

## A REPORT ON ANIMAL "OVERPOPULATION"

The Humane Society of the United States  
1145 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036

HAVE YOUR PETS NEUTERED AND PREVENT THIS



Overbreeding cheapens animal life, creates ready supply of animals for research facilities. Many thousands of dogs like these pass through hands of dealers who profit from their surplus. Most were family pets at one time.

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# If Rodeo...

...is accepted as a sport

and its cruel events

glorified in the Sports Section,

then by the same token

Rape should be featured

on the Society Page!

Defenders of Animals, Inc.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:  
2869 Glen Drive,  
Port Coquitlam, B.C.,  
March 24, 1972

An open letter to Ann Landers:

Have often noticed in your column that you are willing to "stand corrected" when one of your answers is "off-base" and I strongly suggest you "goofed" when you answered the man whose wife was uncomfortable wearing her new fur coat -- daresay she isn't as "uncomfortable" as the original owner during the process of eventually losing said "fur coat!"

You informed the gentleman it is alright to wear 'beaver' because they are not in danger of becoming extinct -- whether the beaver is not on the endangered species list, is neither here nor there -- the beaver still feels pain -- like the raccoon, muskrat and others who haven't made it as 'endangered!'

You claim there is 'no logical reason to boycott the beaver' -- how be it, if I suggest a few. There are many ways to die in a trap, all lingering, all ghastly. In the summer months gangrene often sets in, adding still further to the indescribable suffering. In the wintertime their tongues freeze to the metal teeth of the traps when they try to lick the injured leg. A terrible thirst is ever-present, as trauma or injury causes extreme thirst. Of course some 'animals' manage to escape, after several days -- by chewing off a trapped foot -- leaving behind only a 'souvenir' for the trapper's trouble. There are ways and means to thwart these escape artists though -- the trap is fastened to a bent tree, which springs upright when the animal is caught, suspending it, with the weight of its entire body on the crushed leg or paw. Birds sometimes peck out the eyes of the agonized victim but then this does not de-value the pelt!

In case you consult a 'trapper' about trapping beaver, he may tell you they are taken in 'drowning sets' -- not ye olde 'leg hold' that was invented and unchanged since

its inception -- 300 years ago! Many 'aquatic animals' meet their 'end' this way -- such as muskrats, mink, otter and beaver. Now 'drowning sets' are passed off as 'humane' -- properly set, they are, perhaps relatively humane; for example, a beaver may take from 30 seconds to 20 minutes to drown, depending on how much air he takes into his lungs before diving (assuming he actually dives under water). While this is obviously better than the several days often taken in the cases of 'land' animals, it can hardly be classified as truly humane.

Not only the 'intended victims' get trapped, reports of dogs, cats, ducks, songbirds, deer, domestic stock and species of animals who are in danger of 'extinction' -- as one trapper said himself -- "It is probable that no instrument was ever invented that caused as much suffering as the common steel trap." It is not only the trapped animals who suffer as the consequence of being 'caught' -- in many instances they leave behind helpless young ones to slowly die of starvation!

Still say "there is no logical reason to boycott animal furs, taken from the animals who have yet to reach the 'point of no return?' Personally, I have yet to see anyone do 'justice' to a fur coat -- as did the 'original owner.'

Lovely imitation furs are available that a gal can wear without fear of derision -- because the 'ranch furs' are not the answer -- why should any animal be forced to exist in a 'cage' under un-natural conditions -- hear tell they are kept in the dark to speed 'death dealing day' up -- this saves on time, not to mention 'feed bills' -- good old big biz always puts the 'almighty dollar' ahead -- no matter what! Why don't you visit one of these 'ranches' and see just how these caged creatures end their days to insure their fur coat is not damaged -- as they become 'extinct!'

Yours truly,  
Lee Davis