in Oregon to help get out the vote FOR BALLOT MEASURE #5.

Every Oregon citizen who cares about the suffering inflicted on defenseless animals caught in these cruel traps and snares should make it a point to vote for this measure in the November general election.

In WASHINGTON STATE

A similar initiative on trapping failed by a small margin to obtain enough signatures to qualify for the November 1980 ballot. However, over 100,000 of the 121,713 needed were gathered in a very short time. PAWS of Lynnwood, Washington reports that they will begin gathering signatures again in January for a Washington State Initiative to Outlaw Steel Traps in 1981.

Animal Shelters in the News

GOLDEN STATE HUMANE SOCIETY

Golden State Humane Society and its president, Robert Fischer, won a commendation from the City of Long Beach for providing low-cost spay and neuter clinics, emergency medical treatment, animal vaccination and inoculations, and programs of education on the humane treatment of animals presented in local school classrooms.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA SPCA

Char Drennon, HSUS Regional Director visited Central California SPCA’s newly built veterinary spay clinic. A doctor has already been hired and the opening will be in September. Congratulations go to Gib Rambo, Executive Director. It’s one of the finest clinics on the West Coast. What’s even better is Mt. Rainer, the Central California SPCA have the support of their local veterinary association.

CITY OF SEATTLE

HSUS members in Seattle were becoming discouraged because the city council had not voted the necessary funding for a new shelter and spay clinic. HSUS personnel have visited the Seattle facility and in meetings with representatives of the city pointed out the old facility must go. Finally private money was raised toward the project and citizens voted for it on the ballot. WCRO wrote to Mayor and each city council member urging them to move ahead on this project. In July the council voted to authorize allocation of $705,000 expenditure toward the facility.

Mayor Charles Royer wrote Char Drennon, “I do appreciate your continuing fight for humane animal care. Your assistance has been invaluable in our strategy to move from the awful old shelter to our interim quarters (a vast improvement) and finally next year to a great new structure.”

CITY OF SPOKANE

The HSUS has provided assistance and informational materials to the City of Spokane to study the feasibility of replacing the presently-used decompensation chamber with the sodium pentobarbital by injection method for small animal euthanasia. The proposal is entitled “Animals in Urban Environments Project” which is intended as a coordinating factor between all respective departments involved with animal control procedures, and to survey and review existing regulations and ordinances from across the nation in order to develop a model ordinance and animal control program for Spokane.

In a large letter of appreciation to the WCRO, Assistant to the Mayor Michael Carlson states, “As we delve further into the research aspect, it becomes even more evident there is no single clearinghouse of information except for The Humane Society of the United States, which provides the breadth of information needed for a comprehensive statement of humane guidelines and animal control operations.”

HSUS Tests Before CHRB

Testimony by The Humane Society of the United States was heard on July 14 before the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) in support of a proposal to adopt regulations set up by the National Association of State Racing Commissions (NASCRC). This proposal would require total control on the use of drugs at California’s racetracks. According to Robert Baker, Program Specialist for The HSUS and author of the book Use of Drugs in Horse Racing, “the adoption of these regulations is not a solution to all the problems at racetracks. But it is a first step in protecting the horse.” The HSUS is urging that the CHRB adopt the proposed medication rule with provisions for pre-race testing, a prohibition on horses racing under the influence of any drug, and ensuring that samples are frozen as an additional deterrent for future testing.

DIRECTOR’S DESK

Your Help Makes It Happen

This brief newsletter can only hit the highlights of the work the WCRO has been doing. We are also working to educate city council members and continue our education efforts.

The HSUS has testified before the Cowlitz County Horse Racing Board (CCHS) in support of allowing the HSUS Regional Director access to the Cowlitz SPCA, which serves as a single clearinghouse and is part of the state’s horse racing and animal welfare oversight.

The eruption of Mt. St. Helens in southwest Washington could be termed the worst natural wild animal disaster in American history. Frantz Dantzler, Director of Field Services and Investigations for The Humane Society of the United States, and Eric Sakach of the Southwest Regional Office, with two agents of the Massachusetts SPCA were on the scene to lend assistance to the Cowlitz County Humane Society (CHHS) in Longview, Washington, and to survey damage to wildlife and assess if any special aid to animals was needed. Working with Cowlitz County Humane Society officers and dedicated volunteers, HSUS and MSPCA personnel developed a contingency plan in case the CCHS shelter would have to be evacuated.

After search and rescue missions for missing persons were discontinued, Army and National Guard helicopters were made available to HSUS and MSPCA personnel to fly reconnaissance missions in search of animals. Few living animals were sighted on the first flight; however, assistance for subsequent missions herds of up to 40 elk were observed sharing pasture with cattle on greener spots within the 20-mile red zone. While in no way final, the estimated wild animal losses include 5,290 Roosevelt elk, 6,500 blacktailed deer, 150-200 black bears, 100 mountain goats, 15 mountain lions, almost half a million in marine life, and 1.5 million birds and small mammals. There was a tremendous loss of life at the moment of the initial blast. Tragically, the blast occurred during the calving period for elk. No elk calves were seen by the humane representatives during any of our missions.

In a letter to WCRO investigator, Eric Sakach, dated July 3, 1980, the Cowlitz County Humane Society wrote, “Without the able support of dedicated people like yourself, Eric, and The Humane Society of the United States, plus all the others who rallied to the cause, it would have been impossible for our small group to have copied with such a mammoth challenge. We ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL!!! Your knowledge and assistance helped immeasurably.”

The West Coast Regional Office continues to monitor Mt. St. Helens activity.
Don’t Miss the 1980 Annual Conference of The Humane Society of the United States


Animals do have rights in this world, and it’s our obligation to recognize and protect those rights. That’s what HSUS’ Annual Conference is all about — an opportunity to learn more about animal problems and what can and must be done to protect them from cruelty and suffering. Whether you have attended all our conferences or if this is your first — don’t miss it. It is one of the best ways to begin the decade of the eighties. It’s for everyone who cares about animals.

NATIONALLY KNOWN FIGURES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

... Among nationally known humanitarians to be featured are Dr. Michael Fox, director of HSUS’ Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, and Roger Caras, the nation’s first full-time television animal correspondent. By attending the workshops, general sessions, and special events, you’ll learn all about the issues and the solutions, how far we’ve come and where we’re going. You can’t help but become inspired with new dedication to our cause. One very special event will be a benefit concert by the Paul Winter Consort, a group well-known among jazz and blues fans as well as environmentalists.

JOIN WITH US IN SAN FRANCISCO . . . The site of the Conference, the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, is convenient to many well-known San Francisco sights and an appropriate setting for what promises to be the most exciting conference ever.

For fees, schedule, and registration forms, write or call: HSUS Conference, 1713 J Street, Suite 305, Sacramento, California 95814 — (916) 447-3295.

Mourning Doves . . . Song Bird or Game Bird

Some people appreciate the Mourning Dove and consider it a song bird, while hunters consider it a resource that should be hunted. The controversy has been going on for some time. This November there will be a ballot measure in South Dakota that will protect this beautiful bird if it passes. Isn’t it about time that more of the western states look into viable management of this species? The Committee for Dove Protection believes it is. If you are interested in this issue, let us know and we’ll give your name to the committee.

The Needs Of The Animals Will Continue . . .

The Humane Society of the United States is committed to the goal of ending animal cruelty and suffering. Your membership increases the Society’s ability to stamp out cruelty through legal, legislative, and educational avenues. Unfortunately, man’s cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end during your lifetime. But a bequest through your Will will be a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

Your request for information about Wills will be treated in the strictest confidence by our General Counsel. Please write to: Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

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.