

# New animal group after SPCA split

Dissident members of the Auckland SPCA have launched a new animal welfare organization following a split between the SPCA's ruling council and the society's auxiliary group, Animal Action.

## Fish exports record \$63m

WELLINGTON, Today (PA). — Record export sales were made by the fishing industry last year.

Exports were 34,000 tonnes worth \$63.6 million, a 32% increase in weight and a 26% increase in value over 1977.

Lobster sales increased to \$25.4 million, or 40% of exports. The greatest contribution to the increase, however, came from finfish — almost 30,000 tonnes valued at \$32.1 million, compared with 22,500 tonnes worth \$21.5 million in 1977.

## Cheated refugees

HONG KONG. — Two former interpreters of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees were fined and given suspended jail sentences yesterday for conspiring to defraud Vietnamese refugees.

At a special meeting last night, Animal Action's six-man committee, including chairman Mr Brian Poole, resigned and announced the setting up of the Humane Society of New Zealand (Inc).

The resignations follow a decision to have the society's paid officers supervise work by Animal Action volunteers at the SPCA's clinic and kennels.

Mr Poole told about 70 volunteers at last night's meeting that his outgoing committee would continue to support SPCA objectives.

"However, we can't support the present council and the resulting administration of the society."

Mr Poole emphasized that the new Humane Society would be supplementary to the SPCA and not a rival organization.

"It has been established to cater for those people who genuinely want to assist actively in animal welfare without the hassle of victimization and personality conflicts which now appear to be the main preoccupation of the Auckland SPCA," he said.

The new society will start with a core of about 20 workers and hopes ultimately to set up an animal clinic.

Mr Poole said he would remain a member of the SPCA but didn't expect to be actively involved.

SPCA President Mrs Mary Walker said today she was unaware of last night's meeting and could not comment on either the resignations or the launching of the Humane Society.