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# WCRO Winter / Spring 1981

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# REPORT

WINTER/SPRING 1981

## BIRTH OF SEALS CELEBRATED — A NEW EFFORT AT STOPPING THE SLAUGHTER



HSUS Photo

Near the end of February and the beginning of March, more than 400,000 baby harp seals opened their eyes for the first time on the ice floes off Canada's Newfoundland coast. By mid-April, the glistening ice will be red with blood—nearly half the seal pups clubbed to death for their snow-white fur.

This brutal business has been going on for years and so has the struggle of humanitarians to end the slaughter. This year, in an effort to focus world attention once again on this tragedy, The Humane Society of the United States headed a coalition of hundreds of concerned organizations in this country to celebrate International Day of the Seal on March 1. Resolutions carried by the U.S. Congress proclaimed March 1 "National Day of the Seal" and the month of March was a time not only to celebrate the birth of the baby harp seals but also to celebrate symbolically **all** seals while deploring seal clubbing, whether done in Canada or on the United States' own Pribilof Islands.

The event was celebrated with demonstrations from coast to coast, concerts, the distribution of information about seals, and the release of white balloons into the air.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals honored the harp seals by presenting Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with a petition of a half-million signatures protesting the importation of seal products. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies also recognized the event.

On the West Coast, humane societies and humanitarians gathered to march and demonstrate throughout the month in many major cities to bring the birth of the seals and their tragic plight to the attention of millions. In a special telegram to HSUS President John Hoyt, California Governor Jerry Brown said, "With the threatened loss of so many species of wildlife, the time has come in which we all need to strive to protect and live in harmony with our fellow creatures. Our coasts and seas are indeed enriched by the presence of thirty-three different species of seal. I am pleased to join with you in this day of celebration for the seal and commend your efforts to protect and preserve this familiar and innocent mammal for future generations."

The West Coast Regional Office asks that you remember the seals throughout the year. Your voice will be heard. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the WCRO and we will send you free a fact sheet on seal hunts. Read it, use it, give it to a friend who cares. Continue the celebration and the fight. The slaughter must end.

## Californians Can Solve The Problem of Raccoons As Pets

Senate Bill 480 has been introduced by Senator Henry Mello to outlaw the importation and sale of raccoons as pets. As preparation for the proposed legislation, the WCRO sent an alert to all humane organizations and members on the legislative alert list asking for documentation from wildlife workers, veterinarians, and other experts in support of passage of the bill. The results were overwhelming, with responses from local humane societies, animal control agencies, wildlife experts and clubs, veterinarians, and others—all citing reasons why raccoons should not be allowed as pets.

Importers and retail dealers of exotic pets make glib promises of easy care and consumer satisfaction. They aren't likely, however, to tell you that vaccinations will be

*(Continued next page)*



HSUS Photo

needed or that raccoons are susceptible to both canine and feline distemper strains, or that the species can actually contract rabies if given the wrong type of rabies shot. A raccoon may also be sold with a case of mange, salmonella, or a host of other diseases and parasites. Usually the cute babies become unhappy, aggressive adults, capable of inflicting severe bites and scratches. The animal suffering, environmental problems, and buyer frustration created by this market are severe and unnecessary.

The Humane Society of the United States believes that raccoons make unsuitable pets under virtually all circumstances and that very few people are equipped to maintain them in the home environment.

Members who want to have their names added to the list of those supporting this needed legislation should contact the WCRO. If you like, request a copy of the bill and we will send one to you.

## ANIMAL NEEDS: National and Regional

The West Coast Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States coordinates national programs with direct attention to this region. You are aware that our major concern is the prevention of cruelty and suffering to animals.

Among our several programs which address the needs of animals is one which provides for your financial needs and at the same time creates a future gift for animal welfare.

If you would like to know more about the dual benefits of our Life Income Program, please send for the society's brochure entitled "Planning for the Future."

Mail to: Paul G. Irwin,  
Vice President/Treasurer  
The Humane Society  
of the United States  
2100 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES GET HELPING HAND FROM HSUS

Several hundred police officers, sheriff's deputies, vice officers, cruelty investigators, and prosecutors attended a series of training sessions on the investigation of illegal animal fighting ventures. The sessions were conducted by HSUS Director of Field Service and Investigations Frantz Dantzler and WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach.

Two seminars were hosted jointly by the Contra Costa County Animal Services Department, Sheriff's Department, and the District Attorney's Office. One seminar was hosted in San Mateo County by the Peninsula Humane Society and a coalition of Bay Area humane societies.

The workshops were held in response to an increase in animal fighting activities, particularly dogfighting—a felony under California law and in several other states. Law enforcement officers came from all over Northern California with several attending from Southern California and Washington State. Topics covered included intelligence gathering objectives, state and federal laws, methods of carrying on successful undercover operations, evidence, and special films of actual animal fighting events and raids.

The HSUS believes that the positive response to these seminars will go a long way to help out an end to sadistic animal fighting activities through more arrests and better convictions. Similar sessions are being planned for other states in the West Coast Region in cooperation with concerned law enforcement agencies.

## Progress for Animals

### NAPA COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

Field Investigator Eric Sakach has made a study of the sheltering facility for Napa County's Division of Animal Control. The WCRO received a formal request for the evaluation from Deputy County Administrator Bob Sorsen and the Humane Society of Napa County. Following the impromptu inspection, Sakach's report was sent to area officials with recommendations for improvements. Since then Napa County Human Services Director Dan Corsello, sent a letter of appreciation to the WCRO stating that The HSUS report would be taken before the County Board of Supervisors along with our recommendations for action.

### MENDOCINO COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Andy DeGrassi recently advised the WCRO that, because of a study by the regional office last year, they have been able to implement some, and are in the process of implementing other, HSUS recommendations for improvements. DeGrassi stated they have been able to use the report to obtain increased funding for animal control, rewrite the animal control ordinance, begin a humane education program, hire additional animal control personnel, and acquire two new vehicles. Finally, officials are requesting a follow-up inspection by the WCRO to enhance the quality of animal control and care in Mendocino County.

## DIRECTOR'S DESK



You who dedicate your lives to working for the protection of animals should stop and give yourselves a pat on the back. Through your work, not only has the animal welfare movement

grown dramatically, but, in the past several years, raw emotionalism has given way to fact finding, education, and training. It certainly doesn't mean we care less; in fact, it means we care more; **we care enough to prepare.** Facts, education, and training make the difference between winning and losing our battle against animal cruelty and ignorance.

Since 1972 The Humane Society of the United States has been the leader in animal control and humane education workshops. This effort evolved into the recent realization of the Society's Animal Control Academy that functions in cooperation with the University of Alabama. The certified courses are taught at the university by professionals.

The Animal Control Academy offers three sections, of which participants may take all or a single part. The sessions consist of: 1) 100 hours covering all aspects of animal control; 2) A four-day session with on-site training of euthanasia by licensed veterinarians; 3) A three-day session on public information.

These are clearly of great value to those who want to learn how to effectively change attitudes and build support in their own communities for an improved animal control and pet responsibility program.

Are the personnel working in your hometown animal control program or humane society well trained? If not and you want them to be, we're here to help. Write the West Coast Regional Office for a descriptive brochure.

Maybe you need to set up in-service teaching programs in your local shelters. For example, Multnomah County Animal Control in Portland, Oregon used our materials to produce a certified euthanasia course for their staff.

The West Coast Regional Office is now helping develop in-service training in various western communities. This year we have added yet another dimension—the training of law enforcement officers in the investigation and prosecution of animal fighting cases. (See article, page 2.) The enthusiasm of HSUS graduates proves we are providing needed services.

Your response to our request in the last issue of this report to help us build membership was heartwarming. We do thank you. This time please take a moment to write for information on our new income pooling plan. (Box on page 2.) Now, using this plan, you can help the animals while making a financial investment in your own future.

*Char Drennon*  
DIRECTOR

## LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

There are so many animal-related bills in the various western state legislatures that space permits us only to cover a few. HSUS members can get more detailed information by writing to the WCRO. If you want to work actively on state legislation, let us know.

### CALIFORNIA

Char Drennon testified in the first committee on both bills that would, if enacted, make dog eating a misdemeanor—AB 241 by Assemblyman Lawrence Kapiloff and SB 49 by Senor Marz Garcia.

Assemblywoman Jean Moorhead authored AB 30 for a veterinarian who wanted unused spay deposits to go for his project of vasectomizing male cats. Citizens from all over the state who support spay/neuter programs urged Mrs. Moorhead to drop this bill. As we go to press we received word she has dropped AB 30 for this session.

SB 58 by Senator Alan Robbins prohibits animals loose in the back of pickup trucks in cities with over one million population.

Under Walter Stiern's SB 394, the appointment of humane officers would be transferred from judges to county boards of supervisors. Common sense dictates that this is a poor idea.

### WASHINGTON STATE

HSUS' accredited society, PAWS, (Box 1037, Lynwood, WA 98036) is coordinating an anti-trapping campaign. Senator Gould introduced SB 4063 for them. They need your help. Write letters and send documentation to them for use at the Capitol. The bill is basically the same wording as their initiative last year. It phases out the use of the steel jaw and snare traps.

### OREGON

Sherrie Grove, an HSUS member, has had Representative Fawbush introduce House Bill 2728. It requires spay and neuter deposits on dogs and cats adopted out of city, county, and contract humane society shelters. Adopters sign an agreement to have the animal spayed or neutered by a specified date. The bill calls for the deposit to be forfeited; also an additional penalty to be imposed if the adopter doesn't follow through. Contact Sherrie Grove, Wasco County Humane Society, Route 4, Box 227, The Dalles, OR 97058

## HORSE DRUGGING MUST STOP

The Corrupt Horse Racing Practices Act has again been introduced to stop the drugging of horses on racetracks. HR 2331 has considerable support from eastern HSUS members. It is essential that all of us in the west contact our representatives in congress and let them know we want drugging of horses outlawed **NOW!**

Don't be confused by the feeble reform attempts being made in the West Coast Region by the horse racing boards. They're simply a smoke screen. In the case of California, after all our efforts and testimony, the stronger regulations passed by the California Horse Racing Board were turned down by The Office of Administrative Law.

## NEW MEXICO CALLS ON WCRO FOR ASSISTANCE

Citizen outrage over organized dogfighting and loosely interpreted statutes in New Mexico led Senator Les Houston and Representative Max Coll, both of New Mexico, to introduce two new bills in that state's legislature. HB 69 would make dogfighting and cockfighting misdemeanor crimes and SB 2 would increase the penalties for dogfighting to a felony level. At the request of Senator Houston, Eric Sakach went to Santa Fe and provided background information on dogfighting activities in the southwestern states and testified on behalf of Representative Coll's bill before the House Agriculture Committee.

As we go to press, Senator Huston's office has advised us that Governor Bruce King has signed SB2 into law. Unfortunately, the cockfighting provisions of the House Bill were dropped with Representative Von Rue Crawford stating, "I think we should have some rights left in this country."

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL OFFICE STANDS READY TO HELP


Humane education has expanded at an astonishing rate on the West Coast. Recent years have seen the development of sophisticated humane education materials and programs by humane societies and animal control facilities. However, The West Coast Regional Office is still contacted daily by those just entering this field. They ask, "Where do I begin?" "Where can I get help?"

To answer these questions and the many others commonly asked by the beginner, our office has compiled a "How To" packet. The contents of the packet give a well-rounded view of what is necessary to develop a successful program. This new service will not, of course, replace the personalized assistance offered in the past, but will give the beginner a broad base from which to

work and a hands-on reference.

For those who strongly believe in humane education but lack the resources to do an outreach program, or are not humane educators, The HSUS has a special offer designed for you. **Kind** magazine, our publication for children eight years old and above, makes it easy for anyone to bring the humane ethic to hundreds of children.

Right now, when you purchase one **Kind** subscription at the regular price of \$4, you can have a second subscription sent to the library of your choice for \$2—half the regular price. If you don't have a child to send the first subscription to, why not have it sent to another library, or your local school. Use the coupon to order. Make your check for \$6 payable to **Kind** and mail it today to the West Coast Regional Office.



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**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.**

## The Humane Society of the United States

West Coast Regional Office  
 1713 J Street, Suite 305  
 Sacramento, CA 95814



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