

POLICIES OF

Humane Society Of The Tennessee Valley

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HSTV GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE PET ADOPTIONS

The purpose of the HSTV adoption program is to find responsible homes for animals suitable as family pets. This involves knowledge of the animals to be placed and their prospective adopters. It is neither a kindness to animals nor a benefit to the community for HSTV to place animals in homes where they will fail to receive adequate food, water, shelter, veterinary care when necessary, or where they will be allowed to roam the neighborhood.

HSTV has the following guidelines for placing suitable pets with responsible persons:

1. Only healthy pets that are not known to have exhibited vicious tendencies or other serious behavioral disorders will be released for adoption.
2. Our pets will be adopted only to adults of legal age. They will be kept as household pets. No dogs will be adopted to serve as guard or hunting dogs, and no cats will be adopted just to function as mousers.
3. Because a commitment to responsible pet ownership is a decision no one can make for another, no animal will be released for adoption as a gift for another person.
4. Animals adopted from HSTV cannot be sold.
5. HSTV has the right to inspect the pet's new home and is authorized to repossess the animal if it is found to be receiving inadequate care, or is improperly housed or handled.
6. No dog will be released for adoption unless the adopter can provide an adequately fenced yard for the animal to exercise in, or unless it is certain the adopter will provide the dog with adequate exercise under humane control. Simply chaining the dog in the yard for extended periods violates the provisions for both adequacy of exercise and humaneness of control. Cats will be adopted solely to "indoor only" homes.
7. Health and humane authorities agree that young children cannot usually be expected to handle puppies and kittens properly. Mishandling is likely to result in injury to the animal, the child, or both. Puppies and kittens should be at least six (6) months of age before being placed in homes where there are children under five (5) years of age.
8. All adopted animals must be examined by a licensed veterinarian within 72 hours of adoption. If for any reason the veterinarian believes that animal's health or personality would make it unsuitable as a family pet, that animal must be returned to the Shelter for exchange or refund.
9. Only domestic animals will be released for adoption as pets. Indigenous wild animals will be placed only with public or private wildlife sanctuaries that have demonstrated their competence in recognizing and dealing with the particular problems inherent to the rehabilitation and release of such animals into the wild. HSTV adheres to federal, state, and local laws in disposing of any wild animals.
10. No dog adopted from HSTV may subsequently have its tail docked or ears cropped.
11. Large animals such as horses, ponies, donkeys, goats, cows, sheep, pigs, etc., should be adopted only as companion animals to persons who have the proper facilities for housing them and who can demonstrate their competence in humanely meeting the special needs of such animals. Due to their aggressive nature, all adopted male goats must be castrated. If such an adopter cannot be found within a reasonable time these animals will be sold through a market or livestock auction with care taken to ensure humane treatment of the animals during such a sale.
12. HSTV will keep a file containing the names of persons who, because of cruelty convictions, repeated animal control violations, or previous violations of adoption contracts, will not be permitted to adopt animals. This file will be checked before any adoption contract is made final.
13. HSTV reserves the right to refuse adoption to any person unable or unwilling to comply with these guidelines.

WILD ANIMALS AS PETS

The HSTV believes that most wild animals make unsuitable pets under virtually all circumstances and very few people, adult or child, are equipped to properly maintain any wild animals in the home environment. We define wild animals as being any animal not genetically controlled over a very long period of time and specifically, thereby, adapted to the human environment. This includes wolf hybrids and wild/domestic cat crosses.

While recognizing that there inevitably exists the rare exception of the legitimately involved person who can provide a satisfactory environment for such animals, HSTV is against the general traffic in wild animals. In all cases, it is opposed to the keeping of those animals that will suffer by capture, transport and confinement (all subhuman primates are included as are all wild canis and felis), and the traffic in any animal whose kind is already known to be endangered or is believed likely to become endangered, and is equally opposed to the private confinement in the pet category of any animal potentially harmful or dangerous as a transmitter of disease or as an attacker of man because of the inevitable disenchantment with such animals and the problems of appropriate and humane disposal.

TRAPPING

The HSTV opposes commercial and sport trapping because they are cruel and cause needless exploitation of wildlife.

The HSTV finds no justification for any form of trapping except in those rare cases when such trapping demonstrably benefits animals or is necessary to preserve human health or to halt severe economic or ecological damage. This kind of trapping may be conducted only after less intrusive alternatives have been attempted and exhausted and must be done responsibly, efficiently, and by a humane method that captures the animal alive and without injury or produces rapid loss of consciousness and painless death.

The HSTV especially believes there should be an immediate and absolute ban on the steel jaw trap.

COSMETIC SURGERY ON ANIMALS

It is the policy of the HSTV to oppose tail myotomy, tail neurectomy and tongue myotomy in equines, ear cropping and tail docking in dogs, and declawing of cats when done solely for the convenience of the cat owner and without benefit to the cat itself. Further, the Society opposes any other unnecessary surgical procedure that is painful, distressful or restrictive of the function of the body part involved when done for cosmetic purposes or to disguise natural imperfections of any animal.

ENDORSEMENT OF A COMMERCIAL PRODUCT

It is the policy of the HSTV not to endorse any commercial product, facility, or service in a manner that would permit its being advertised or promoted as having the approval of this Society. This policy is predicated on the fact that the Society recognizes it does not have the capacity for the frequent and continuing investigation and testing of approved services and products that would be necessary to ensure constant high quality. Further, the Society wants to avoid favoritism or partiality in its relationship with pet food, shelter supply, and animal product manufacturers and/or distributors. This does not exclude HSTV staff members from expressing a preference for a particular product or service which has proven through experience to be superior to others of a similar kind.

PETS IN HOUSING

The HSTV recognizes that thousands of pet owners across the nation are facing eviction or exclusion for owning a pet and many "no pets allowed" clauses in leases are arbitrary and unnecessary. The Society further believes many of these owners are unwilling to condemn their pets to probable death in public or private animal shelters and therefore abandon them, increasing the multitude of unwanted pets in the streets.

The HSTV condemns these practices and works to establish that restrictions on pets in housing be limited to those cases where a nuisance would exist, such as running at large, destruction of property, danger to other occupants, excessive barking, biting, or proven violation of existing sanitary codes.

DISPOSITION OF ORPHANED AND INJURED WILDLIFE

In the handling and disposition of orphaned and injured wildlife, the HSTV recognizes that fundamental consideration must always be given to the well being of the animals themselves, that such animals may be subjected to stressful conditions when housed in animal shelters, and that few animal welfare organizations or shelter staffs are equipped to treat, care for, maintain, or reintroduce these animals into the wild.

It is, therefore, the policy of the HSTV to recommend the placement of orphaned or injured wildlife with a wildlife rehabilitation specialist or the humane euthanasia of such animals.

PET OVERPOPULATION

The HSTV is acutely aware that the rate of birth of pet animals is grossly disproportionate to the homes available, a situation that has produced enormous suffering for millions of abandoned animals and many more that are impounded or destroyed, often by inadequate and misused methods of euthanasia.

It is, therefore, the policy of the Society to urge all humane organizations and animal control agencies to require that all male and female animals be spayed or neutered before release for adoption, encourage the establishment of low cost spaying and neutering programs, urge enactment and enforcement of animal control ordinances designed to deter and reduce domestic pet breeding, encourage cooperation between humane societies and veterinarians in seeking to resolve the problem, encourage development of an inexpensive and effective chemosterilant, and continue to pursue educational programs and efforts on the total problem.

RABIES VACCINATION

The HSTV considers anti-rabies inoculation of dogs and cats a necessary protective measure and enthusiastically recommends it to all dog and cat owners. The Society considers periodic inoculation a necessary component of responsible pet ownership and supports legislation that requires compulsory vaccination of these domestic pets. Further, the HSTV believes an anti-rabies inoculation requirement is an integral part of an effective animal control program.

HORSE RACING

The HSTV opposes horse racing until it can be demonstrated that racing can be conducted without mistreatment of horses.

GREYHOUND COURSING AND RACING

The HSTV condemns greyhound racing and specifically the training event known as coursing, in which greyhounds are released to chase and kill a hare or other animal, and all practices utilizing live hares or other animals as lures in training greyhounds. It is HSTV policy, therefore, to oppose dog racing because of cruel training methods, the large scale breeding of greyhounds in the hope of producing a winner, the often cruel methods by which non-winners are sometimes killed, and because this so called sport is an inhumane and unjustified exploitation of animals for profit. In accordance with this policy, the Society works to prevent the legalization of dog racing in states where it is not permitted and the establishment of racing tracks in communities where none now exists.

EASTER CHICKS, RABBITS AND OTHER BABY ANIMALS

Every year millions of baby rabbits, chicks, ducklings and goslings are sold or offered for sale as pets and toys during the Easter season across the United States. And every year, shortly after Easter, too many of these baby animals die due to starvation, improper food, cold, abuse, over attention, or just plain neglect. Often large numbers are turned in to animal shelters to be euthanized because the novelty of owning them has worn off.

It is the policy of the HSTV to work to stop this custom which not only causes suffering and death to millions of infant birds and animals, but also encourages children to be insensitive to suffering. In implementing this policy, the Society urges people not to buy live baby animals as Easter gifts and to support efforts at the state and local levels of government to make such sales and promotions illegal.

BLOOD SPORTS

The HSTV is unalterably opposed to so called blood sports such as bull fighting, dog fighting, cock fighting, coon-on-a-log, coon-in-a-hole and similar spectacles. The Society maintains all these are brutal animal contests with acute suffering, torture and harassment for animals forced to participate in torture for fun that is degrading and unfit for a civilized society. Further, the Society recognizes that these spectacles continue to survive because of ineffective law enforcement.

It is, therefore, HSTV's policy to take all steps necessary to end these cruel events by legal action when possible, by stopping the national distribution through the mail of magazines upon which cock fighting and dog fighting depend for survival, by seeking strong legislation, where needed, to outlaw these activities, by working with state law enforcement officials, and by working with federal government agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Transportation, and United States Postal Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others.

The HSTV believes that safeguards should prevent certain experiments from being unnecessarily conducted on animals, regardless of the state of alternatives. These include experiments unnecessarily duplicative of other studies; scientifically or medically trivial, dubious, or otherwise unnecessary; extremely painful or stressful; or otherwise fail to balance scientific aims and the public's concern for animals.

The HSTV contends that a rigorously applied humane approach can benefit both animal welfare and human health, without compromising either. Refinements of procedure can decrease stress and its confounding effects on experimental variables. Reductions in animal numbers can, in some cases, decrease research costs without compromising research quality. Replacements of animal subjects can be less costly and time consuming and can yield greater accuracy and reliability. Conversely, an over reliance on animal subjects in research and testing can hinder the advancement of health, safety, and knowledge.

The HSTV believes that the research community should vigorously promote the development, validation, implementation,

and application of research and testing techniques that are replacement alternatives, especially in the area of toxicity testing, where existing animal based methods have been criticized by many scientists as well as by animal protectionists. Animals should be housed in a manner that accommodates their species typical activities and promotes their psychological well being. Animals should be protected by meaningful and well enforced regulations during experimental manipulations, not only before and after such manipulations. Biomedical professionals should devise, for each laboratory species, standardized recommendations regarding anesthetic/analgesic doses and other methods to alleviate pain caused by various procedures.

The HSTV also contends that ethical issues in biomedical research and testing are important to the education of all health care professionals involved in animal research and testing and these issues should be a part of all human and animal health science curricula.

Therefore, the HSTV advocates rigorous ethical evaluation of animal research and testing procedures; a commitment to the alternatives approach of replacement, reduction, and refinement; and an end to the suffering of animals in biomedical research and testing.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

An estimated 40 percent of all living species are now threatened with extinction as a result of pollution, trapping, hunting, and/or destruction of habitat. Recognizing that the demise of any species is an irreparable loss that deprives the world of a unique creature, the HSTV is committed to restoring and protecting endangered species by assisting the United States Department of the Interior in every way possible to aggressively enforce the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended. We also urge federal and state wildlife agencies to broaden their programs for the protection and propagation of threatened and endangered species and their habitats, and we encourage private citizens to assist in preserving habitats where such species are known to reside.

MARINE MAMMALS

The HSTV strongly opposes on both ethical and humane grounds the slaughter of marine mammals for commercial and sport purposes including, for example, the harpooning of whales, clubbing of seals, drowning of porpoises and other marine mammals in fishing nets and gear, and shooting them from boats with rifles. The HSTV believes that these inhumane activities cannot be justified as being either socio-economically essential or necessary for human nutrition. Moreover, the HSTV is convinced that many marine mammal populations are either endangered or in imminent danger of becoming so as a result of such activities and that steps must be taken to reverse the decline of those marine mammal populations.

It is, therefore, the policy of the HSTV to promote and support measures to protect and preserve all marine mammals. In pursuing this policy, the HSTV:

- 1) supports the total ban on all commercial whaling adopted by the International Whaling Commission and the imposition of sanctions against those nations that refuse to comply with it;
- 2) supports a total ban on all commercial seal hunts, including the harp and hooded seal hunt by Canada and the Alaska fur seal hunt by the United States;
- 3) opposes the sport hunting of marine mammals;
- 4) supports the moratorium on taking and importing marine mammals established by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and encourages effective administration and enforcement of its provisions;
- 5) seeks the development of new fishing practices that will prevent injury to and agonizing death by drowning of marine mammals incidentally taken in fishing nets; and
- 6) seeks an end to the practice of dumping fishing nets and other materials overboard which creates so called "ghost fishing nets" entangling and killing thousands of marine mammals annually.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRACTICES

The HSTV recognizes that the suffering of farm animals is widespread. This suffering primarily results from the adoption of intensive confinement husbandry systems which, because of their scale, are economically competitive over less stressful and more humane methods of meat, milk, and egg production. Examples include hog "factories" where sows are crated or tethered to the ground and piglets confined and overcrowded in small pens or cages; "milk fed" veal calves that are raised alone in narrow crates; and laying hens that are crowded in small, wire "battery" cages. The Society recognizes and has documented that the majority of modern intensive confinement systems of livestock and poultry production are stressful to the animals and that the systems are inadequately designed to provide a healthful environment for the animals' physical, behavioral, and emotional needs and requirements.

The HSTV recognizes additional concerns such as the branding and dehorning of cattle without anesthesia, improper handling and transportation of farm animals under inhumane conditions, and shackling and hoisting of conscious animals in packing plants exempt from federal and state humane legislation. The Society further recognizes that existing legislation offers little protection for food animals. Standards affecting the well being and comfort of livestock and poultry are determined usually on the basis of productivity and profit.

Since more and more animal products sold in major grocery store chains are from "factory farm" animals, the Society endorses the concept of eating with conscience - of eating no meat, or eating only those animal products that are from animals raised more humanely than those raised under cruel, industrial scale "factory" conditions. The Society, therefore, encourages for those who choose to eat meat the selective consumption of locally raised produce from animals kept on small to medium sized family farms where they receive more individual attention and care, and are less stressed than those in confinement "factories," and are also not subjected to the stress of long distance transportation.

The HSTV is also concerned with the widespread use of antibiotics, hormones, and other drugs used to boost animal growth and productivity and to offset the stressful and disease promoting conditions on "factory" farms. A related concern is the impact on public health, the environment, and on wildlife of agricultural practices that rely heavily upon harmful pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and artificial fertilizers in order to primarily supply inhumane animal farm factories both in the U.S. and abroad with livestock and poultry feedstuffs.

It is, therefore, the policy of the HSTV to work for the elimination of all cruelty in the raising, housing, care, transportation, and slaughter of food animals. The Society is committed to pursuing this objective by publicity, distribution of literature, investigation and legal action. Further, the Society seeks reform and regulation of the production and marketing of these animals, enforcement of applicable laws, repeal of ritual slaughter exemptions in federal and state statutes, and implementation of humane standards for animals in every aspect of livestock, dairy products, and poultry production.

ZOOS

The HSTV believes that under most circumstances, wild animals should be permitted to exist undisturbed in their natural environments. To a considerable extent, zoos violate that right, frequently resulting in abuse, neglect, suffering, and death of animals. Consequently, the HSTV cannot condone the capture and confinement of animals from the wild for use in zoos, except for necessary propagation of endangered species.

However, the HSTV recognizes the widespread existence of zoos and acknowledges that some serve demonstrable purposes for the long term benefit of animals, such as:

-- preservation and restoration of endangered or threatened species.

-- education of people to the needs of wild animals and their role in ecosystems.

In order to justify their existence, zoos must serve such purposes, must maintain animals in conditions simulating their natural habitats as closely as possible, and must treat them with the highest degree of humaneness, care, and professionalism.

The HSTV believes it is extremely important that these requirements be met not only for the welfare of the animals but also because inhumane or inappropriate conditions viewed by an impressionable public provide a negative learning experience by seeming to condone indifference or cruelty.

Unfortunately, few zoos approach these standards at the present time; some, in fact, make no attempts to do so, especially so called "roadside" zoos or menageries. This category of zoo is a permanently substandard menagerie whose primary purpose often is to attract people to other facilities such as diners, gift shops, or motels. Even municipally operated zoos may be so inferior as to be nothing more than their roadside counterparts. The HSTV pledges itself to work with those zoological parks and other zoos desiring to improve and having the capability to do so, but it is committed to the eradication of those that will not or cannot improve.

WILD MUSTANGS AND BURROS

It is the policy of the HSTV to work to protect the remaining herds of western wild horses and burros from cruel exploitation and extinctions and to use its influence to ensure existing protective legislation is properly enforced and administered, so that those concerned solely with exploiting these animals for profit, and those with conflicting interests, will not succeed in destroying these animals.

Further, the HSTV will continue to oppose attempts to weaken current laws that protect these animals and will oppose vigorously the use of improper methods of capturing and managing wild horses and burros.

TRANQUILIZER GUNS

The HSTV opposes the use of tranquilizer guns in usual animal control work. The Society believes that many animal control workers do not have the expertise to deal with such variables in estimating syringe dosages as age of the animal, weight, and physical condition. Inability to deal with such factors, especially in animals of unknown history, produces high mortality rates, while inaccurate hits can result in painful injuries to sensitive areas like the eye or ear. Under usual circumstances, the Society recommends that stray or wild animals be captured with more conventional equipment and, if this is not possible, the animal be killed rather than be subjected to the trauma resulting from use of a tranquilizer gun.

The Society recognizes, however, that tranquilizer guns are ideally suited for use by experts in controlled environments such as zoos, wildlife refuges, etc.

CIRCUSES

The Circus has been a traditional form of entertainment in this country and around the world for centuries. Children of all ages have marveled at the spectacle of glitter, lights, magic, and amazing talents. But a circus can also be one of the greatest examples of people's cruelty to animals. Taken out of their natural habitat, circus animals are made to learn unnatural and degrading tricks using painful training methods. Some animals are regularly drugged to make them more obedient; others have their teeth and claws removed. The animals travel forty or more weeks every year, they experience none of the social life that all species need. Instead they are confined in cramped, inadequate cages, and are let out only to train and perform. And when they have outlived their usefulness, they are often sold to zoos, game farms or research laboratories.

The HSTV recognizes and applauds circuses and acrobatic performances that do not use animals as part of their acts. But when circus entertainment involves the exploitation of animals in pursuit of little more than financial profit and senseless entertainment, the Society opposes the use of animals in circuses. The Society deplores the unnecessary use of prods and electric shocks. Furthermore, given the number of circuses operating today, and their constant travel, it is almost impossible for local governmental animal regulatory groups to have any influence over these acts. Since circuses can literally pack up their tents and be somewhere else overnight, the Society believes that a program of official humane supervision cannot be effectively enforced to prevent the cruelties inherent in these arenas.

The HSTV contends that circuses using animals are not simply harmless entertainment; rather, they display and encourage an insensitivity to and acceptance of inhumane treatment of animals in the name of "fun." Such callous disregard of our moral obligations toward other living, feeling creatures cannot help but have a negative impact upon society in general, and impressionable children in particular, and are certainly inconsistent with the goals and guiding philosophy of humane organizations.

The Society, therefore, seeks to publicize our objections and encourage others to join us in pursuit of the elimination of this type of animal misuse through a program of local education

and activism.

GIVEAWAY OF ANIMALS FOR COMMERCIAL PROMOTION

The HSTV condemns and opposes the practice of commercial and other interests advertising and giving away living creatures by raffle, lottery, and other means of chance, or promoting sales by attracting customers in this manner. The Society believes that such "giveaways" cheapen regard for animal life and produce a situation in which there is no knowledge or control of the persons who will receive the animals, the conditions in which they will live, or the use to which they will be put.

POUND SEIZURE

The HSTV is convinced that the surrender of live, impounded animals from public and private shelters to biomedical research laboratories, training institutions, pharmaceutical houses and other facilities that use live animals for experimental, teaching or testing purposes contributes to a breakdown of effective animal control programs through abandonment of animals by owners who rightfully fear such animals may be subjected to painful use. The Society believes that animal shelters should not be a cheap source of supply for laboratories or pursue, voluntarily or otherwise, a practice that will inevitably destroy public confidence in its operation and thereby lessen public support.

It is, therefore, the policy of the HSTV to oppose the release of live, impounded animals from public and private shelters to biomedical research laboratories or related animal using facilities and to oppose any measure, administrative or legislative, that would make this practice mandatory. Further, the Society condemns any organization, calling itself a humane society or society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, that voluntarily sells or gives live animals in its custody to biomedical research laboratories.

SALE OF ANIMALS IN PET STORES

Because investigations of "puppy mills" have exposed such cruel and inhumane conditions as overcrowding, filth, inadequate shelter, and lack of food, water, and veterinary care, the HSTV is strongly opposed to the sale, through pet shops and similar outlets, of puppies and dogs from mass breeding establishments. (For the purpose of this policy statement, the term "puppy mill" is defined as a mass dog breeding operation that produces puppies for wholesale to the pet industry.)

Consequently, the HSTV seeks the abolition of "puppy mills" as they are now operated and will work to achieve this goal through enforcement of the licensing and operational requirements of the federal Animal Welfare Act, through a strong public awareness campaign, and through enactment of legislation.

It is also the policy of the HSTV to oppose the sale of wild animals (including fish and birds that have been caught in the wild) through pet stores, pet departments, and any other commercial establishment where the purpose is to make such species available to the public. This policy is rooted in our firm conviction that wild animals are unsuitable as pets and cannot be properly and humanely maintained in a home environment.

STUDY OF LIVE ANIMALS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SCIENCE FAIRS

The HSTV recognizes the importance of biology studies within the elementary and secondary school curricula. As the "study of life", biology programs should be designed to instill upon students an interest in and respect for all living things, as well as an appreciation for the uniqueness of each individual organism. Since, for the vast majority of young people, formal exposure to biology ends with high school graduation, it is also necessary that precollege biology courses provide exposure to values and learning experiences that will continue to be meaningful beyond the narrow applications of the classroom laboratory. The HSTV believes that these objectives are best met when biology education at the precollege level focuses on animals as living, sentient creatures, stressing their behavior, life patterns, and relationship with their environment.

The HSTV opposes the use of animals in school sponsored or approved experiments, lessons, or projects that interfere with the normal health or development of the animals, constitute major manipulations of the animals' behavior or environment, or cause pain, fear, anxiety, or discomfort. Experiments and activities involving live animals should be limited to observations of the normal living patterns, behavior, growth, and development of domestic animals, or wild animals in a free living state or in those zoological parks or aquaria that maintain animals in suitable naturalistic environments. In rare instances, small, native animals whose habitat can be easily simulated in a classroom setting may be brought into the classroom for observation over a brief period of time, but should be returned promptly to the place from which they were taken.

It is also the policy of the HSTV that dissection is unnecessary and inconsistent with the development of a general appreciation and respect for living organisms and is, therefore, unacceptable at the precollege level.

RODEOS

The HSTV is opposed to rodeos because they result in torment, harassment, and stress being inflicted upon the participating animals and expose rodeo stock to the probability of pain, injury, or death. We denounce this type of unnecessary exploitation and use of devices such as electric prods, sharpened sticks, spurs, flank straps, and other rodeo tack which cause animals to react violently. We find these abuses cannot be justified.

We have determined that professionally sanctioned rodeos often ignore the established guidelines intended to prevent cruelty. Furthermore, we have determined that abuse and suffering occur during non-sanctioned or amateur competitions and especially when animals are used repetitively for practice. Therefore, we believe that a program of official humane supervision cannot effectively prevent the cruelties inherent in rodeo.

The HSTV contends that rodeos are not an accurate or harmless portrayal of ranching skills; rather, they display and encourage an insensitivity to and acceptance of brutal treatment of animals in the name of "sport." Such callous disregard of our moral obligations toward other living creatures has a negative impact on society as a whole and on impressionable children in particular.

It is, therefore, our policy to oppose all rodeos, to educate the public about our humane objections, and to encourage like minded individuals and groups to seek the elimination of rodeo cruelties through a program of local activism.

ANIMALS IN MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS

Because the motion picture and television industries have no production code specifically defining and prohibiting cruelty to animals during film or program production, and because they allegedly depend upon a dubious policy of voluntary compliance by producers and directors, the HSTV is firmly committed to demanding that these industries establish and enforce a strong set of standards and procedures that will assure humane treatment of all animals used in these productions.

The Society is opposed to any cruelty to animals in the production of motion pictures and television programs. Further, the Society deplores the production and distribution of films and programs that depict scenes of cruelty and violence to animals.

In seeking to advance these objectives, the HSTV seeks the aid of all resources of federal and state governments and the cooperation of the United States film and television industries, their trade associations, and persons associated with the film and television industries.

HUNTING

The HSTV is strongly opposed to the hunting of any living creature for fun, trophy, or for sport, because of the trauma, suffering, and death to the animals which results. The HSTV also opposes such killing because of the negative effects upon the young who may learn to accept and live with needless suffering and killing. The HSTV believes that a civilized society should not condone the killing of any sentient creature as sport.

The HSTV believes that the characterization of wild animals as "game" denies their intrinsic value and belittles their ecological importance. The Society finds that a great deal of wildlife allegedly killed for management reasons actually is killed as "game" for "sporting" purposes. In such cases, we oppose both the killing and the duplicity. It is the goal of the HSTV to ensure ethical stewardship of wildlife and its environment.

The HSTV recognizes that the welfare and responsible management of animals may, on occasion, necessitate the killing of wildlife. When such killing is permitted, it must be used as a last resort, be demonstrably necessary, be conducted by responsible officials, and methods utilized must result in an instantaneous and humane death.

The HSTV also recognizes that the legitimate need for human subsistence may necessitate the killing of wildlife. In such cases, killing must be accomplished in a humane and non-wasteful manner and must not involve endangered or threatened animals.

SHOOTING PRESERVES, LIVE TURKEY AND PIGEON SHOOTS

It is the policy of the HSTV to oppose the killing of animals for sport in live turkey and pigeon shoots and in shooting preserves where captured or captive bred animals are killed while caged, staked, or otherwise confined or baited. The Society seeks to abolish these patently cruel activities.

The Society is committed to public exposure of the cruelties in these events and to working aggressively for measures to abolish the shooting of any animal which is in confinement or otherwise immobilized.

EUTHANASIA

Because the enormous overpopulation of dogs and cats results in the impoundment and destruction of the majority of these animals, and because methods of destruction used are often inadequate, inhumane, and ineffective, it is the policy of the HSTV to pursue a vigorous program of investigation, study, and application of acceptable euthanasia methods and to recommend for use those methods that are as humane and free from fear and apprehension as the best available knowledge can show, and that this evaluation should take into account simplicity of operation, availability, cost factors, mechanical and maintenance problems, and aesthetic considerations to the people involved.

KOSHER SLAUGHTER

The HSTV believes that federal and state humane slaughter laws should be amended to no longer exempt the preparation of animals ritually slaughtered for food. While recognizing that religious practices and beliefs should not be abridged, the Society contends that the present pre-slaughter method of shackling and hoisting live, conscious animals for ritual slaughter is cruel and forms no part of the requirements of any religious faith. This process is a high speed packinghouse technique invented by packers to comply with United States Department of Agriculture sanitary requirements and to expedite production.

There is ample testimony to prove that the procedure, which involves shackling a chain around one or two hind legs of the animal and hoisting the animal from the floor by power machinery, dislocates leg joints, tears tendons and muscles, ruptures blood vessels, and causes great agony to the animal.

It is, therefore, the policy of the Society to oppose the preparation of animals for slaughter by means of this procedure. Without infringing in any way on ritual requirements, food animals can be prepared for slaughter by alternative means, such as use of the humane restraining pen which is currently available for large animals and soon will be available for smaller species. The Society acknowledges the humaneness of severance of the major arteries of the throat by a swift cut with a very sharp knife causing almost instantaneous loss of consciousness, as performed in ritual slaughter.

PREDATOR CONTROL

The HSTV believes the predator control program as now implemented by federal and state government results in a massive slaughter of wildlife without justification. The Society finds the indiscriminate killing of predatory animals by poisoning, trapping, shooting from aircraft, killing of pups in their dens, and other inhumane methods totally unacceptable and a shortsighted view that can cause serious ecological damage to mankind and his environment. The HSTV questions much of the data provided by ranchers, farmers, and others to support their claims of major livestock and other losses due to predators. Further, the Society believes much of the killing under the so called predator control program takes place on public lands where ranchers graze their stock for a nominal annual fee.

It is, therefore, the policy of the HSTV to oppose the cruel techniques used in the present program, encourage the use of non-lethal control measures such as repellents, lights, sound agents, and chemosterilant, and work for adoption of a government indemnity program to compensate ranchers for proven stock losses caused by predators.

HUMANE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In an effort to meet the threat of world food shortages and an ever increasing population, agriculture's primary task has been to achieve an efficient agriculture that increases output and lowers production costs. Measuring agriculture primarily by productivity and economic efficiency has created a host of social, environmental, and economic problems.

Chemically treated crop monocultures and high density livestock and poultry production systems have seriously polluted aquatic ecosystems, demineralized and organically impoverished the soil, contaminated drinking water, and endangered human, wildlife, and farm animal health.

These systems have created agrilogogenic disease, or producer induced disease. Agrilogogenic disease is any disease or pest infestation that directly results from ecologically unsound production systems that depend upon the use of antibiotics, hormones, pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, and the relatively new application of biotechnology.

Humane sustainable agriculture addresses these problems by analyzing all the costs and benefits in the raising of crops and animals - social and environmental as well as private, long term as well as immediate, and those that can be given monetary value as well as those that cannot.

Humane sustainable agriculture is farming with compassion and consideration for land and animals. It is environmentally sound land management. It is agriculture that joins together productivity and economic efficiency with our related goals of more empathetic husbandry of crops and livestock and careful stewardship of resources - soil, water, air, and protection of wildlife and wildlands. Humane sustainable agriculture embraces the principle of raising animals under conditions that satisfy their behavioral requirements just as the land is treated in accordance with the ecological requirements of a sound agricultural stewardship.

The HSTV enthusiastically supports farmers who espouse humane, ecologically sound production systems that avoid dependence upon antibiotics, hormones, pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, and inappropriate biotechnologies.

In an effort to raise awareness of agriculture's significant impact on the environment wildlife, human health, and farm animals, the HSTV encourages its members to choose agricultural products that come from humane sustainable systems of agriculture. Humane sustainable agriculture systems promote healthful conditions for the land, farm animals, wildlife, and environment and allow for the maintenance of natural ecosystems. Humane sustainable agriculture offers society a way to "eat with conscience" - a way to support compassionate stewardship of our finite resources and the environment.

In sum, a humane sustainable agriculture is a life enhancing food production system that embraces the ecological principles of optimal planetary biodiversity and climatic stability; the ethics of social justice and environmental and consumer health; and the goals of economic stability, national security, and world peace.

FUR - TRAPPING AND RANCHING

The HSTV is unequivocally opposed to the trapping, rearing, and killing of animals for the production of fur apparel and accessories. The HSTV believes that such exploitation and killing of animals for their fur causes needless and unjustifiable suffering and death and is, therefore, inconsistent with the aims of a civilized society.

The HSTV finds no justification for any form of trapping except in those rare cases when such trapping demonstrably benefits animals or provides necessary benefit to ecological systems. This kind of trapping may be conducted only after less intrusive alternatives have been attempted and exhausted, and it must be done responsibly, efficiently, and by a humane method that captures the animal alive and without injury or that produces rapid loss of consciousness and painless death.

The HSTV especially believes there should be an immediate and absolute ban on the steel jaw leghold trap.

In addition to opposing commercial and sport trapping, the HSTV opposes the existence and operation of "fur ranches," where fur bearing animals are bred, raised, and killed.*

The HSTV will continue its educational, legal, and legislative efforts to end the rearing, trapping, and killing of animals for their fur.

* Explanatory note to policy statement:

"Fur ranches" are not covered by either state or federal humane regulations. The HSTV views these so called ranches as fur factories, which maintain animals for their entire lives in small, cramped pens, and which result in needless and unjustifiable suffering and cruelty. The breeding of fur ranched animals sometimes causes mutations, deformities, and painful physical disorders, and the confinement of these animals is unnatural

and, therefore, cruel. Moreover, the methods of killing these animals often are inhumane.

ANIMALS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND TESTING

The HSTV recognizes that some scientific research and testing on animals has benefitted humans and animals and that such research and testing continues to rely on animal subjects to a large extent. Nevertheless, the HSTV believes that the status quo relating to the use of animals in research and testing is unacceptable.

While conditions for the housing and care of animals are improving, millions of animals are still housed under highly artificial conditions that preclude normal behavior and impair psychological well being. Despite existing safeguards, many animals continue to be subjected to procedures that are painful or scientifically questionable. While limited progress has been made in reducing and replacing the use of animals in laboratories, on the whole, the scientific community's efforts on alternatives have been inadequate.

The HSTV believes that the evaluation of proposed plans for research and testing should carefully address the following questions:

- 1) Can the proposed use of animals be replaced by non-animal methods that would yield comparable or superior results?
 - 2) If not, can the proposed number of animals be reduced to a minimum without compromising the results?
 - 3) Can the proposed procedure be refined so that any pain, suffering, or deprivation experienced by the animals be minimized without compromising the results?
- These principles - replacing, reducing, and refining animal use - constitute the "three Rs" of the alternatives approach.