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H. Claire Whitney, Senior Counsel
U.S. Department of Justice
Environmental Crimes Section
P.O. Box 23985
Washington DC 20026-3985

VIA FACSIMILE: 202-305-0397

Dear Ms. Whitney:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (The HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization with more than 10 million supporters, I am writing to you regarding the case against Dan Duncan, who admittedly shot and killed a moose and sheep while riding in a helicopter in Russia, then shipped the animals to the United States. Because aerial hunting in Russia is illegal, the subsequent importation of the animal trophies constitutes a violation of the Lacey Act.

I urge your office to fully investigate this matter and prosecute Duncan for felony violations and to seek, if he is convicted, the maximum penalties – including the largest fine and longest incarceration allowable by law.

Duncan has more than 400 entries in Safari Club International's record book of trophy animals, including two polar bears, five African lions, five African leopards, three African elephants, a Southern white rhinoceros, a now-endangered black rhinoceros, a hippopotamus, a crocodile, and endangered species such as a cheetah, barasingha, and multiple scimitar-horned oryx.

As you know, the Lacey Act, (16 U.S.C. §§ 3371-3378) prohibits trade in wildlife, fish, and plants that have been illegally taken, possessed, transported or sold. The Act was put in place to stamp out interstate trade of poached animals, but now the law is a powerful tool to stop U.S. citizens from committing crimes against wildlife abroad and then trafficking their illegal activities, in the form of trophies or animals parts, back to the U.S.

We are particularly concerned about this case because of the number of animals Duncan has reportedly killed and imported into the U.S. Duncan also owns a trophy hunting ranch near Smithville, Texas.

Thank you for giving this case the attention it deserves. Please feel free to contact me at 301-721-6417 or apage@humanesociety.org with any questions.

Sincerely,


Andrew Page
Campaign Manager – Hunting Issues

Promoting the protection of all animals

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