

Jeri

October 28, 1975

Senator Bob Dole  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
Washington, D. C. 20510



Dear Senator Dole:

I would like you to vote favorably on the following animal bills presently being considered by Congress:

1. First and foremost, the prohibition of leg-hold traps. This is the cruelest and most inhumane device yet invented by man for the torture of wild animals. It can only be compared with having your arm caught in a door. Small wonder, creatures often chew off the entrapped limb!

It has been argued that the trappers check their traps frequently minimizing the suffering. They don't. And even if they did, how would you like to have your arm caught in a car door for 24 hours, perhaps in bitter cold? Not very appealing.

2. Outlawing of animal fighting. I had no idea this was legal in some states--please outlaw it nationwide. It has been said that the culture of a country can be judged by its entertainment.... For the same of the poor animals that must fight and the countless more that are sacrificed in the training of them, please have this abomination stopped!
3. Prohibition of soring of Tennessee walking horses. Another little known torturous exploitation of animals for profit. Please have it stopped.

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4. Whaling. I'm not aware of what bills are before Congress on the wanton, gluttonous slaughter of these giant creatures, but if there are any, please take their side.
5. And, of course the seal slaughter continues despite us "bleeding heart" conservationists' efforts. Please, if any bills come up in the future, stop this bloody harvest where it is practiced on our continent.

Thank you for your time, Senator Dole. Please do your best to cast your vote for the rights of God's creatures; unfortunately, they don't have suffrage.

Sincerely,

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Olathe, KS 66061



NATURAL RESOURCES/animal welfare

November 3, 1975

[REDACTED]  
Olathe, Kansas 66061

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter concerning several issues dealing with animal welfare.

There has been some legislation introduced that helps to protect the welfare of animals. S. 1223 concerns painful devices used in trapping mammals and birds. S. 193 deals with prohibiting dogfighting. Both bills are pending before the Senate Commerce Committee. To date, no action has been taken and no hearing date has been set for either bill.

Certainly share your concern that horses should be treated humanely. S. 811 -- a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act of 1970 in order to prevent the soring of horses -- has been approved by the Senate and has been referred to the House of Representatives. Horses are sored for the sole purpose of making them perform better in shows. This is a poor excuse for subjecting these animals to the severe pain involved in this practice.

You may be interested to know that several steps have already been taken to protect the whale. On the national level, the Secretary of the Interior has placed the eight major species of great whales on the Endangered Species List. By this act, it became illegal to import into the United States products of these whales. In 1971, the Secretary of Commerce announced that, after the 1971 whaling season, no further licenses would be issued to United States nationals to take whales for commercial purposes.

On the international level, the United States has pursued efforts to conserve whales through its membership in the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Progress in this forum has included the reduction of catch quotas and the establishment of an international observer scheme. U. S. Representatives to the IWC since 1972 have also proposed a ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling. Primarily because of Japanese and Soviet opposition, however, this has not been achieved.

So far as we know, no U. S. Nationals participate in the harvest of seals. Moreover, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 makes it illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to participate in this harvest, or to import any of the skins of the harvested seals, unless, with regard to either action, the Secretary of



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Commerce has waived the moratorium on the taking or importing of marine mammals or marine mammal products imposed by the Act. The Secretary has not waived the moratorium in either regard; and no such waiver is contemplated. In any event, the Act further provides that no marine mammal which is less than 8 months old or nursing at the time to taking, whichever occurs later -- or the product of such a mammal -- may be imported into the United States except for scientific research.

You may be assured of my continued interest for the welfare of our domestic and wild animals. Appreciate being apprised of your interest and concerns with these matters. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE  
United States Senator

BD:jv