

BATTLE OVER PENNSYLVANIA'S PIGEON SHOOTS HEATS UP

In the past year Pennsylvania's notorious pigeon shoots have run head-on into a number of legal and legislative challenges. In the legislature, the vote on a bill to ban pigeon shoots was 99 voting for the measure and 93 voting against. Unfortunately, in Pennsylvania, a criminal bill needs a "clear majority" to pass, and the measure fell three votes short. Soon after, a group of humane agents brought a legal challenge to the shoots claiming that the events caused unnecessary harm to the animals. The state courts, however, have thus far come to the conclusion that pigeons are not animals. Recently, the NRA stepped in by filing an *amicus curiae* brief defending this outrageous spectacle. Now the Pennsylvania legislature is reconsidering the bill to outlaw pigeon shoots.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Ask Governor Tom Ridge, State Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120, to sign any bill banning pigeon shoots that comes to his desk. If you are not a resident of Pennsylvania, tell him that you will not come to visit the state until pigeon shoots are outlawed.

BIOLOGY CLASS CAT CRUELTY

Jerry Slyker, a high school principal and advanced biology teacher in Hardin, Montana, was charged with killing five cats for a class he was teaching. He killed the cats in a box hooked up to the exhaust pipe of a running car. The cats were then taken into class where students worked on the cadavers. Jerry and Paula Slyker used "free-to-good-home" ads to obtain cats for the class. He and his students also skinned and boiled off the cats' flesh as part of the project. Dave Pauli, regional director of the Humane Society of the United States, made a complaint to the school board and the state Office of Public Instruction. The school board has taken no action because they said that no district policy or administrative rule had been broken. Superintendent Rodney Svec said that even if Slyker is found guilty in Justice Court it will not affect Slyker's status with the school district.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Voice your concerns to Rodney Svec, Superintendent, Hardin Public Schools, Box 1001, Hardin, MT 59034. Tell him that animal cruelty has no place in an educational institution and that action should be taken against Mr. Slyker.

IS THIS YOUR LAST ACTIVATOR?

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