

The original documents are located in Box 42, folder “Ford, Susan - Fur Coat” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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April 15, 1975

Dear ,

Thank you for your letter in which you expressed your concern for the welfare of animals whose fur is used in making coats. You will be pleased to know that yours was only one of many I received from other citizens who are equally concerned.

Let me assure you that I share your desire to guarantee humane treatment for all animals; and I, therefore, was careful to check with the furrier before selecting the particular fur coat that I did.

As it was explained to me, muskrats are found throughout most of the United States and reproduce at a very rapid rate. In fact, their numbers multiply so fast that their dens often become overcrowded making it necessary to "push out" many members who are then left to face a slow death by starvation.

Trapping, of course, helps prevent these muskrats from having to starve to death, but then I questioned whether the method of trapping was any more humane than starvation. I was assured that the only traps used were the new Conibear traps that cause instantaneous death and do not allow the animal to linger in pain and fear as do the steel jaw traps.

Also, the trim for my coat came from a fox farm which, according to the Humane Society of the United States, has demonstrated that it "can raise and kill animals in captivity without causing suffering or fear."

Thank you for giving me the chance to explain my actions. I think it's just great that there are people such as you who are willing to volunteer their time, energy and hearts to protect our animals and help their local humane societies.

Sincerely,

Susan Ford



File

February 21, 1975

Dear Mrs. Gray,

Thank you for your letter in which you solicited my help in the very necessary campaign against cruelty to animals. I can well appreciate your reason for writing and want to assure you I do sympathize with your concern.

While I do wear furs and have asked for a fur coat for my graduation present, let me point out that I purchase them only from furriers who do not use pelts from trapped animals. You have most likely noticed that such a practice is encouraged by the Humane Society of the United States as is stated in one of the brochures you sent me.

You might be interested to know that many others have written to me just as you have, and I have urged all of them to also contact their Congressman, Senators and local law enforcement officials. I do this because I think it is important that we bring the unfortunate plight of so many of our animals to these officials' attention, as they are the ones who can make our laws far stricter and better enforce them. I know it's not much, but I hope that my efforts to direct people to the proper authorities will help in some small way to obliterate these cruel injustices.

Thanks for your willingness to help in this way, too.

Sincerely,

Susan Ford

Mrs. Blanche Gray
314 Woodland Terrace
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

CvP

A Bite to Eat, a Couple of Laughs and a Face Full of Ice Water

By Maxine Cheshire

VIP

An incident which originally got the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. George S. Brown, into hot water caused another military man to be doused with ice water here last Saturday night in

the audience with an ice bucket in his hand. Saying

CIA involvements was released by Sen. Howard H.

were shopping in New York last week.

The Secret Service checked the place out in the morning and "Mr. Constantino," one of the partners, pulled some of his handsomest samples from the vaults.

Furs for Fords

New York Times News Service
Betty Ford and daughter Susan are

will be embroidered on the linings of their respective furs.

5681-1875
w arlingford

Post 6/3/75
urs

I would like to commend R. Pum-
ey's letter to the editor on June 5
ncerning Susan Ford's graduation

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ISUS approves of trapping, breeding,
aising or killing of live animals solely
or the purpose of fashion or decora-
ion.

John A. Hoyt,
President, The Humane Society
of the United States.

Washington.

Continued on next page

Susan Ford to Wear Fur Without Anti-Cruelty Proof

Susan Ford is getting a street length muskrat and fox fur coat from her parents,
President and Mrs. Ford, as a high school graduation gift. She is accepting the coat after
assuring an HSUS member that she would only purchase furs from furriers who do not use
pelts from trapped animals. What Miss Ford apparently doesn't realize is that furriers buy
their pelts at auctions where it is impossible to learn the origins of the skins. This fact was
confirmed for HSUS by a spokesman for the American fur industry.

The
Humane Society
News
of the United States

Spring 1975

Animals have feelings, too!

File



**SAVE the
ANIMALS..**



friends of animals, inc.

11 West 60th Street, New York, N.Y. 10023

WHAT do
you MEAN
by that?



--TO EXTEND
the principles of
LIBERTY
EQUALITY
FRATERNITY
to non-humans
as well as
humans--

--TO SAVE ANIMALS from
EXPLOITATION by HUMANS--
which causes them suffering
and death.

WHY should
SAVING them be
NECESSARY
?

--because HUMANS
often act as
though THEY were
THE ONLY BEINGS
that matter on
this planet--

(Humans are the only
animals that upset the
balance of nature, so
humanity's survival is
dependent upon the other
animals' maintaining
nature's balance.)



--and **TREAT** the ANIMALS
ACCORDINGLY

① USING THEM TO FILL NEEDS--

--FOR FOOD...

even though plant crops--such as soybeans--can give us **ALL** the protein we need to live on.

--FOR CLOTHING...

furs, hats, boots, rugs--even though synthetic materials can efficiently serve the same needs.

**ONE RESULT:
THE NEAR EXTINCTION
OF ALLIGATORS, SEALS**



② USING THEM FOR AMUSEMENT--

--taking them from their native environments and shutting them up in **ZOOS**.

--in **BULLFIGHTS, COCKFIGHTS**...where they are maimed, killed.

--at **RODEOS, DOG RACES**, where they are hurt, exhausted.

--stalking and killing them for **SPORT**.

(NOT to mention all the **PETS ABANDONED TO DIE** when their owners no longer find it convenient to keep them.)



③ USING THEM FOR EXPERIMENTATION--

- making them **STAND IN** for human beings **TO TEST** products, drugs, cosmetics, etc., to see whether or not they are safe for human use.

FEW LIVE VERY LONG.

- Students conduct cruel tests on animals in the name of **"LEARNING."**

**ONE RESULT:
CONTINUED CALLOUSNESS
TOWARD ANIMAL
SLAVERY**



④ GETTING RID OF THEM IN ORDER TO "CONTROL" NATURE

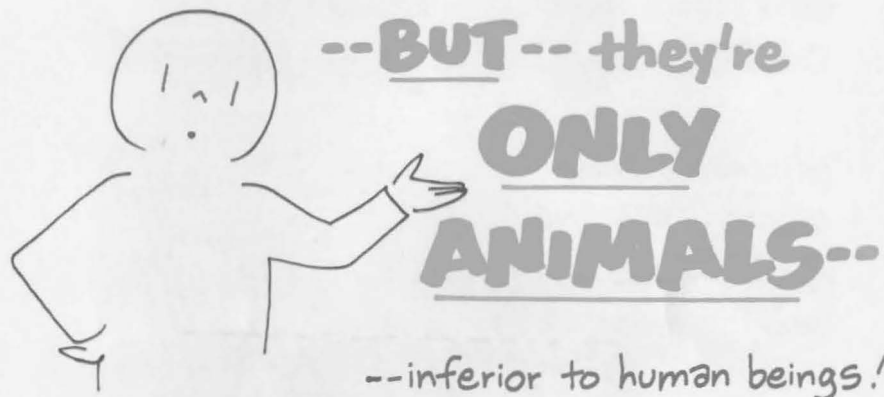
- government programs encourage **TRAPPING** and **POISONING** of "pest" animals.

- BOUNTIES** offered on certain species threaten them with extinction.

- hunting is encouraged to **BALANCE** the animal population in any given area (left to themselves, wildlife balance their own populations).

**ONE RESULT:
EAGLES, HAWKS, OWLS
ON THE WAY TO
EXTINCTION.**

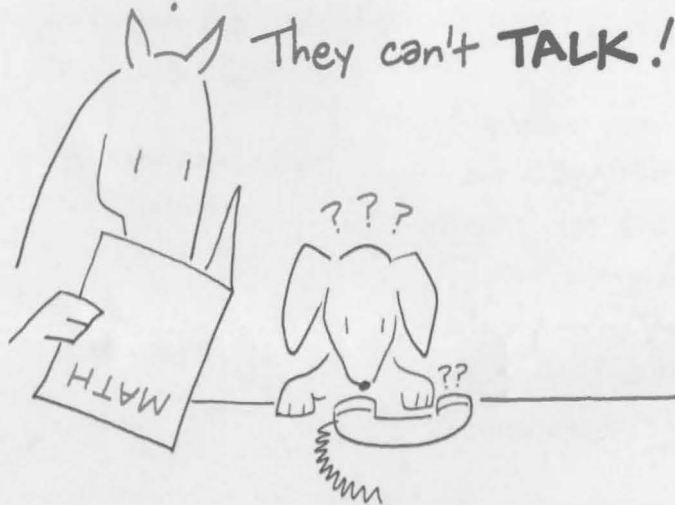




--**BUT**-- they're
ONLY
ANIMALS--

--inferior to human beings!

? They can't **REASON**!
They can't **TALK**!



They can do **OTHER**
things, though--for
instance, they play a
VITAL part in the
BALANCE of **NATURE**!

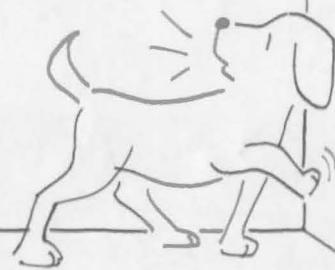


--That's **RIGHT**!
They **CAN'T**!

BUT--NEITHER CAN A
HUMAN INFANT!

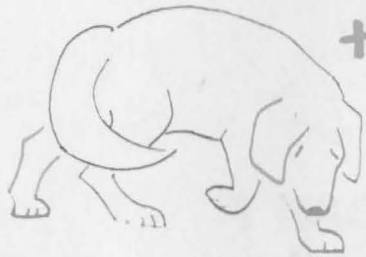


IN FACT--an infant is
LESS able to communicate
with a grown human than a
full-grown **DOG** or **HORSE**!



SHOULD AN INFANT'S EXISTENCE
BE CONSIDERED LESS VALUABLE
BECAUSE OF THAT?--
SHOULD THE ANIMAL'S?

ANIMALS are beings
that can ALSO
SUFFER PAIN--



"Pain" happens inside the brain--so it can't be DIRECTLY observed.
BUT-- you CAN SEE the SIGNS of pain
in THE WAY people--and animals
(especially those with nervous systems like ours)
REACT to it.



ESSENTIALLY--

the **DIFFERENCE** between
ANIMAL suffering and **HUMAN** suffering
is that
HUMANS CAN TALK ABOUT IT
and
ANIMALS
CAN'T!



If it's **WRONG** to inflict pain on a
human being because he or she **SUFFERS**,
shouldn't it ALSO be wrong
to do it to an animal?

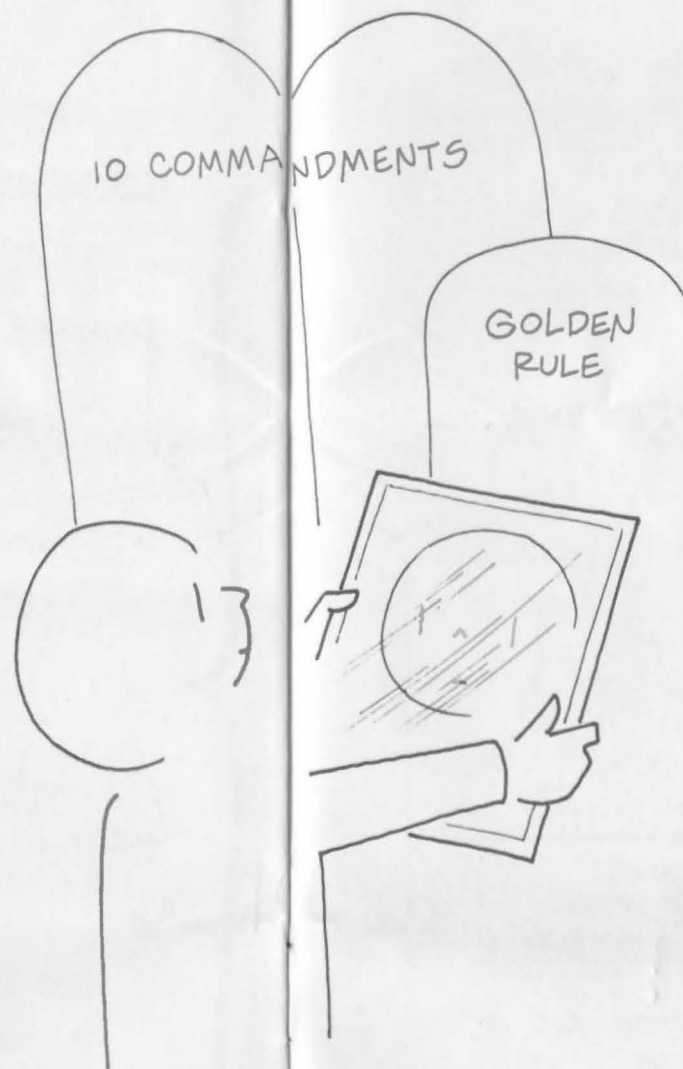


Even if animals
DIDN'T suffer,
WE STILL DON'T
HAVE THE RIGHT
to treat living beings
of a different species
IN A WAY THAT
WOULD BE WRONG
to treat living beings
of our **OWN** species.

(This is called **SPECIEISM**)

FOR EXAMPLE:

putting animals to the torture
and death of scientific experimentation
--which would be considered a **CRIME**
if done to another human being--
no matter how unintelligent



--whether or not
we like to admit it--
SPECIEISM
IS PREJUDICE

--The **SAME** prejudice
that "grants" human
beings the "right" to
ENSLAVE
people with
different
colored skins



--or to
EXTERMINATE
whole populations
who worship
differently.



IF THESE ARE CRIMES--
why **LESS** OF A **CRIME** when
DONE TO ANIMALS?

Our GREATER powers and skills
do NOT entitle us to a GREATER
CLAIM to--



--THAN the ANIMALS who
were created by a Being GREATER
than US!

RATHER--

we must use our powers
RESPONSIBLY, extending
compassion and RESPECT
to all other beings.



For ALL creatures are
important-- ALL make the
world a RICH WHOLE--
OUR OWN happiness and
quality of life depend
on them.

Centuries ago,
LEONARDO DA VINCI wrote--

The time will come when people
such as I will look on the murder
of animals as they now look
on the murder of humans.



LET'S SAVE THE ANIMALS NOW--
before it's too late!

Join the fight against
CRUEL and **ABUSIVE** treatment
of animals, birds and other creatures
by supporting the activities of

FRIENDS OF ANIMALS, INC.

11 West 60th Street
New York, N.Y. 10023

COMMITTEE for HUMANE LEGISLATION

910 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Active member \$10 a year; Junior member \$5 a year.

Here's an
opportunity
to become
a real



FRIEND of ANIMALS!

Distribute this booklet in your community.
Copies are available at cost from:

FRIENDS of ANIMALS
11 West 60th Street
New York, N.Y. 10023

Y. McLean
R2 BOX 462-B
Hartsville SC 29550



The White House
Washington DC

WHITE HOUSE MAIL
RECEPTION & SECURITY
MAR 28 1975
Processed by

Attention: Sheila Reidfield


Susan Gets Fur

WASHINGTON (AP) — Susan Ford is getting a fur coat as a high school graduation gift from her parents.

She has picked out a street-length muskrat with fox trim, her mother's press secretary, Sheila Weidenfeld, said Tuesday.

A New York furrier, Constantino Christie, came to the White House to show coats to the President's daughter.

While they were looking over his samples, a white mink capelet caught First Lady Betty Ford's fancy. She is hoping the President will give it to her for her birthday April 8, Mrs. Weidenfeld said.



BY CLEVELAND AMORY
President of the Fund for Animals

Must We Use Torture Traps to Get Fur Coats?

The common steel leghold trap inflicts brutal punishment on wild animals caught in its jaws. But now a new and more humane trap makes its use unnecessary

TODAY, WOMEN are having second thoughts about fur coats. Actress Mary Tyler Moore

cocked open by a small triggering device called a pan. When an animal steps on the pan, the spring is