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ANIMAL SHELTER CHARGED WITH CRUELTY TO ANIMALS — HSUS CALLED TO DO STUDY —

"The most inexcusable and pathetic cruelty to animals is when their suffering is caused behind the walls of an animal shelter."

E. Sakach - 77

The West Coast Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States was besieged by telephone calls and letters of complaint from outraged citizens last September when an ABC television station in Los Angeles ran a week-long expose' reporting neglect of animals in animal shelters of the Los Angeles Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, also known as the Southern California Humane Society. Unfortunately, many humanitarians incorrectly believed that these shelters were affiliated with or under the supervision of The Humane Society of the United States. However, HSUS has no control over any local, incorporated humane society.

Reports from HSUS members alleged the shelter had inadequate facilities and sub-standard animal care practices. In October, 1977, Eric Sakach, WCRO investigator, conducted a preliminary inspection of the Hawthorne Shelter, met the city officials, and witnesses. As a result of Mr. Sakach's observations, most of the cities which contracted with the Los Angeles SPCA formally requested The HSUS to conduct a detailed study of all the shelters. The cities also asked The HSUS to evaluate these conditions and tell them whether or not they should continue their contracts. In addition, The HSUS opened an intensive investigation to determine if legal action would be appropriate.

One of the services of The Humane Society of the United States is to assist local humane groups. Mr. Sakach said, "All they have to do is request help. If an animal shelter is having problems, we want to know about them immediately and help them to correct them. There's no excuse for an animal to suffer, especially in an animal shelter. It is the goal of The HSUS to provide the best possible care for all animals."

In November, HSUS investigators met with officials of the cities contracting for services by the Los Angeles SPCA, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, and concerned citizens.

On December 8, 1977, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed a civil lawsuit against the Los Angeles SPCA alleging that animals were not properly fed and watered; impounded in unsanitary, unhealthy and overcrowded conditions; not provided adequate veterinary care; and not euthanized in accordance with state law. The suit seeks an injunction by the court against the SPCA's neglect and failure to provide humane and adequate care and treatment of the animals over which the Los Angeles SPCA has control.

Early this year, HSUS Washington staff members, Phyllis Wright and Philip Steward joined Eric Sakach in conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the Los Angeles SPCA's Hawthorne, Southgate and Main animal shelter facilities. The report and recommendations will be sent to the Los Angeles area City Managers that are currently contracting with the Los Angeles SPCA.

The HSUS-WCRO will continue to keep its members informed of what action is taken in this matter.
THOUSANDS OF_acres FOR CATTLE -- NONE FOR TULE ELK?

Char Drennon attended the Tule Elk Interagency Task Force meeting in Sacramento, California. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from various federal and state agencies and is to report to the federal government yearly. Mr. William Radtkey of the Bureau of Land Management is the Chairman. Before this meeting the California Department of Fish and Game had published notice that Tule Elk in the Owens Valley would shoot the excess. Citizen outcry caused the F&G representative at the meeting to say that the department had been making periodic counts. However, it waited until it had what it termed “a crisis situation” before relocating the elk. Instead of bringing in trucks and calmly moving the elk it was done with helicopters and much press that made the F&G look like the savors of these animals. Edward Loeber of the California Wildlife Trust has written Governor Brown asking for Charles Fullerton to be removed as head of F&G on the basis that he attempted to violate both federal and state laws regarding the expansion of the California Tule Elk. At the Sacramento meeting the Task Force representatives were preoccupied with two issues. fencing of the relocated elk was discussed in detail. Chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk (and the woman most responsible for yearly. Mr. William Radtkey of the Bureau of Land Management is the Chairman. Before this meeting the California Department of Fish and Game had published notice that Tule Elk in the Owens Valley would shoot the excess. Citizen outcry caused the F&G representative at the meeting to say that the department had been making periodic counts. However, it waited until it had what it termed “a crisis situation” before relocating the elk. Instead of bringing in trucks and calmly moving the elk it was done with helicopters and much press that made the F&G look like the savors of these animals. Edward Loeber of the California Wildlife Trust has written Governor Brown asking for Charles Fullerton to be removed as head of F&G on the basis that he attempted to violate both federal and state laws regarding the expansion of the California Tule Elk. At the Sacramento meeting the Task Force representatives were preoccupied with two issues. fencing of the relocated elk was discussed in detail. Chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk (and the woman most responsible for

YOU ARE THE HSUS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

You share in our victories in the cause of animal welfare. You share our beliefs, frustrations, and our fight to create a world for animals free from suffering. You share because you are The Humane Society of the United States. Albert Schweitzer once said, “In life outside a world of animals, the life within him. This compels him to be a part of it and accept responsibility for all creatures great and small. Life becomes harder for us when we live for others, but it also becomes richer and happier.”

The Humane Society of the United States has accepted this challenge, “to live for others”. In seeking a better life for animals in the world, and for our own existence, we are building a society in which worth and dignity are values more greatly esteemed. It is only through your contributions that we are able to continue our work on behalf of the animals.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM

SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS ON THE INCREASE

The WCRO Director Charlene Drennon called on the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office to prosecute the case of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Greenberg against a Southern California pet store that failed to provide them with proper information on an eight-week old Tule elk puppy they had purchased from a store in San Bernardino. The puppy was allegedly bought from a puppy mill in Kansas. The Greenbergs claimed that they were not informed of the immunization record or the animal’s name and USDA license number. Spaying was said to be suffering from disinterest at the time of purchase. In a civil case filed and won by the Greenbergs in small claims court, evidence was also produced to show that the animal had not been examined prior to being placed with other animals. “The WCRO worked to get this California law written and passed and we feel it is imperative. It’s a reality that violators be prosecuted for the sake of the animals involved and consumer protection.” said Ms. Drennon.

PHOTO BY BRUCE KEEGAN

TULI~ CATTLE

THE HSUS WANTS NEW PET SHOP LAW ENFORCED

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LIFE SHOULDN’T END THIS WAY!...

The Humane Society of the United States will seek to have the exemption allowing bullfighting held in conjunction with religious festivals removed from the California Penal Code. Although efforts by the HSUS-WCRO and Peninsula Humane Society to stop this recent bloodless bullfight at the San Francisco Cow Palace were unsuccessful, the criticism from humane groups has been much smaller than expected.

When only about 3,000 people showed up instead of the expected 10,000, Monsignor Val Legue said, “Whether we do it again is something to which I’ll have to give a lot of thought.” Eric Sakach, Field Representative for The HSUS, wrote letters to Bishop John J. Quinn citing the Roman Catholic Church’s long history of abhorring cruelty to animals and condemning the promotion of bullfighting.

“There’s nothing wrong with a religious celebration,” said Sakach, until an animal is exploited in this manner. There are many other ways to celebrate a festival without the abuse of life.

Officials of The HSUS-WCRO, Monterey County SPCA, and Santa Cruz Animal Welfare Association were successful in convincing stock owners to remove the bullfighting.

IN THE NORTHWEST

A merger may take place between the Oregon Animal Control Officers and the Oregon Association of Animal Welfare Agencies. O.A.C.C. is an animal control federation with legislation and education as primary goals. O.A.W.A. is an animal welfare agency (base) which funds state federations with similar goals. Both federations exert statewide influence. According to Doug Fakker, President of the Oregon Association of Animal Control Officers, the merger, if accepted, would make O.A.C.C. more humane in its approach, and as humane society operated shelters become more aware of the necessity of contract monies to keep financially sound, the differences between the two types of organizations becomes less and less.

SEATTLE COLLECTS OVER $100,000 FOR SPAY CLINIC

Thanks to local citizens over $100,000 has been collected to build a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Seattle. However, as the fund-raising drive has not been as successful as expected, the City Council must go ahead with a new animal control facility that they have put off for a number of years. If you live in the Northwest, contact City Council members such as Charles Royer, Mayor or Sam Reyes, President, Seattle City Council, at the Municipal Building, Seattle, Washington, 98104, and urge them to go ahead with the animal control facility. The WCRO has already written its support.
HSUS Workshops

A Solving Animal Problems in Your Community Workshop sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States and co-hosted by Peninsula Humane Society was held on January 20-21, 1978 in Burlingame, California. Featured speakers included: John Hoyt, President of The HSUS; Frantz Dantzler, HSUS Director of Field Services and Investigations; Phyllis Wright, HSUS Animal Control Specialist; Richard Ward, Executive Director of the Peninsula Humane Society; Dr. Sheila Shannon, PHS Clinic Veterinarian; John Tiernan, Executive Director of the Monterey County SPCA; and others. Topics and discussions at the workshop included recommended techniques in: Investigations, Improving Animal Control, Spay and Neuter Programs, Euthanasia, Fund-raising, Community Needs, and more.

COMING UP...

A People, Animals, Attitudes, and Life Humane Education Seminar will be sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States and co-hosted by the Monterey County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on April 21-22, 1978 at the Monterey Holiday Inn. This workshop is especially designed for: humane educators, humane society and animal control personnel, teachers and administrators. Contact The HSUS-WCRO for registration information.

HSUS Speaker At Third Annual CEEA Convention

Over 350 teachers and administrators attended the Third Annual Convention of the California Elementary Education Association on December 2-3, 1977 in Sacramento, California. Featured at the convention were publisher's exhibits, demonstrations, make it-take it workshops, and 52 special guest speakers. Eric Sakach of The HSUS-WCRO was invited to be one of the guest speakers. Sakach's topic dealt with animal care in the classroom and attendees were introduced to The HSUS'S KIND (Kindness In Nature's Defense) and new NAAHE (National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education) programs, as well as the do's and don'ts of caring for an animal in the classroom.

Attempts Made to Get California Initiatives on '78 Ballot

Californians Against the Steel Jawed Trap. P.O. Box 2457, Escondido, California 92025. This ballot measure calls for a change in the California Fish and Game code making use of a steel jawed trap to take birds or mammals a misdemeanor upon first conviction and a felony upon second conviction. 400,000 signatures are needed in order to qualify it for the ballot in 1978. Contact above address for further information.

Citizens to Abolish the Decompression Chamber. 201 Ocean Avenue - #807 P, Santa Monica, California 90402. It prohibits use of high-altitude decompression chambers to kill dogs and cats. Contact above address for further information.

Due to our deadline date on this WCRO News Report the above initiatives may be qualified by the time you receive this. We will keep HSUS members informed.

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.