

CHAPTER IV

ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS

THERE is a large and growing number of humane organizations which take no part in prosecuting cruelists, but which devote their entire attention to other specific forms of animal welfare. Included among these are the animal rescue leagues, the animal shelters, and the workhorse parade associations. Of these three types of organizations, the first two accomplish the broader work.

The animal shelters, in which classification the animal rescue leagues may be included, and the S. P. C. A.s occupy separate fields. They can, nevertheless, be operated together or separately, as experience has shown, without doing injury to each other. In fact, once an S. P. C. A. has passed a certain stage of its growth, some sort of shelter for animals that come under its protection or into its charge becomes absolutely essential.

As has been pointed out, the larger organizations such as the American S. P. C. A. and the Massachusetts S. P. C. A. maintain completely equipped animal hospitals in which shelters are necessarily included. Those S. P. C. A.s such as the Louisiana organization and a number of others, which manage the dog pounds of the municipalities in which they are located, must make provision for the care of many small animals. Young organizations whose resources are limited often believe it a wise policy to provide rest quarters for at least a few small animals.

There is a broad field, however, for societies devoting

themselves exclusively to animal shelter work, chiefly for the benefit of small animals. Several also include as annexes dispensaries and rest farms for worn-out horses.

The plan most widely adopted for these associations is that of the Elizabeth Morris Refuge--first, the maintenance of homes where animals may be temporarily sheltered or boarded by owners; second, the equipping of an animal hospital; third, the maintenance of temporary homes for suffering and homeless animals, and where unwanted animals may be humanely destroyed.¹

Until the Elizabeth Morris Refuge for small animals was incorporated in Philadelphia in 1888, there had existed no organization making the care of small animals its special work, and thereafter practically no efforts were made on their behalf outside of the city of Philadelphia until the Animal Rescue League of Boston was organized. This, the first of animal rescue leagues, was started in March 1899 through the efforts of Mrs. Huntington Smith, who has since organized more than a dozen similar institutions.²

The Boston League began with a small house, shed and yard, and an aged married couple were hired to do the work. By 1910 it had grown until there were five houses and a stable in the city, and a country annex for horses. The policy of the League was stated in this year as follows:

We keep all dogs we receive, unless very sick or vicious, five days; then those unclaimed are humanely put to death except a limited number of desirable ones for which we can find good homes. We keep from twenty to thirty of the best of the cats and kittens to place in homes and the rest are put to death. We let no cat nor dog go without the payment of one dollar, and with the dog we supply a collar and a leash. For an extra good dog, we tell the purchaser that we expect a

¹ *National Humane Review*, vol. i, p. 223.

² *A. H. A.*, 38th Ann. Rpt., p. 29.

donation of from two to five dollars. This is to prevent men from obtaining good dogs for the purpose of selling them. Accurate records are kept of the placing out of all animals, and strict accounts of all money received and spent. We have a regular system of records for every part of our work and record every dog, cat, puppy or kitten received. We do not keep a large number of animals alive, nor to give away. Our object is to prevent and to release animals from suffering.¹

The activities of the Boston League increased greatly during the next decade. In the city of Boston at present, several receiving stations are maintained. The aim of the League is that every settlement house in Boston should have a receiving station connected with it so that the children may be interested in the work.² In the late fall, winter and spring months, a travelling agent is employed to visit the rural territory about the city of Boston. Unlike the travelling agents of the S.P.C.A.s, his task is not to seek out cases of cruelty and bring the offenders to justice, but to relieve the residents of the territory of their surplus pets. As his coming is looked forward to, there is less cause to turn such animals adrift to shift for themselves, for most of the people are willing to put up with the temporary inconvenience that such animals may cause them until the arrival of the agent when they know that they will be humanely disposed of.

Since 1902 the League has maintained a patrol of the beaches within twenty-five miles of Boston from October 3rd to November 5th of each year. It has found that many families take dogs and cats with them to their summer homes at the beaches or else adopt stray animals during their stay there. When the time for departure arrives, no thought is given to these creatures. They are left to struggle to

¹*A. H. A., 34th Ann. Rpt., p. 133.*

²*Animal Rescue League of Boston, 23rd Ann. Rpt. (1922), p. 5.*

maintain life for a miserable month or two until they perish during the winter months. The extent of this practice may be judged when it is noted that during 1921 the League collected four hundred and one such deserted animals from the Boston beaches.¹

Within the city of Boston the League carries on a horse rescue work similar to that of the Massachusetts S. P. C. A. These two organizations have always worked in harmony; more than once during severe winters they have willingly pooled their resources so as to be able to handle as many cases as possible. As a branch of its horse work, the League maintains a stable-inspection service compelling owners of horses unfit for labor either to give them proper treatment or to surrender them for humane destruction where cure is impossible. Every Christmas Eve several thousand dinners are provided for the horses of Boston.

During the year of 1921 the Animal Rescue League cared for the following animals:

Dogs	5,162
Cats	45,383
Other small animals	80
Birds	419
Horses taken from sales stables or from owners who were persuaded to give them up	652
Horses cared for at Pine Ridge	76
Total	51,772

The League has nine branches in and about the city of Boston. At Dedham is maintained the Pine Ridge Home for horses. At this home are to be found horses of two classes; the first consists of worn-out animals to whom the League grants a brief holiday in the fields before humanely putting them to death. The second class consists of

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

² *Ibid.*, p. 3.

"boarders". These are usually the horses of peddlers and small dealers which have been overworked for a long period, but whose owners cannot afford to pay for their recuperation. The League has proved that a week or two at the Pine Ridge Home gives new life to such animals, conferring a benefit both upon horses and owners.

In addition to the above work the League distributes numerous pamphlets and publishes a magazine *Our Four-Footed Friends*. The income of the League for 1921 was \$44,376.63. \$3,896.05 came from membership dues, \$15,608.87 from donations, and \$15,440.68 from interest on investments.

Within Massachusetts there are nine other rescue leagues, modeled upon the Boston organization. Of these, the League of New Bedford is the most important with an expenditure during 1921 of \$8,229.54.¹

The state with the second largest number of rescue leagues is Pennsylvania, where the Morris Refuge was the initial organization. There are now two within the city of Philadelphia and three in the western part of the state.²

In September 1921, after a long period of inactivity, the Kentucky Annual Rescue League was reorganized. The Kentucky Humane Society had long been requested to take over the Louisville pound and add rescue work to its program, but it felt that it had enough to do with the investigation and prosecution of cruelty cases. Upon its refusal to act, some of its members resurrected the Animal Rescue League and took over the pound. From the beginning, it has had financial difficulties. Louisville has a Community Chest which the Animal Rescue League refused to enter because the Chest had never raised its full quotas.

¹ *Animal Rescue League of New Bedford, Ann. Rpt. for 1921.*

² *A. H. A., 44th Ann. Rpt., p. 81.*

The League has had to meet criticism from some quarters because of this decision.¹

Although differently titled, the New York Women's League for Animals performs a work very similar to that of the rescue leagues. It had its inception in 1906. At that time the need was felt for an organization which would materially assist in humane work for animals while not interfering with the work of the American S. P. C. A. It was then known as the Women's Auxiliary of the American S. P. C. A. and occupied itself with certain special fields of the Society's work. Its first interest was in the holding of a workhorse parade, which was done in 1906 as also in the following years. In 1908 an entirely new branch of work was undertaken in the establishing of temporary shelters for small animals during the summer months. Two shelters were opened, one in the Bronx and one on the lower East side. From June to November of that year there were received six hundred and ninety-eight dogs, four thousand one hundred and eighty-six cats, and two parrots. During the winter the Auxiliary worked in cooperation with the American S. P. C. A., arranging with drug stores to supply free telephone and post-card service for notifying the Society to call for unwanted animals.

Realizing the importance of training children in habits of kindness towards animals, the Auxiliary from its start devoted its efforts in that direction. Boys' clubs were organized, Young Defenders' leagues maintained, and illustrated lectures given. During 1909 courses of lectures on humane education were established at five different settlements, and about one thousand boys and girls were enrolled in clubs for the protection of animals against ill-usage.

The Auxiliary established the first clinic and dispensary

¹Manuscript letter of May 24, 1923.

for the treatment of all animals in New York City, which was opened in January 1910. During the winter non-slipping chain shoes for horses were given to truck drivers. Watering and sprinkling places were also established.¹

In 1910 the Auxiliary incorporated itself under the general law as the New York Women's League for Animals in order that it might become the beneficiary of a legacy which it had been informed a friend was desirous of making.² It now had a membership of one hundred and twenty-five with special committees on workhorse parades, juvenile animal leagues, summer shelters and protection of small animals, protection of horses, the free dispensary for animals, and an inspection committee. Soon after the Mountain Rest Farm for horses was established by the League. It had no special police power nor right to receive fines, but it did, however, interest itself in the prosecution of what it deemed flagrant cases of cruelty.

During its early years, the growth of the League was extraordinarily rapid. By 1911 its membership had increased to over six hundred. It expanded its dispensary work and continued its program of workhorse parades and lectures on humaneness.³ In 1914 it completed its \$135,000 animal hospital which expanded on the work of the former dispensary, continuing its ideal of free treatment wherever the finances of the animals' owners did not warrant a donation.

During the war period the League, like so many other animal welfare societies, found its finances severely restricted by the competition of war demands on charity. At times one or another feature of the League's work had to be

¹ *A. H. A.*, 34th Ann. Rpt., p. 112.

² *Amer. S. P. C. A.*, 45th Ann. Rpt. (1910), p. 7; cf. also *New York Women's League for Animals*, 1st Ann. Rpt. (1910), *passim*.

³ *New York Women's League for Animals*, 2nd Ann. Rpt. (1911).

curtailed, but in most cases, additional efforts on the part of friends of the League and the organization of pet brigades tided over the stringency.¹ After 1918 the League, in cooperation with the American S. P. C. A., devoted an increasing share of its attention to humane education, arranging contests and offering prizes. This work has continued with success up to the present.²

By 1922, the twelfth year of its existence, the New York Women's League for animals had developed into one of the most active and successful animal welfare organizations in this country. Throughout this period it has enjoyed high praise, with very little adverse criticism. It has succeeded in winning men and women of prominence for its friends, and they have been of incalculable aid in the League's development. Much of its work does not appear in printed figures; in its hospital, however, during 1921 it treated 1,352 animals and in the dispensary 9,279. Its total hospital expenses during the year were \$19,899.85. The expenses of the horse-watering stations it maintained during the summer, its humane education campaign, and administration outlays, brought the total to \$30,835.33. Its income is almost entirely from dues and the donations of friends as it has not had time to build up a strong endowment.³

The Women's Auxiliary for the Pennsylvania S. P. C. A. is similar in organization and activities to the New York Women's League. It was organized in 1917 to relieve the Pennsylvania S. P. C. A. of the care of the horse-watering stations in Philadelphia and the annual workhorse parades. It started with an income of \$6,475.38. Year by year this

¹ *New York Women's League for Animals, 9th Ann. Rpt. (1918).*

² *Cf. infra, p. 123.*

³ *New York Women's League for Animals, 11th Ann. Rpt. (1921), p. 15.*

has increased. In 1919 it was \$8,374.31, the next year \$9,700.63, and in 1921 \$9,830.98. During its first two years it confined itself to organizing workhorse parades and to caring for the watering troughs, fifty-two in 1917 and sixty in 1918. In 1919 a watering wagon was purchased and equipped with gravel sprinklers to be used on the slippery streets of the city during the winter months. During 1919 a large number of new troughs were established. By 1920 there were two hundred and forty-four in operation, and in 1921 two hundred and seventy-one.¹

In a few cities, the police and the mail carriers have been organized into S. P. C. A. auxiliaries. The South Bend (Indiana) Humane Society interested the Board of Public Safety of South Bend in this plan and they agreed to secure the signatures of the Chief of Police and of all the policemen to the pledge: "We the undersigned, hereby promise to try to be kind and to protect the children, the horses, and all helpless creatures from brutal treatment." This agreement was signed by forty policemen. The Society agreed to pay \$2.00 into the pension fund of the police system for each item of information which should lead to a conviction for violation of humane laws. A similar agreement was also made with the mail carriers of the city. Each group was then formed into an auxiliary of the society.²

One type of the auxiliary work under consideration, the workhorse parade, has been developed by a large number of special organizations. The first workhorse parade held in the United States was in Boston in 1903. The idea was drawn from the English cart horse parades. In this first parade it was discovered that all the prizes for good appear-

¹ *Auxiliary to the Pa. S. P. C. A., Annual Reports, 1917-1921.*

² *A. H. A., 42nd Ann. Rpt., p. 17.*

ance of the horses went to the entries of large corporations, and that the result was a severe discouragement to the owners of individual entries. This was remedied in the parade held in the following year by the introduction of an Old Horse Class, whose ranks were recruited almost entirely from the entries of drivers who owned their own horses.¹

The Boston Work Horse Parade Association which organized the 1903 parade was the first of its kind. It held that the existence of such an organization was justified if the public could be interested in the condition of the work horses which appeared on the city streets. The president of the Boston Association said in 1910:

Nothing has done more to uplift the condition of the work horses of Boston than the fact that the public looks upon the horses as an advertisement of the business of the owners. The hope of the work horse parade is generally to influence the drivers. To reward and encourage the driver rather than the owner should be the great object. We give a medal to the driver who has shown the same horse in two successive parades. . . . The great difficulty in the management of the parades is to secure judges who are competent and thoroughly honest in making the awards.²

A few years later the Association decided to expand its activities and renamed itself the Boston Work Horse Relief Association. Besides holding its annual parade, it now maintains a free hospital for horses and a receiving station for dogs and cats. It employs agents, provides for stable inspection, and publishes literature, approaching more closely the type of animal relief associations already discussed.³

¹ *National Humane Review*, vol. i, p. 52.

² *A. H. A.*, 34th Ann. Rpt., p. III.

³ *A. H. A.*, 44th Ann. Rpt., p. 59.

In 1920 there were in addition to the Boston Association, workhorse parade associations located in Chicago, Cleveland and San Francisco. As has been pointed out, both the New York Women's League for Animals and the Auxiliary to the Pennsylvania S. P. C. A. began as workhorse parade associations.¹ In addition, many of the other anti-cruelty societies have interested themselves in these parades, and the 1922 report of the American Humane Association noted fifty-four such parades held in as many cities in the United States.²

There can be no question of the significance of the animal *welfare* movement, in distinction to that for the *protection* of animals from *cruelty*. That efforts should be made to further the *welfare* of animals, shows that a great advance has been made since the days when Henry Bergh had to labor so valiantly to convince people that animals had a moral right to be protected from even the grosser forms of cruelty. It is one with the movements for prison reform, for better institutional care of children, for the restriction of child labor, and for various types of social insurance.

The animal *welfare* movement is an indication of an important development in our view of what we consider our duties towards the animal world. It is also an acknowledgment of the fact that much of the fight to protect animals from cruelty has been won, and that it is now possible to divert efforts and resources from this more elemental task to what is, after all, a much broader work. The data of Chapter II are proof that there is still much to be done in this field, that there are still many people as yet unreached by humane propaganda, and broad regions where laws for the protection of animals are not enforced; nevertheless,

¹ Cf. *supra*, pp. 69 and 91.

A. H. A., 46th Ann. Rpt., p. 65.

welfare work can from now on develop concomitantly with *protective* activities, and possibly in time supersede them.

It is worth noting that most of the societies for animal *welfare* have developed since 1910. The first animal rescue leagues were founded many years earlier, it is true, but their greatest growth has occurred during the last generation. During these later years, they have expanded the field of their activities—they have opened animal hospitals and dispensaries, they have organized work-horse parades, they have established drinking fountains, etc. It is significant, too, that the New York Women's League for Animals, incorporated in 1910, has enjoyed such an astoundingly rapid development, and that protective organizations such as the American and the Massachusetts S. P. C. A.s have entered so largely into welfare activities during this period.