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Congratulations to HSUS members. Never before has an issue caused so much activity and support on the part of our California members. A year ago the Citizens Against Decompression Chambers committee failed to qualify an initiative for the ballot. However, their work was not in vain because it had great educational value. Senator Alfred Song introduced Senate Bill 1481 to ban the use of decompression chambers in the state. The bill has passed both houses and is waiting for Governor Brown’s signature. All major humane groups, except two, supported this bill and worked diligently for its passage.

The California Veterinary Medical Association, American Humane, and Mercy Crusade testified against the bill. Los Angeles City and Mercy Crusade then attempted to amend the bill in a manner that would have killed it. The amendment would have required two hundred hours of training before a person could euthanize using sodium pentobarbital. Numerous people including Dr. John Oliver, DVM and Dr. Michael Fox, DVM agree that lay personnel can and have been trained to properly administer it in a very short period of time. Phyllis Wright, HSUS Director of Animal Control and Sheltering, says, “Either a person has the manual dexterity to administer a hypodermic or not. It doesn’t take long to determine this.”

HELP FOR THE NORTHWEST

In response to numerous requests, Char Drennon has been spending more time in the Northwest States helping local societies and animal control agencies. In the past six months, she has visited animal shelters and talked with officials from Eugene, Oregon to Vancouver, British Columbia. On a recent trip with Phyllis Wright of HSUS, she met with humanitarians from Seattle, Seattle City officials, Everett Animal Control, Whatcom Humane Society, and visited the Vancouver, British Columbia SPCA Spay Clinic.

Members from Oregon, Washington, or Idaho needing help from our office should write or call, and we will schedule a visit on our next field trip.

Coming up, a NAAHE Humane Education Seminar in Seattle in April 1979.
At
HSUS
Unannounced
The HSUS West
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Director of the Sacramento
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HSUS West
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blood sport thrown out. Unfortunately, there are
national organization which is attempting to get
Senator Robbins’ bill, SB 1579, which would have
increased the penalty for cockfighting to a felony with a
$50,000
penalty. Senator Robbins is one of the most vocal in urging their views
with and learning about the results we
have recently published. The full story is available at:
http://www.hsus.org/
PACIFICO

ANIMAL SHELTERS IN THE NEWS

LOS ANGELES SPCA
As reported in the last issue of this newsletter: HSUS staff
members conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the Los Angeles SPCA’s Hawthorne, South Gate, and
Main animal shelter facilities. The report and recom­
endations were sent to the Los Angeles area city
managers who were currently contracting with the Los
Angeles SPCA. Eric Sakach conducted a follow-up
inspection of the Hawthorne and South Gate facilities,
noting improvements in shelter conditions and remain­
problem areas. A copy of the report and recom­
endations were sent to the Los Angeles SPCA.

ANIMAL COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
The Animal Council of Southern California is a newly
formed coalition of citizens concerned with the
problems of fragmented animal control services, animal
abuse, overpopulation and inhumane practices within
animal shelters in the Los Angeles and Orange County
areas. The ACSC is open to new and constructive ideas
and projects from all sources and hopes that its goals
will result in a model for other communities. Commu­
nication should be addressed to 3435 Wilshire Blvd.,
Room 320, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

DELTA STOCKTON HUMANE SOCIETY
We applaud the relationship between the San Joaquin County Veterinary Association and the Delta Stockton
Humane Society. Each month, one of 15 veterinarians donates his time to examine and treat animals at the shelter. The
Delta Stockton Humane Society is also breaking ground for
their new humane education, administration and
clinic building, made possible through a grant from the
George M. Whittell estate.

NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY
The Nevada Humane Society is about to embark on
the construction of the state’s first full-service animal
welfare center on four acres of ground in the City of
Sparks. The building of this multi-purpose, humane
education, investigation, animal holding and care
facility will cost some nine hundred thousand dollars. A
gift from the Whitteme estate. The NHS and its Board of
Directors expect their new programs to reach through­
out the State of Nevada once the facility is operational
in early 1979.

COCKFIGHTING: An Update
Cockfighting remains a misdemeanor in California.
Sen. Robbins’ bill, SB 1579, which would have
increased the penalty for cockfighting to a felony with a
maximum sentence of 4 years, was defeated in committee
hearings. Charlene Drennon, HSUS West Coast Regional
Director, testified in the hearings that HSUS undercover
agents had attended illegal cockfights almost every weekend since the beginning of the year and that the
cruel sport was on the increase in California.

The undercover work eventually led to a large
cockfighting derby which was successfully raided by
HSUS with assistance from the El Dorado County
Sheriff’s Department and California Highway Patrol
April this year. According to Drennon’s testimony, “The
idea that cockfighting is an ethnic habit only of the
Mexican-American community is incorrect. Those arrested at the raid were white, middle class and betting money at
the derby was estimated at $20,000.” Drennon also
stated that the cockfighters now have a powerful
national organization which is attempting to get
legislation for cockfighting reduced and laws against
the blood sport thrown out. Unfortunately, there are still
plenty of legislators who refuse to believe that this is a
bloody sport which involves extremely large sums of
illegal gambling money and can possibly be linked to
organized crime.

Our office has begun a new project that may be
one of the most important we’ve ever initiated.
Under legislation that passed last year in California
(Amended Bill 1033) every elementary and secondary school in the
state will form a local on-site council comprised of parents and community leaders.
These councils will then have the power to tell the
local school exactly what it needs incorporated into the
curriculum. The members of these school
on-site councils will be elected.

If you want to see the humane ethic and knowledge of all living creatures taught in your school, you can help us. Call your local county
board of education and find out if your council has
been formed yet (only a few have). If not, make yourself
available to run for it, or support a humane-minded
friend. If the local school council has been formed,
send our office the name and address of the
head of the council and we will contact them
with help and information we are preparing about
experience in teaching humane education in the
classroom. Get your friends to contact the council
members and attend their meetings to
make them get the point and introduce other animal
related subjects. Urge them not to look upon humane education as a separate subject, but one to be integrated into all grade levels and all subject
areas. Our office will act as a resource center for
those councils considering this type of education.
We will also be in contact with all the county
boards of education during this coming year.

Our National Association for the Advancement of
Humane Education Division will work toward the
goal of getting the humane ethic incorporated into
the entire California school system.

It’s a big task but we look forward to it.
Remember, if you are on a council your ideas will
prevail, and if you aren’t, the council will be
listening to the most vocal in urging their views
be taught. Fortunately, we have been offered
the help and guidance of a top official in the
California State Department of Education. Eric
Judd, and I are enthusiastic about the results we
know working together we can accomplish. We
thank you for any help you can give us. Physically,
spiritually, or financially toward this goal.

DIRECTOR’S DESK

GETTING RESULTS
Recently, our office was alerted by one of our
members who noticed an advertisement by I. Magnin in
Los Angeles for ladies shoes sporting the shine and
texture of Indian Cobra. Since the sale of products
containing the parts of endangered species is prohibited
by law and the Cobra is protected under California
Penal Code Section 653(o), we contacted the Los
Angeles City Attorney with the information. After
the investigation, it was determined that the shoes didn’t
really contain snakes after all, and so resulted in the
Attorney’s Office filing a false advertising action against
I. Magnin.

Mr. Burt Pines, the Los Angeles City Attorney, is
committed to vigorous prosecution of endangered
species statutes and has recently convicted three
defendants for selling false products that contained
alligator skins. In another case, a defendant
admitted to selling clothing containing parts of
endangered species as a result of a search warrant
issued by the District Attorney’s Office. The
defendants were released on personal recognizance and
will appear in court at a later date.

First Western Humane Educators’ Association
Workshop
The first meeting of the Western Humane Educators’
Association was held on July 21-22, 1978 and was
hosted by the Santa Barbara Humane Society. Featured
at the workshop was an advertisement by Joan Mascari, a
photographer who showed how to make printed materials
more effective; Rafael Maldonado, a photographer for
the Santa Barbara News-Press who discussed the
technical aspects of animal photography; Jean Hey­
wood, the photographer and editor for Santa Barbara
Zoo’s newsletter, Zoo-logic, who showed how to
produce a professional newsletter single-handed on a
slimmer budget; and Paula Paxton, Education Coordinator
at the Santa Barbara Zoo.

I’m proud that the work of our office in getting
humane educators acquainted with one another has
resulted in the forming of this important and exciting
association,” said Char Drennon, West Coast Regional
Office Director.
LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The following bills have passed both houses and will become law when the Governor signs them.

SB 490, Senator Roberti
Movie anti-cruelty bill.

SB 1481, Senator Song
Bans the use of decompression chambers.
(see cover story)

AB 2840, Assemblyman Mello
Unlawful to possess, capture or confine any cat except house cats.

AB 3165, Assemblyman Mello
Animal shelters that release animals for research must advise citizen surrendering animal in writing that it may be used for research.

The Needs Of 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.

HOPE FOR THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR?

The California condor is the largest flying bird in North America. With a wingspread of up to nine feet, it is a living link with the Ice Age and has no known natural enemies — except for man. Man's encroachment of the wilderness, with his hunting, recreation, pollution, range management practices, and agricultural advancements has brought another species to the brink of almost certain extinction. Today, there are probably fewer than 30 of these magnificent birds left, scientists believe. A last resort for the condor might be a program of captive breeding by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which isn't expected to make a decision until later this year, according to a Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman. We urge you to write Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus and ask that a date for the decision to initiate a captive breeding program be moved up. Letters should be addressed: The Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

DON'T OVERLOOK A GIFT OF CARING!

Give a membership with The Humane Society of the United States to someone who shares your concern. It is a gift worth giving at any time of the year and one which enables us to continue our fight for the animals.

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 4, 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.