Warden Guilty of Releasing Dogs Unlawfully; HSUS Probe of Ohio Pounds, Lab Dealers Continues

In a precedent-setting action in mid November, The HSUS charged Muskingum County Dog Warden Albert M. Hittle with violating Ohio law by giving away unclaimed dogs to a large St. Paris dealer who sells animals for research.

Ohio law stipulates that dogs be kept for 72 hours at a county pound and then be humanely destroyed, adopted into new homes, redeemed by original owners, or sold for $3 each to an Ohio research institution certified by the Ohio Public Health Council. They cannot be given or sold to dog dealers.

The HSUS also charged Hittle with submitting fictitious reports on the disposition of dogs and failure to post official notice in the county courthouse of a dog’s apprehension, as required by law. The society charged further that the warden was not reporting weekly to the County Commissioners, also a legal requirement.

The charges were based upon findings by Field Service Director Frank McMahon during an HSUS probe of Ohio dog pounds. McMahon worked with the Muskingum County Humane and Animal Shelter Society in this part of the investigation. Zanesville’s Times Recorder gave excellent publicity as the investigation unfolded.

McMahon found on a visit to the public pound that windows were broken, pens were dirty, and animals were not properly fed and watered. The animals were unattended and McMahon’s complaint elicited the information that the dog warden was at a meeting.

The investigation revealed that the laboratory animal dealer who was receiving the dogs had a key to the pound and could open the building and remove all animals suitable for sale to medical research whenever he liked. This dealer, who is federally licensed under Public Law 89-544, is a registered holding station for the giant research animal supplier, Lone Trail Kennels of Friedensburg, Pa., had refused to pay for the dogs when asked by the Muskingum County Commissioners. The Commissioners subsequently agreed that he could have the dogs without charge.

It was discovered, too, that this laboratory animal dealer has keys to other public pounds in Ohio. In an interview

(Continued on page 7)

Dierolf Farms Dealer License Suspended by Dept. of Agriculture

Dierolf Farms, Inc., of Boyertown, Pa., one of the largest laboratory animal dealers in the United States, has had its license suspended for 14 days. The suspension stemmed from charges by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the firm was not complying with Public Law 89-544, the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act.

USDA had charged the dealer with shipping dogs and cats without proper identification, in crates too small, in crates not easily accessible for emergency removal of animals, and in crates without intervening floors to prevent animals from contaminating others on lower levels.

In an out-of-court settlement, Dierolf Farms did not admit or deny the charges but agreed to the 14 day suspension.

The HSUS, which has raided this dealer on several occasions in the past, was encouraged by the USDA action. The Society estimates that the suspension will cost the firm in excess of $10,000.

If you haven’t done so, you should investigate the HSUS Annuity Plan. It will give you lifetime security while helping animals. Request an explanatory booklet from The HSUS.
Interest and Enthusiasm Spark Successful California Meeting

The 9th annual meeting of The HSUS California Branch, held in Los Angeles on November 2, 1966, sparked with interest and enthusiasm as members from all over the state met to discuss and analyze pressing humane problems.

The crowded schedule included the showing of a film on “steer busting” and a talk by Mrs. Elizabeth Sakach, Director and Corresponding Secretary of the Animal Welfare League of Reno, Nev. Mrs. Sakach spoke on the cruel techniques and devices used in rodeo performances. Her presentation is said to be the forerunner of an intensified HSUS campaign in California and across the country to outlaw cruelty in these events.

National HSUS President Mel Morse addressed the meeting on anti-cruelty programs at both the state and national levels. He called for increased cooperation between humane groups at all levels.

There was a film and discussion on the plight of the Tule elk and a resolution was adopted urging that this species be protected and preserved in their natural habitat.

An address and film by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Derby of Ted Derby’s Animal Kingdom was received with special enthusiasm. The Derbys described how, by natural methods, they train wild animals for use in motion picture and television productions and commercials. No force of any kind is used.

The Derbys also described their “Safari Club” which they established to take in exotic pets unwanted by former owners. They supported the HSUS position that such pets should not be adopted since they require special care.

Branch Executive Director Herbert N. Martin was praised highly for his energetic and dedicated work. It is expected that his ability and leadership will strengthen and solidify HSUS influence throughout the state.

Model Law Will Forbid Wardens to Negotiate Direct Animal Sales

Meeting in Chicago in December, the Committee on Animal Welfare of the United States Animal Health Association (formerly the U.S. Sanitary Live-stock Association) agreed that its new model state law should ban direct negotiations between dog wardens and re-sellers of animal products for the sale or release of animals.

Initial opposition by research spokesmen yielded when HSUS representative Frank McMahon described objectionable and often illegal operations by dog wardens in Indiana, Ohio, New Jersey, and West Virginia. McMahon alleged that many such operations are now uncontrolled and result in family pets being sold for research purposes.

Representatives of the Animal Welfare Institute and the American Humane Association participated in the meeting. They joined The HSUS in defeating another proposal that the model law include wording that release of unclaimed animals to research facilities was “in the public interest and for the public welfare.”

New York Committee Gears Work to Meet Needs of Community

The HSUS New York Committee has geared its program of humane work to the needs of the community.

The Committee has prepared and released radio spot announcements on animal welfare problems, especially surplus dogs and breeding. It is supporting pending legislation to help rid the City of a massive surplus of dogs and cats, a direct cause of great suffering.

The organization has made available to the New York school system the HSUS film, People and Pets, an effective educational tool for training children on the care and treatment of animals. Translation of key HSUS publications into Spanish is also being undertaken to reach the large Spanish-speaking population in the City.

Committee Executive Director Anne Eustok is a frequent speaker at dog and cat club meetings. She is especially concerned with the tattooing and registering of dogs because of the high rate of pet losses in New York. The state has a heavy concentration of medical research facilities.

Former Film Editor Named President of California Branch

Ronald Sinclair of Hollywood, California, has been elected President of The HSUS California Branch.

Sinclair, a leader of demonstrated ability, has been serving as a member of the Branch Board. He is a former film editor of American International Pictures who resigned in protest when that organization released the objectionable film, Sadismo, in mid-1967. (At the time, and with Mr. Sinclair’s help, The HSUS campaigned successfully to have the film withdrawn and re-edited to eliminate the scenes of animal cruelty.)

Field Trip Shows How HSUS Helps Groups

Representatives of The HSUS Field Service Dept. recently visited local and state animal welfare organizations in Wisconsin, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois in response to requests for on-spot assistance and advice.

The trip covered over 4,000 miles typifies the kind of continuing and unpublished service which the Society’s Field Service Dept. gives to local organizations. It is an expensive but highly valuable service that is considered an important part of HSUS’s overall program.

HSUS representatives conferred with officials of the Animal Protective League in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to recommend ways in which that organization could broaden its program of humane work within the community. Discussions were also held with officers and directors of the Dane County Humane Society in Madison and the Rock County Humane Society in Janesville. In both cases assistance was given in planned construction work to expand existing facilities and improve operating shelter procedures.

HSUS Field Service Director Frank McMahon met with Mrs. Lucille Hunt, President of The Wisconsin Humane Society, and Vice President, of Prince George’s County Humane Society. Both are Maryland organizations.

In both cases, discussions were held with officers and directors of the Dane County Humane Society in Madison and the Rock County Humane Society in Janesville. In both cases assistance was given in planned construction work to expand existing facilities and improve operating shelter procedures.

Key NHEC Post Goes to Maryland Leader

The HSUS Board of Directors has chosen Miss Phyllis Wright of Beverly, Maryland to manage the animal shelter of the National Humane Education Center. She will also direct the Center’s informational educational programs and assume responsibility for publicity and public relations.

The key post demands extensive experience in direct animal rescue work and unusual ability in humane education programs, training personnel, and working with the public.

Miss Wright is considered exceptionally well qualified for the job. She is a director of the Montgomery County Humane Society and Vice President of the Animal Welfare Legislation and discussed new anti-cruelty legislation which, hopefully, will be introduced in the 1969 session of the state legislature. Legislation will include a specific law against shooting live turkeys and other birds, a problem unique but not confined to Wisconsin.

A HSUS representative also attended meetings of humane groups in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and other states. This kind of liaison has been a major factor in maintaining the close working relationship that exists between The HSUS and some 600 local animal welfare organizations.

Director of the Animal Rescue League in Washington, D. C. For years she has conducted dog obedience classes, giving instructions to thousands of dog owners. She is also a regular guest on the highly rated Panorama Show televised by Washington’s WTTG-TV.

The HSUS has set June 1, 1969 as a target date for starting classes for animal shelter workers and managers at the Center. The program will be supplemented by courses in junior humane education and wildlife.

It is expected that the Center’s immediate and long range programs will accelerate rapidly under Miss Wright’s direction.

A basic evil of hunting, thousands of fawn and other baby wildlife left without maternal protection, is graphically illustrated here by famed cartoonist Al Smith. Smith and Bell-McClure Syndicate gave HSUS special permission to reproduce strip which has been seen by millions of people.
Need for Lab Animal Protection Grows as Bill Nears Passage

HSUS study and investigation of animals used in medical research continues to show an unacceptably high percentage of animals needlessly tortured and abused in the name of science.

Society Director Oliver Evans said in a Washington interview that the demands of modern science and technology involve use of living animals on an unprecedented scale and the demand continues to grow.

“We can’t,” Evans said, “get away from the fact that large numbers of animals are being used in transplant research, in space testing, in expanding drug safety tests, in deadly disease research, and in a multitude of other ways. Animals are being subjected to pain in cancer research, smoking experiments, and in other work that necessarily involves pain and suffering. We cannot make inroads on this calculated, massive suffering without federal legislation.”

The HSUS Director also said the Rogers-Javits bill of the 90th Congress reached the “verge of enactment.” He expressed regret that renewed efforts for passage of the bill were made necessary by the misguided position of some humane organizations in not supporting it.

“When just a little more support,” Evans said, “we could have gone over the top.”

The Rogers bill is scheduled for re-introduction early in 1969. Although some changes are anticipated, the bill’s basic provisions for safeguarding of research animals are expected to remain the same.

It is hoped that, this time, no animal welfare organization will make the mistake of withholding support from this badly needed legislation.

Because the bill is non-partisan, it is expected to receive under the Nixon Administration as much support as before. The HSUS has already asked recently appointed Cabinet members to approve it.

California Affiliate Dedicates Humane Education Complex

The HSUS-affiliated Humane Society of Marin County (Cal.) dedicated its new humane education center and shelter complex in late November.

The complex embodies a fresh concept in humane work. It will provide facilities to further a school curriculum program of humane education now being developed by Marin County educators and the HSUS. It will also serve as a meeting site for animal welfare groups interested in instruction in the care of animals and related subjects.

The center will display animals native to the area. Training courses for shelter personnel are planned and, in fact, the entire, sophisticated operation is envisioned as an extension of the national education program of HSUS’s National Humane Education Center.

HSUS President Mel L. Morse presided over the dedication ceremonies in which notable local government officials and prominent educators participated.

Kay Clasuing Passes Away in New Jersey; Noted Humane Leader

Mrs. Kay Clasuing of Westmont, N.J., died suddenly in late December. Her passing ended a lifetime of dedication and successful work in the cause of animal welfare.

Mrs. Clasuing’s abilities were recognized both statewide and nationwide. Diminutive in stature, she was a giant in New Jersey humane work. She gave impetus to HSUS New Jersey Branch programs and her accomplishments as Humane Education Director of the Animal Welfare Association of Camden County were well known.

She was a frequent speaker at HSUS annual conferences. Her work with surplus animal breeding was especially notable. She was national coordinator for Operation SPARED, an HSUS sponsored program among humane societies to reduce the promiscuous breeding of dogs and cats.

Famed sculptor Beniamino Bufano and Boy Scout stand before sculpture of mother bear and cubs at dedication of the Marin society’s new center. The internationally acclaimed artist donated the work and participated in the opening ceremonies.

Time is Running Out

In Biafra, in western Africa, one person dies of starvation every eight seconds. Over 10,000 children die every week. The children, at least, can and should be evacuated. Neighboring countries have already agreed to take them. There, the children would be classified as refugees and be eligible for care by the United Nations. The apathy of the U.S. Government and especially, the Department of State is mainly responsible for stalling the evacuation. Please help by writing letters urging the evacuation to President Richard M. Nixon, The White House, Washington, D.C., and your own U.S. Representative and Senator. True humanitarianism embraces concern over all suffering.

The Humane Society of the United States
1145 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

I want to be part of the solution to animal welfare problems. Enclosed is $ ____________ to be used in HSUS anti-cruelty work. (A gift of $5 or more may entitle you to voting membership. All dues and gifts are tax deductible.)

NAME ________________________

ADDRESS _______________________________________

CITY, STATE _______ ZIP CODE _____________________

You are Part of the Problem . . .
...if you are not part of the solution

And our problem is, of course, man’s continuing cruelty to, and exploitation of, other forms of life. It manifests itself in ways that are well known to humanitarians. From the inhumanity of allowing surplus breeding of cats and dogs to the deliberate and needless infliction of pain in the name of science, the persecution and abuse of other creatures goes on almost endlessly.

But a less known part of the problem is the person who is aware of the massive injustices committed on animals and does nothing about them. Such apathetic persons allow cruelty to flourish; they condone it with inactivity. By not helping animal welfare causes, morally or financially, they hurt the cause to which they passively subscribe.

The HSUS is fortunate in that virtually all who receive its bi-monthly News support the Society’s continuing programs. Their financial help buys protection for millions of helpless animals. Their moral support, and the moral support of many who cannot contribute financially, has spread the Society’s influence into every area across the land where animals are used or abused. Their cooperation and loyalty have earned the respect and applause of humanitarians everywhere.

In our opinion (and we admit frankly to being biased), HSUS members and friends live in the true spirit of John Ruskin’s words: “He who is not actively kind, is cruel.”

The work goes on because the suffering of animals goes on. If you can help financially, even in a small way, won’t you use the coupon below today. If you cannot, won’t you join the army of active workers whose services are solicited on page 7?

Hylton Will Direct Branch, Affiliate Program for HSUS

Long time HSUS staff member Dale Hylton has been named Director of Branches and Affiliates. He will direct the Society's affiliation program, work with existing HSUS state branches, and help develop new branches in states where none exist.

Hylton is highly experienced in field service and organizational work. He was field representative for several years and more recently has been on loan to the National Humane Education Center to supervise activities during its initial development phase.

Branch Workshop Puts Emphasis on Care in Adopting Out Animals

A recent release by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior shows a sharp drop in the number of wild animals trapped for fur.

The catch of over six and a half million animals is down about 35% from previous years. How much humane society opposition to the cruel leghold trap figured in the reduction is unknown. It is certain, however, that it had an effect, and that societies like The HSUS, which continue to condemn this brutal means of trapping animals, are making inroads.

Government Release Shows Big Drop in Wild Fur Trapping

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Ohio Probe Yields Evidence of Illegal Dog Sales by Wardens

before Dog Warden Hittle's trial, he admitted that he was one of three dealers who "shared" the county dog pound network.

HSUS' McMahon charged, "and I estimate that up to 100,000 animals are involved. This many animals are being given away or sold illegally every year. So far, I have discovered this traffic in 15 counties."

McMahon said that the dog dealers were getting about $30 to $40 per animal. He alleged that in the Muskingum County case the dog warden's operation was being carried on with the full knowledge of the County Commissioners that the law was being broken, and this was probably also true in other counties. He also alleged that Prosecuting Attorney Richard E. Bridwell had advised the County Commissioners several years ago that the dog warden must file certain reports. The advice was ignored.

Initially, The HSUS reported its findings to both the Ohio Attorney General and to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The latter agency enforces Public Law 99-544 which licenses and otherwise regulates dealers in certain species of animals.

The Society was unsuccessful in obtaining the help of these agencies in a statewide investigation. The Attorney General's refusal to "take jurisdiction" of the case and suggested the Society direct itself to local law enforcement officials. USDA was unable to act because state rather than federal law was being violated.

Despite this, The HSUS did instruct its Field Service Director to file charges against Muskingum County Dog Warden Hittle. McMahon did so and Hittle was tried on November 14. He fled two hearings, one in Zanesville Municipal Court and the other in the Western Division of the County Court. Both drew packed houses. There was no need for the testimony of witnesses. Hittle's attorney entered a plea of guilty and the warden was fined in both cases.

The HSUS investigation into illegal practices in other dog pounds in Ohio is continuing.

Victory Comes Hard in Pound Seizure Battles

Reports on recent battles against animal seizure proposals show that victory does not come easily and, sometimes, does not come at all.

The humane movement won such a victory recently when the Prince George's County (Md.) Animal Control Commission voted not to take any formal action on a proposal to send unclaimed dogs to his-medical research institutions. The HSUS, state and local humane groups, and humanitarians in Maryland had fought the proposal for several months.

The victory was won only after a massive campaign of letter writing and other forms of protest. It left no doubt that aggressive and united action in such cases is essential for success.

Meanwhile, in Stanislaus County (Cal.), the County Supervisors decided to continue releasing unwanted animals for experimental work in Stanford Medical School. The County has been sending animals to Stanford but agreed to "take a long, second look" following an attempt by The HSUS California Branch and humane organizations to get the practice stopped.

Despite a strong campaign by the humane movement, county officials voted to continue the practice.

The HSUS urges that swift, aggressive, and united action be taken by all humanitarians and humane workers at the first sign of an animal seizure proposal in their community.

New York City Council Considers Spay Law to Fight Animal Problem

A bill requiring the spaying of female animals before release for adoption has been introduced in the New York City Council. It is known as the Troy bill and is identified as Int. No. 745, No. 679.

The proposed legislation would require any non-profit agency or organization providing for the custody, care, and treatment of unwanted female mongrel dogs or cats to make arrangements to have them spayed before release for adoption.

The legislation was prompted by a bad stray animal situation which is growing steadily worse because of the uncontrolled breeding of dogs and cats. It is being supported by The HSUS New York Committee and other responsible humane groups.

Be a Working Member

Commercial firms regularly advertise and sell products involving disregard of animal suffering. Airlines use bullfight advertising to attract tourists to Mexico and other Latin countries. Television networks and motion picture producers show violence to animals to sell merchandise. The list of ways in which the public is conditioned to cruelty is long.

Humanitarians who see such things often complain to The HSUS and ask "something be done." It is the easiest thing in the world for the Society to protest in such cases; but it is also the least effective thing to do.

Letters from individuals are effective and your Society needs an army of volunteers to write such letters when occasions arise.

Will you, right now, commit yourself to writing when The HSUS asks you? If so, simply send a brief note, saying you are willing, to ACTION PROGRAMS, The Humane Society of the United States, 1145 - 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.
Charges of Abuse in Dancer's Image Case Confirmed in Hearing

In a recent hearing by the Kentucky State Racing Commission on the disqualification of Dancer’s Image as winner of the Kentucky Derby, testimony confirmed HSUS charges that the horse should not have been raced. The Society had made the charges in trying to stop the Maryland Racing Commission from allowing the horse to run in the Preakness, second prize in racing’s much coveted Triple Crown.

Doctor Alex Harthill, a Kentucky veterinarian employed to care for Dancer’s Image before the Derby, testified, “This was the most butchered horse I ever saw—to take a horse and deliberately break him down just to win a race.”

Harthill also stated that Dancer’s Image was in such bad shape on the Thursday morning before the race that he recommended the horse “not be galloped that day.”

The HSUS has steadfastly maintained that the horse was unsound and has denounced the widespread practice of money-hungry trainers and owners using pain killers to race unsound horses. The Society also has condemned the packing in ice of horses’ ankles that are weak and “firing” the legs of unsound horses to deaden pain so that the animals can run.

IMPORTANT
It is almost impossible to avoid errors in a massive changeover to data processing like your Society is undergoing. Please, therefore, carefully check your name and address as they appear on the label of the envelope in which you received this News. If there is any error whatsoever, PLEASE RETURN THE LABEL TO US.

Exploitation of Wildlife Spurs HSUS Action on Several Fronts

The HSUS is fighting on several fronts to stop the growing exploitation of wildlife across the country. After successful efforts to stop the elimination of mustangs in the Pryor Mountains of Montana-Wyoming and to reduce cruelty to seals harvested in the Pribilof Islands, the Society has turned its attention to other aspects of the wildlife problem.

In the November 8 issue of Life magazine, the terrible toll in suffering and lives in the flourishing wild animal trade was graphically described and illustrated. In researching the article, Life staff members consulted with The HSUS on some sections.

The article, reaching millions of people, exposed the mental and physical cruelty of caging wild animals in roadside zoos, public zoos, carnivals, and reptile shows. It described the terrible conditions under which wildlife is captured and transported for sale by pet shops and mail order. Included also was an article by famous zoologist Desmond Morris calling for reform of zoos.

The HSUS is working in support of a proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior to raise fees for grazing livestock on public and national forest lands. For years these fees have been far below fair market value and have, in effect, constituted a subsidy to a small segment of the livestock industry.

Livestock producers affected have used this privilege to such an extent that there is serious erosion of public land from overgrazing and wildlife populations have been adversely affected. The HSUS has urged Congress to raise fees to help protect and preserve wildlife areas and the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has indicated that public hearings will be held soon.

Working with the Texas Council for Wildlife Protection, The HSUS continues to attack the brutal “coon-on-a-log” contest and its variations in Texas. In late November, the effects of this program began to show as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted a resolution opposing the contests as “inhumane, cruel, and unsportsman-like pastimes.”

It is expected that this resolution by an official state agency will be influential in helping to stop this widespread cruelty in Texas.

Dog Burning Threats Provoke Anger, Hurt Anti-war Movement

Protest groups, using the threat of burning dogs or other animals in demonstrations again the Vietnam war, have stirred a storm of protest from humane societies and the public in general.

The HSUS has charged that the tactic was used to publicize peace demonstrations in Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, Minnesota, California, Massachusetts, and even in Germany.

In a news release, Society Vice President Patrick Parkes said: “It should be possible to attract people to a serious discussion of the Vietnam war without threatening to commit an atrocity on a helpless animal. It seems to us that the very purpose of these demonstrations is defeated by antagonizing people who might otherwise be in sympathy with the cause of peace.”

HSUS Branches in California and Minnesota have been particularly active in making certain that threats made in those states would not be carried out.

Want to fight rodeo cruelties? A new 2¢ leaflet is being readied for March release. Tell us how many copies you need for distribution.