

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy
Animal Studies Repository

Summer 1978

WCRO Summer / Fall 1978

Follow this and additional works at: <http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn>

Recommended Citation

"WCRO Summer / Fall 1978" (1978). *West Coast Regional Office*. 59.
<http://animalstudiesrepository.org/wescoarn/59>

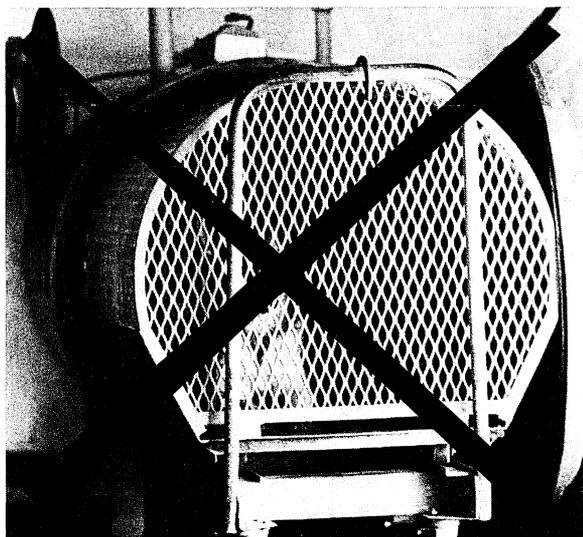
This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the Animal Studies Repository. For more information, please contact eyahner@humanesociety.org.



REPORT

SUMMER/FALL 1978

ENDING INHUMANE EUTHANASIA!



Ventura County Star-Free Press

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."

The HSUS has prepared a paper: "Why The HSUS is Opposed to the High Altitude Decompression Chamber for Animal Euthanasia." This paper gives an excellent overview of expert opinion backed up by the personal experiences of shelter and field personnel.

While SB 1481 was working its way through the California State Legislature, humane societies and animal control agencies across the state began to change to sodium pentobarbital, led by Los Angeles County Animal Control. On July 1, 1978 Los Angeles City, which fought this bill, started a pilot project using sodium pentobarbital in their Anne Street Shelter. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors at a hearing, attended by Eric Sakach, our Field Representative, on September 5, 1978 voted to change to sodium pentobarbital in that County's shelters. Senator Song said, "The cumulative effect of the work expended by hundreds of interested persons obviously was the key to my bill's success." Assemblyman Jack Fenton fought back efforts in the Assembly to amend the bill that would have drastically reduced its effectiveness. Under Fenton's leadership, the Assembly ultimately passed the measure by a vote of 71 to 3. When the Governor signs SB 1481 California will be the fourth state to ban decompression chambers.

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.

HSUS To Make Unannounced Inspections At U.C. Davis

Authorization to make unannounced visits to the University of California's animal facilities on the Davis campus has been given to The Humane Society of the United States and the Sacramento SPCA. HSUS West Coast representatives met with Dr. Dale Brooks, a UCD veterinarian, to obtain the authorization after UCD police found a dog, which had been used as an experimental surgery animal, alive in a trash dumpster outside the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine last May.

Eric Sakach, of this office, and Mr. Robert Hillman, Director of the Sacramento SPCA, later met with UCD officials to discuss the handling of the animals and inspection procedures. Charlene Drennon, Director of The HSUS West Coast Regional Office, said, "The university has shown good faith in allowing these humane society representatives access to the animals on an unannounced basis and joins the HSUS and SPCA in deploring the recent accident."

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 recommendations 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 remaining problem areas. A copy of the report and recommendations 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. Communications should be addressed to 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Room 2320, 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 week, one of 15 veterinarians donates his time to examine 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 Whittell estate. The NHS and its Board of Directors expect their new programs to reach throughout the State of Nevada once the facility is operational in early 1979.

COCKFIGHTING: An Update

Cockfighting remains a misdemeanor in California. Senator Robbins' bill, SB 1579, which would have increased the penalty for cockfighting to a felony with a possible \$50,000 fine 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 The HSUS with assistance from the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol in April this year. According to Drennon's testimony, "The idea that cockfighting is an ethnic habit only of the Mexican and Portuguese 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 penalties 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.



HSUS Photo

El Dorado County Sheriff Richard Pacileo receives an HSUS Award for the outstanding cooperation of his Department in our recent cockfight raid.

DIRECTOR'S DESK



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 (AB65), 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 wants incorporated into the curriculum. The members of these school on-site councils will be elected.

If you want to see the humane ethic and kindness to 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 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 request that they teach pet responsibility and 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 those 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, Judi, 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.

Charlene Drennon
DIRECTOR

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 cobra 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 department store chains for the sale of purses and wallets containing python skins. If you see advertisements of goods containing protected animals or discover animal protection violations, please contact us with the information.

First Western Humane Educators' Association Workshop



HSUS Photo

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 were: Joan Mascari, a graphics specialist 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 Heywood, the photographer and editor for Santa Barbara Zoo's newsletter, *Zoo-logic*, who showed how to produce a professional newsletter single-handed on a slim 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.



**The Humane Society
of the United States**

West Coast Regional Office
1713 J St., Suite 4
Sacramento, CA 95814

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Sacramento, CA
PERMIT NO. 894