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David O. Wiebers, M.D.

By first class mail and electronic mail

July 11, 2008

Joseph Pane
Wildlife Manager
New York Department of Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4754

Re: Illegal Pigeon Nettings in New York City

Dear Mr. Pane:

Thank you for the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) efforts to stop illegal pigeon "nettings" occurring in New York City and the subsequent illegal trafficking of birds over state lines.

As you know, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has received information indicating that the pigeons caught in New York City are transported into Pennsylvania for the purpose of release at live pigeon shoots. I wanted to share with you additional information we obtained about an upcoming shoot in Pennsylvania in hopes that it might be helpful in your ongoing investigation of this cruelty.

The HSUS has learned that the "Calcutta," or traditionally the largest shoot of the year in terms of birds shot, participants, and high stakes gambling, will take place July 31 through the day of August 3 at the Strausstown Gun Club in Strausstown, Pennsylvania.

Organizers typically stockpile 4,000-6,000 pigeons for a four-day shoot. For this reason, The HSUS requests that the DEC increase its vigilance and investigation of illegal pigeon netting and pigeon trafficking activity in the coming weeks.

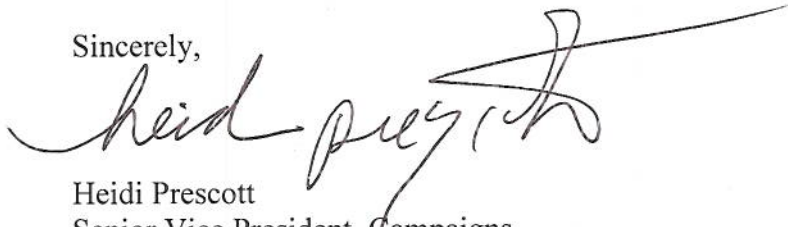
Due to the DEC aggressively pursuing illegal netting and the resulting decrease in nettings and lack of bird supply, The HSUS understands that organizers cancelled a Pennsylvania live pigeon shoot scheduled to occur earlier this year. Reportedly, the price to shoot birds has now risen to a new high of \$9 per bird.

New York taxpayers should not pay to protect their wildlife against animal cruelty violations occurring at the demand of an underground practice in another state.

The HSUS has both litigation and legislation pending in Pennsylvania to stop pigeon shoots once and for all. We expect these associated nettings to end when the incentive to sell to the shoots ceases. It would be very helpful to our efforts if the DEC sent a letter to the Pennsylvania Legislature, asking them to close down these shoots, so that the DEC can focus on more pressing issues. I would be more than happy to supply you with contact information for the bill sponsors, and I am sure they would welcome your input.

I will notify you of any additional details The HSUS receives that the DEC's enforcement team might find helpful. Please call me to discuss this matter at anytime and thank you again for your attention to this important cruelty issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Prescott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Heidi Prescott
Senior Vice President, Campaigns
The Humane Society of the United States