WCRO Summer 1995

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Animal Celebrities Moving to the West Coast

In upcoming months, three famous animals will arrive at their new homes on the West Coast. Keiko, the long-suffering whale featured in the movie *Free Willy*, will soon be coming to Oregon. The whale's move is part of an effort to explore the rehabilitation of marine mammals for eventual return to their natural homes. To further these efforts, the Free Willy Foundation has been established. The foundation will facilitate the building of a new home for Keiko, his transport from Mexico, and rehabilitation for his hoped-for release. One member of the foundation's board is HSUS President Paul G. Irwin.

The other two newcomers, Tammie and Anne, are Milwaukee Zoo elephants for whom The HSUS led a nationwide campaign. They will soon arrive at their new home, the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), in Galt, California. We are thrilled that these two wonderful creatures will live the rest of their lives in sunny California. And we offer our sincere thanks to actors Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger and Oakland A's manager Tony La Russa, who long campaigned for the elephants' release. Thanks also to PAWS's Pat Derby and Ed Stewart, who have taken on the huge task of socializing and caring for these two elephants.

We join all West Coast animal advocates in welcoming Keiko, Tammie, and Anne to their new homes.

Keiko, the orca who starred in the film *Free Willy*, swims in his small tank in Mexico. Soon he will arrive in his new home in Oregon, where it is hoped he will pave the way for rehabilitation and release of captive marine mammals back into the wild.
While we all devote time to changing people’s hearts concerning animals, it is also important for our laws to reflect these changes. Many animal-related bills, both good and bad, are now before the state legislature in our region. We need your help to support the good and defeat the bad! Here’s a state-by-state update:

**Washington**

The Legislature chose not to act on a bill initiated by The HSUS and the Progressive Animal Welfare Society to ban bear baiting and the hound hunting of bears, cougars, bobcats, and lynx.

The HSUS plans to launch a landmark wildlife protection initiative to ban the cruel practice of using hounds to facilitate the slaughter of black bears, bobcats, and cougars in Washington. If you live in Washington, look for the enclosed post card explaining how you can help.

There are many more bills being introduced in our region that affect animals. For more information on any of these, or to learn how you can become more involved, write or call WCRO.

**Keep Us Informed!**

It is impossible for us at the WCRO to review every newspaper and magazine in our region that addresses animals. So we need your help! If you see any article that we should respond to or know about, please clip it, note the name of the publication and the date it appeared, and forward it to WCRO. This will enable us to remain up-to-date on all animal issues in our region, and to make our voices heard!

**Oregon**

Although Ballot Measure 18, banning the use of bait in hunting bears and cougars, passed overwhelmingly last November, we are continuing to fight efforts to get the measure. Since its passage, the HSUS has led efforts to defeat 10 bills that would have damaged, delayed, or repealed Measure 18. The HSUS has also worked diligently to defeat a bill to expand deer and elk ranching in the state.

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**Nevada**

Known as the “Livestock Owners’ Bill of Rights,” SB 45 would essentially guarantee the “right” of those who possess virtually any animal to exploit that animal in almost any manner they choose. Oppose SB 45!

**California**

After years of hard work to protect mountain lions and their habitat, we achieved what we thought was the final victory in 1990 when the voters passed Proposition 117, permanently prohibiting lion hunting for sport and setting aside funds to purchase critical habitat. However, Proposition 117, permanently prohibiting lion hunting for sport and setting aside funds to purchase critical habitat, went on the March 1996 ballot to resume trophy hunting of mountain lions. The voters demanded by the voters, is under the March 1996 ballot to resume trophy hunting of mountain lions. Known as the Proposition 117, permanently prohibiting lion hunting for sport and setting aside funds to purchase critical habitat, Proposition 117, permanently prohibiting lion hunting for sport and setting aside funds to purchase critical habitat, Proposition 117, permanently prohibiting lion hunting for sport and setting aside funds to purchase critical habitat.

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**Upcoming Symposium**

You won’t want to miss The HSUS symposium, “The Case Against Captivity: Speaking for Whales and Dolphins,” to be held in Seattle, Washington, October 5-8, 1995. Look for detailed information about this symposium in this summer’s HSUS News.
WCRO: Busy for the Animals

Recently, WCRO investigator Eric Sakach was appointed director of The HSUS West Coast Regional Office, succeeding Charlene Drennon, who has moved on to other duties within The HSUS. An investigator with The HSUS since 1976, Sakach brings years of experience in animal protection and regional issues to the job.

It is a pleasure to begin my work as the new director of The HSUS West Coast Regional Office. I'm looking forward to the challenge of bringing WCRO into a new era for animals. As always, the office has been bustling. Whether it's helping local humane organizations deal with a flood or fighting for good animal protective legislation, WCRO is involved and committed to improving animals' lives.

Once again this spring, torrential rains, floods, and mud slides struck the West Coast. And once again, The HSUS stood ready to support relief efforts carried out by the local animal community. WCRO contacted local humane societies throughout the region to offer assistance and supplies while they were busy rounding up loose animals and searching for trapped ones. The animals were brought to a safe place until their owners could claim them. We extend special thanks to PETCO, a pet supply company that responded to our call for help by providing carriers, food, and other items to the relief effort of the SPCA of Monterey County.

Whether during a disaster or year-round, our organization can only be as effective as its members. We need our West Coast members to become more active! In this issue you'll see descriptions of many legislative bills affecting animals. If you are willing to make a telephone call or write a letter on behalf of the animals, please write the WCRO.

Another way for people who work for animals to become involved is to attend an annual HSUS Animal Care Expo. Expo '95, held in Orlando, Florida, was a resounding success. Hundreds of people from our region attended. This is a one-of-a-kind event—part animal trade show and part professional training, with workshops and seminars to teach people how to help animals. Also at the Expo, The HSUS released a new 40-minute training video, which instructs shelter personnel on handling cats. The video is available for $20 per copy from HSUS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Expo '96 will be in our region in Las Vegas, Nevada, on February 13-17 at the Riviera Hotel. The theme will be education, and, as part of the Expo, the Western Humane and Environmental Educators Association will be hosting a one-day seminar to train those who work or want to work in humane education.

Contact WCRO and we will place you on a mailing list to receive preview information. We invite everyone to Expo '96!

On a final note, we'd like to introduce Mike Winikoff, WCRO's new program coordinator. Mike has been in the animal protection movement for nine years. He has spent the last four years in our national office as HSUS legal investigator and as director of research and development for Humane Society International. Welcome, Mike!

Reflect for a moment...

How can I help animals and receive income and tax savings at the same time?

By making a planned gift to The Humane Society of the United States, you can assure that animals will receive the protection they need while providing significant tax savings and income to yourself. Naming The HSUS as a beneficiary of your estate or trust demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for future tasks. We will be happy to send our latest information on planned giving and our programs to help animals.

Mail this coupon in the envelope provided or send directly to Director of Planned Giving, The Humane Society of the U.S., 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

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