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**PNRO Fall 2002**

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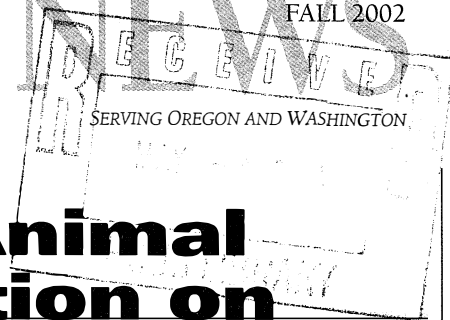
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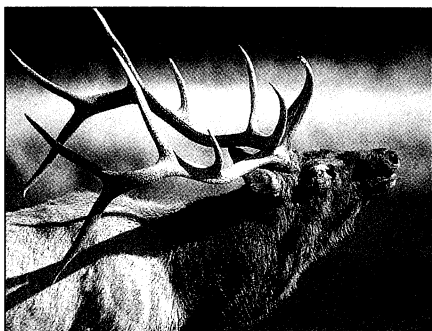
## PNRO Works To Ban OR Elk Farming

**P**PNRO is serving on the steering committee of MADelk (Measure Against the Domestication of Elk), a diverse coalition representing animal protection, conservation, and hunting organizations, formed to eliminate elk farming in Oregon.

Currently, private ranchers raise captive, tame elk behind high fences on private land. Crowded living conditions and the transport of elk among farms encourage the spread to wildlife and cattle of highly contagious and deadly diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) and chronic wasting disease (CWD), which is related to mad cow disease.

The states of Wisconsin and Colorado have already killed more than 30,000 wild deer because of the threat of CWD. TB was recently found on an elk ranch in northeastern Oregon, which resulted in the entire herd being killed and tested for the disease. A subsequent plan to kill hundreds of wild deer and elk by aerial gunning to test for TB exposure was, thankfully, halted.

One of the financial incentives for elk farming is the sale of antler velvet for its purported aphrodisiac properties. "Velveting" is a very bloody, cruel procedure, which takes place when the bull elk's antlers are fully formed, but still *continued on page 4*



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## Stemming Animal Overpopulation on Native Nations

**A** single animal control officer patrols the Colville Reservation's entire 1.4 million acres in eastern Washington—an overwhelming feat even for someone as committed to animal protection as Officer Joel Goss. When Officer Goss met with PNRO last January and shared his concerns about the growing animal overpopulation problem in his community, we knew we had to make the Colville Reservation a top priority for The HSUS's native nations outreach. Providing free spay/neuter services, medical care, and pet care education, this important program brings hope and relief to remote and impoverished communities across the country.

Officer Goss expressed concern that animal overpopulation on the Colville Reservation was at a critically high level. Dogs roam at large, scavenging in neighborhoods for food, sometimes traveling in intimidating packs after dark. Too often these unwanted animals are hit by cars, poisoned, or shot. Dog bite incidents are on the rise, and diseases such as mange, distemper, and parvovirus are common.

After months of planning, the Colville Reservation hosted PNRO and HSUS's new Remote Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) program for a six-day clinic in May. Three different communities held clinics on the reservation, and in less than one week, 358 cats and dogs were spayed and neutered. More than 100 additional animals received free health exams, medical treatment, and vaccinations. Humane education was also



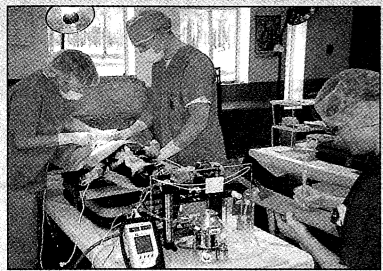
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**A Colville community member picks up his companion after the dog was neutered at HSUS's spay/neuter and animal wellness clinic this past May.**

heavily emphasized. PNRO spoke with classroom children about the importance of spaying and neutering their companion animals and distributed pet care information to the hundreds of people who brought their animals to the clinic.

Each day saw long lines of people holding cats in cardboard carriers and dogs on leashes, streaming out the door of the local community centers, which had been temporarily transformed into spay/neuter clinics. At one clinic, held in the small rural town of Inchelium, a beautiful white cat with long, silky fur and a large wound on the side of his head caught the eye of a clinic staff-member. He was a friendly barn cat, here to be neutered and then released back outdoors. However, the veterinarian in charge determined that the wound on his head would require extensive surgery and outdoor living would endanger his life. A clinic volunteer agreed to transport him to *continued on page 2*

## Building Bridges with Veterinarians



One of The HSUS native nations program's obvious goals is to combat animal overpopulation. Another less visible but critical component is to build bridges between the animal protection and veterinary communities. This year, a gifted team of HSUS veterinarians and 41 vet students who traveled from all over the country joined PNRO at the Colville clinic. This provided a tremendous forum for discussion of respectful, compassionate animal handling techniques and a wide variety of issues relating to companion animal care and protection. PNRO values the opportunity for dialogue with future veterinary professionals, since these practitioners will have a significant influence on the treatment of the animals in our society. Our sincere hope is that these veterinarians-to-be will embrace compassion and respect for animals as core principles in their work.

*continued from "Native Nations," page 1*

Seattle where he could be given the medical treatment he needed. Dubbed "Inchie" (short for Inchelium), this lucky cat came through surgery beautifully and was adopted into a loving, indoor home where he's now thriving.

Unwanted animals such as Inchie abound in every part of our region, and most of them don't get to celebrate such happy endings. This is especially true in remote, rural communities like the Colville Reservation where surplus animals are prevalent, veterinary services are extremely limited, and the few accessible veterinary

## Making Room for Wolves in Oregon

Due to heavy persecution by hunters, wolves were virtually extirpated in Oregon by the 1960s. In the late 1990s, three wolves were documented to have entered the state, presumably from Idaho, which has an active wolf-recovery program. One wolf was returned to Idaho, the second was illegally shot, and a car killed the third. Since that time, additional wolves have been sighted in Northeastern Oregon. These magnificent predators appear to be slowly finding their way across the Oregon border and back into their former territory.

The reappearance of wolves in Oregon has stirred up both sides of the controversial issue of wolf reintroduction. Many people celebrate the return of wolves to Oregon and recognize their value in our ecosystem. Unfortunately, not everyone shares this viewpoint, and preparations are already underway for the animals' destruction. Some Oregon ranchers view wolves as threats to livestock and vehemently oppose wolf conservation efforts.

The HSUS and other animal protection and conservation groups maintain that livestock losses can be largely prevented through improved livestock husbandry practices. These groups also advocate non-lethal predator control methods, which have proven successful throughout the world and provide a long-term solution to ranchers. One increasingly popular method is the use of guard animals, including llamas and particular breeds of dogs, to defend domestic sheep and cattle from predators. Many ranchers have begun to embrace these progressive and non-lethal techniques, and have found that they provide more effective and long-term reductions of livestock losses compared to lethal methods.

Oregon's little-known state Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects wolves and requires the state to assist in their recovery. In June the state Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) received petitions from both sides of the wolf issue. Agricultural groups petitioned FWC to remove the wolf from the state ESA. The HSUS and other conservation groups petitioned FWC for wolf protection.

The HSUS and others have initiated a Wolf Coalition Working Group to support wolf conservation efforts in Oregon. You can help by contacting FWC to express your support of wolf protection in Oregon. Write to Fish and Wildlife Commission, 2501 SW First Ave., Portland, OR 97207; e-mail [Maureen.B.Farrell@state.or.us](mailto:Maureen.B.Farrell@state.or.us); or fax: 503-872-5276.



COPEL

clinics charge more for spay/neuter surgeries than most budgets can afford. It was to help communities like this that HSUS began its RAVS program.

"We can't thank the Colville Reservation enough for hosting and supporting this important program. Their support made it possible to spare literally thousands of animals from the tragic cycle of overpopulation and suffering," says Stephanie Bell, PNRO's Washington program coordinator. "We are proud of our accomplishments that will benefit animals and people in this area for years to come."

### Special Thanks to:

- Officer Joel Goss for his compassion and determination. Without his dedication, this successful clinic could not have happened.
- The Humane Society for Seattle/King County for providing medical care and finding an adoptive home for Inchie.
- The Seattle Animal Shelter for accepting 10 reservation puppies into their adoption program.
- The Oregon Humane Society for accepting 15 reservation puppies into their adoption program.

## Regional Update

### Washington Trapping

Our last newsletter reported on the outrageous action taken by the Washington State Senate to repeal Initiative 713 (I-713)—the widely supported anti-trapping initiative that passed with a 55 percent majority in November of 2000. As we went to press with that newsletter, the battle over I-713 was being fought in the House of Representatives. We are happy to report that thanks to your correspondence to elected officials and the hard work of a few dedicated legislators, the effort to repeal I-713 was defeated this legislative session and the initiative remains intact. Unfortunately, we will face this battle again next year as numerous legislators have vowed to bring the issue up again.

It is more important than ever for you to continue to contact your legislators to let them know you do not want Washington's elected officials to overturn the will of the voters by repealing I-713. For help in identifying your legislators, contact PNRO.

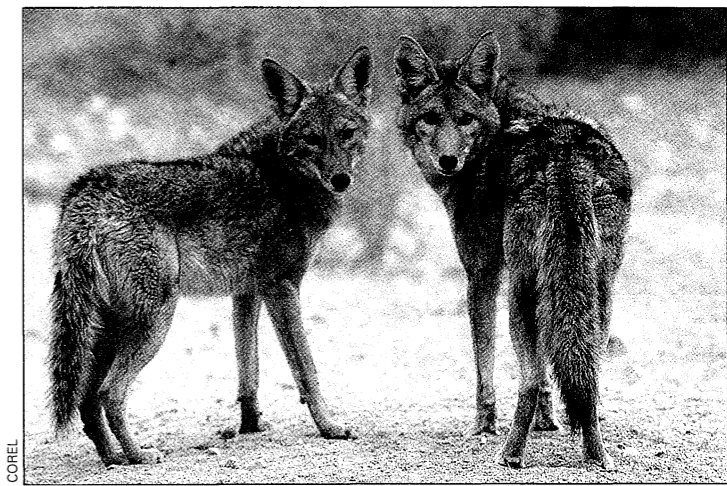
### Washington Coyotes

Last fall we reported that Washington had held its first-ever "coyote derby." The stated goal of the event was for contestants to kill as many coyotes as possible during an allotted time period. Individuals who killed the most coyotes increased their chances of winning raffle prizes. Participants killed 124 coyotes during the three-day event.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the agency that issued the permit for this event, is in the process of establishing its six-year game management plan. Please let WDFW know that contest hunts are an inhumane and inappropriate method of wildlife management and ask them to ban such hunts for all mammals. Write to: Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

### Oregon Cougars

Earlier this year, we reported on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW's) plans to use federal tax dollars to kill up to half of the cougars in two areas of the state to study the effects of cougar predation and nutrition on elk and mule deer populations. The proposed study will cost about \$5.2 million, most of which will come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).



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**Coyotes such as these did not fare well in Washington's "coyote derby," designed to kill as many of the animals as possible.**

Nine groups, including The HSUS and the Oregon chapter of the Sierra Club, filed a lawsuit against USFWS in federal district court seeking a preliminary injunction to stop the study until the case could be heard in court, but the request was denied. This means the study may begin at any time, and the cougars still need your help. Please express your opposition to this plan now by writing Gov. John Kitzhaber, State Capitol Bldg., 900 Court St., NE, Salem, OR 97301-4047; calling 503-378-3111; or e-mailing [www.governor.state.or.us/governor/mail/mailform.html](http://www.governor.state.or.us/governor/mail/mailform.html). Also contact John Esler, chair, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, 2501 SW First Ave., Portland, OR 97207; 503-872-5272; fax: 503-872-5276.

### I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about

- Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
- Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency.
- Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

- Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.
- Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

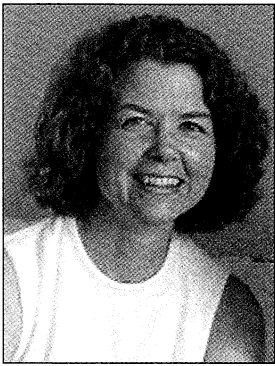
E-MAIL (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_



**Promoting the protection of all animals**

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES**  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE  
5200 University Way, NE, Suite 201  
Seattle, WA 98105

# Director's Report



SNYDER/HSUS

**By Lisa Wathne**  
*Director of the Pacific Northwest  
Regional Office*

## No Peace for Geese

Summers in the Pacific Northwest always provide welcome relief from our dreary and seemingly endless wet winters. The bright skies, longer days, clear views of snow-capped mountains and calm lakes lift our spirits, renew our energies, and make life a little more pleasant.

If only the same were true for our Canada geese.

At this time of year these magnificent birds have shed their flight feathers and are raising their young, yet they are the targets of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agents who are on a mission to kill 4,200 geese throughout the Puget Sound. The birds' crime? Defecating in public parks.

The taxpayer-funded federal goose round-ups resemble a scene from a horror movie. Trusting families of geese—including goslings—are lured into pens with bread and then grabbed and shoved, struggling, into a gas chamber mounted on a pickup truck. As carbon dioxide gas is released into the dark and cramped chamber, the panicked geese trample the bodies of their mates, children, and siblings as they slowly asphyxiate.

## Contacting HSUS

### Write:

HSUS Pacific Northwest Regional Office  
5200 University Way, NE, Ste. 201  
Seattle, WA 98105

### Call:

206-526-0949

### Fax:

206-526-0989

### E-Mail:

[pnro@hsus.org](mailto:pnro@hsus.org)

### Web Page:

[www.hsus.org/pnro](http://www.hsus.org/pnro)

Canada geese are remarkable birds. They mate for life, nurture their young, and form strong family bonds. The USDA's barbaric round-ups separate these family groups, leaving orphaned goslings to fend for themselves without their parents' care and guidance. Lone geese honk forlornly as their mates and young struggle and die. Killing geese is not only unjustified—it is a short-term solution at best and does nothing to prevent goose conflicts in the future. For the past two years, PNRO has done everything within our means to stop the killing of geese in the Puget Sound region, including offering assistance to private property owners and local parks departments in dealing with goose conflicts in a non-lethal and humane manner. We've also generated public pressure on decision makers who, to date, have chosen to maintain the status quo.

The public has responded with outrage to the goose kills in Puget Sound. Hundreds have joined demonstrations, written letters and made phone calls asking for an end to the carnage. In an effort to stop the round-ups completely, or to ensure that they did not occur without adequate documentation and media coverage, dozens volunteered their time to patrol local parks during the weeks the USDA was killing.

The outpouring of compassion for Canada geese is heartening and clearly demonstrates that citizens expect a better and more humane solution to any perceived problems with these birds. PNRO will continue to urge officials to implement a comprehensive, non-lethal plan to address Canada goose conflicts and offer our help, free of charge, to ensure the success of these methods. We will also continue to emphasize the injustice of the goose slaughter and the importance of striving to live in harmony with wildlife. The geese are depending on it.

*continued from "Elk," page 1*

soft with velvet and blood-rich. The animal is held firmly in place with a mechanical device, and an electrical current is passed through the body to immobilize him. The antlers are sawed off and the bloody stumps are treated to stop the blood loss.

Another humane concern is the possibility that elk farm ranches will, inadvertently or otherwise, support the cruel industry of canned hunting. Although Oregon banned canned hunts in 1999, more than 20 states still allow it. Hunters who want a large set of trophy antlers will often pay as much as \$20,000 to shoot a captive elk. Therefore, Oregon elk farmers can sell their animals to elk farms in other states where shooting of captive, tame elk is still permitted.

MADelk's first action was to petition the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) and ask for an emergency rule to ban the importation of elk into the state of Oregon, thereby eliminating one source of expansion for elk farms. In July the FWC unanimously voted to consider our emergency ban on captive elk importation at its August meeting. The commission also ordered the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to draft a rule that would create a permanent ban on deer and elk importation.

This will certainly be a hot issue for years to come, and PNRO will continue to work as a member of the MADelk coalition on behalf of captive elk and wildlife in the state of Oregon.

The *PNRO Regional News* is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 5200 University Way, NE, Ste. 201, Seattle, WA 98105; 206-526-0949. Lisa Wathne, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays. © 2002 by The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved. A COPY OF THE LATEST REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FILED BY THE HSUS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE HSUS, OFFICE OF THE TREASURER, 2100 L ST., NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037, 202-452-1100. IN WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON RESIDENTS CAN CALL THE SECRETARY OF STATE, 1-800-332-4483. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. Printed on recycled paper.