

Armstrong, HSUS vice president for Companion Animals, introduced The HSUS's new *Animal Sheltering* magazine. "This magazine is the first of many initiatives we've planned to help us strengthen our ties to people in the field," said Ms. Armstrong.

For some show participants, like Ms. Schultz, networking gave her the opportunity to learn from people at larger, more established humane agencies. For others, like California lawyer Arlene Nizenski, speaking with people in the field added fuel to thoughts about switching careers. "I feel great about the people I've met in terms of job opportunities," said Ms. Nizenski. "And I've learned a lot more about solving the problems facing this field."

Whether networking with colleagues, learning in seminars, or discovering new products and services in the Exhibit Hall, attendees of Animal Care Expo '96 absorbed new ideas to help their work. They also got a much-needed break from their jobs, in which animal suffering is part of the daily reality.

Animal Care Expo has become a fixture on the calendars of animal-care professionals in the United States and abroad. "We're going to stick with the formula that's made the show such a success," says John Dommers, Expo director. "We're working to expand the training workshops and provide the highest quality that we can. We're also looking to bring in more exhibitors of interest to attendees."

Carroll S. Thrift, HSUS vice president for Marketing, echoes those remarks. "We're planning some new programs to keep the Expo fresh and exciting over the next five years," he said. "We'll pursue all avenues that will enhance the work of animal-care personnel."

Shirley Hendrixson, cruelty investiga-

tor for Alliance Against Animal Abuse, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, attended the 1992 and the 1996 Expos. "This year's Expo is even better [than the first]," she said. "There were more exhibitors, more

interesting seminars, and it was better organized. The HSUS is doing its usual fantastic job. I enjoyed it very much."—*Geoff Handy, director of communications, Companion Animals*

LEGISLATION

Long-Awaited Progress for Horses

Federal law will help the slaughter bound

On March 28 the U.S. Congress passed legislation that could meaningfully reduce the suffering of more than a hundred thousand horses sent to slaughter each year. Incorporated into the 1996 farm bill, the Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter Act directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish regulations that protect slaughter-bound horses, mules, ponies, and donkeys from widespread abuses, documented during HSUS undercover investigations (see the Summer 1995 *HSUS News*). Although the final measure fell short of our initial hopes due to intense last-minute opposition from the livestock industry, we view the new law as a positive step toward addressing cruelties that have persisted for decades.

There is a widespread notion that old, lame, and unwanted horses are retired to pasture or humanely destroyed. The vast majority of these "surplus" animals are sold at auction. Because horses are not considered food animals in the United States, few Americans realize that their former companions often become the property of "killer buyers" when sold at auction. After sale these once-cherished animals are shipped for hundreds or even

thousands of miles to one of eight equine slaughterhouses in the United States. Virtually all of the meat from these facilities is shipped to foreign markets.

Our investigations revealed that slaughter-bound horses routinely have been crammed into double-deck livestock trucks designed to transport cattle, who are shorter than horses. By the time they arrive at a slaughter plant, most horses have been deprived of food and water for many hours before loading and for as long as two additional days on vehicles. Mares and stallions, draft horses and tiny ponies, foals and adults, healthy animals and the injured or sick all have been thrown together for a terrifying final trip.

Through the USDA regulations, the new law would help remedy such abuses. Congress specifically has directed the USDA to address humane intervals for watering, feeding, and resting the horses. The HSUS will push hard for elimination of double-deck livestock trucks in horse transport and for safety provisions such as adequate headroom for large horses, nonskid floors,

Rep. Bill Goodling (top) and Sen. Mitch McConnell showed considerable tenacity in keeping the horse-transport bill alive.



MARK THOSE CALENDARS

Join The HSUS and animal-protection advocates from around the world next year in Orlando, Florida, for Animal Care Expo '97! Mark your calendars now for February 12 to 15. □



HSUS volunteers and staff unload a double-deck livestock truck's load of slaughter-bound horses during a 1995 investigation of a New York State killer buyer.

emergency-access doors, and protection from the elements. The regulations should require that veterinarians examine all horses prior to transport to ensure the horses are physically able to withstand the stress of long-distance travel. In addition, the regulations should prohibit the transport of mares in later stages of pregnancy and any foals six months old or younger. We will work with the USDA to create the strongest possible regulations, but ultimately it is the depth of public interest that will determine whether the regulations are stringent and comprehensive.

We owe a heartfelt thanks to Rep. Bill Goodling of Pennsylvania and Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who introduced the original legislation and showed considerable tenacity in keeping it alive. Both men refused to back down, even when the viability of any bill was threatened by powerful livestock lobbyists, who reneged on their earlier agreements to support the reforms. Representative Goodling and Senator McConnell received considerable help from Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin, chairman of the House Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Subcommittee, who negotiated a settlement that kept a modified version of the legislation in the farm bill package.

We also greatly appreciate the crucial roles played by the American Horse

Council and the American Horse Protection Association. Both organizations built congressional support for this measure. They also worked with us to achieve a consensus backed by a broad coalition of

horse interests, veterinarians, and animal-protection groups.

The HSUS would have greatly preferred to see legislation enacted to eliminate horse slaughter entirely; the end of the U.S. trade in horse meat is our goal. However, it is clear that Congress is unwilling to ban horse slaughter at this time. Given that more than 2.5 million horses have been shipped to slaughter in the United States within the last decade alone—often in abysmal conditions—we decided to pursue, with considerable urgency, whatever federal protections were achievable. We believe this new law will reduce the number of horses who can be sent to slaughter and improve the treatment of those who are sent, while we continue to work toward eliminating the trade entirely. Write Lonnie J. King, Administrator, APHIS, USDA, Rm. 312-E, Administration Bldg., Washington, DC 20250, and urge the USDA to adopt strong and enforceable regulations. —Trina Belak, Esq., HSUS associate director of Federal Legislation; Marc Paulhus, HSUS director of Equine Protection

WILDLIFE

Another State Ballot Victory *Californians reject trophy hunting of lions*

Mountain lions emerged victorious in the first of several hunting- and trapping-related measures appearing on statewide ballots in 1996. In California's March primary, voters decisively defeated Proposition 197, which would have eliminated protected status for mountain lions and granted the state Fish and Game Commission the authority to allow hunters to kill the animals for trophies. The HSUS and the Sacramento-based Mountain Lion Foundation led opposition to the measure, which received major financial support from the National Rifle Association (NRA) and Safari Club International.

Supporters argued that the Fish and Game Commission should have authority

to manage mountain lions and, citing two fatal lion attacks on people in 1994, claimed that the animals pose a threat to public safety. The HSUS and other opponents countered that hunting lions with hounds is inhumane and unsporting and does nothing to protect the public. (Existing law already allows the state to kill individual lions who threaten public safety or livestock.)

Although the NRA and other groups pumped more than half a million dollars into promoting the measure, only 41.8 percent of the voters supported it. "California voters rejected the NRA's transparent scare tactics and reaffirmed their opposition to the trophy hunting of mountain lions," stated Nancy Perry, HSUS di-