

# News Briefs

## HSUS Investigators Find Gary Pound a "Hell Hole"

Two HSUS staff members investigated the Gary, Ind., pound in May for the third time in 2 years and found that it continues to be "a hell hole."

HSUS animal control expert Phyllis Wright and Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman Jr. were appalled and frustrated at the seriousness of discrepancies. Discrepancies included:

- No outside exercise area.
- No adoption program—100% of the animals turned in are euthanized.
- Use of Succostrin (succinylcholine chloride) injections for euthanasia, a drug not intended for euthanasia that causes the animal to suffocate.
- Use of rusty coffee cans for food containers.

Miss Wright and Inman met with Dr. James T. Hedrick Jr., Gary health commissioner, to disclose their findings. They learned that Gary is so economically depressed that city officials are unable to obtain additional funds for anything but the most necessary human services.

HSUS will continue to urge Mayor Richard Hatcher and other city officials of the necessity of improving the pound operation to meet humane standards. HSUS members living in the Gary area are encouraged to support this effort with letters to city officials.

## Pound Seizure Challenged By Spokane Humanitarians

HSUS West Coast Regional Director Frantz L. Dantzer met with a group of Spokane, Wash., citizens last May to discuss a city council decision to sell unclaimed dogs and cats at the city's animal shelter to universities for research purposes.

Mrs. Joyce Sutherlin, spokeswoman for a citizens committee formed to fight the council's decision, asked for HSUS's help in opposing the measure. In interviews on several local TV newscasts, Dantzer supported the committee's goals and said HSUS is opposed to selling any surplus animals to research facilities because of the inhumane treatment to which many laboratory animals are subjected. He said such a practice also destroys the public confidence in animal control programs.

The shelter manager was arrested recently on charges he had been falsifying records to show that animals had been destroyed when, in fact, he had sold them to laboratory animal dealers. As a result, the city council decided to sell the animals directly to the universities. Dantzer said in view of the problems at the shelter he was amazed by the council's action. The citizens committee is now circulating petitions calling for an initiative to overturn the council's decision.

## HSUS Advises Community On Animal Control Plans

Phyllis Wright, HSUS director of animal sheltering and control, met with a municipal task force in Buffalo, N. Y., in the spring to advise them on procedures for establishing a county animal control ordinance and spay-neuter program.

Miss Wright met with the group, appointed by the Erie County government, at the request of Dr. Marian Carroll, an HSUS member from Tonawanda, N. Y. She outlined the elements of a progressive animal control program and emphasized the need for preventative measures, including education and sterilization.

"Erie County spent \$450,000 on animal control in a recent year, and it hasn't made a dent in the problem," she said. "A progressive animal control program will save the county money in the long run."

## States Ban Dogfighting

Illinois and Florida recently passed bills banning dogfighting in those states. The Illinois bill makes it a misdemeanor to prepare, own, promote, or sell any animals for fighting. HSUS, at the invitation of a legislator, testified in support of the measure.



HSUS's John Inman photographed these inhumane dog cages at the Gary, Ind., pound 2 years ago. On a recent follow-up investigation he found that conditions had not improved.

## The Needs of Animals Will Continue Long After You Are Gone

Man's cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end in our lifetime. Long after today's humanitarians are gone, animals will need defenders and protectors.

The Humane Society of the United States will be happy to send you a booklet on how to make the best use of your animal welfare bequest.

Write in complete confidence to: Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.