

## The Next Five Years

By Oliver Evans, Washington, D. C., HSUS President

I want to make it clear at the very outset of my remarks about the problems and the work that lie before us in the next five years that I recognize how rash it is for any man to pretend to prescience. Except for the rare breed of philosophical determinists, however, I think that most of us will agree that events can be shaped by men. I agree with Bob Chenoweth, who opened this meeting with his characteristic note of optimism and determination, that we can make of the next five years very much what we will. In what I have to say about the next five years, therefore, I shall be stating what I think we should *will* rather than reporting what I see in a crystal ball.

What I shall suggest may be regarded as a program conceived primarily for The Humane Society of the United States. I intend, in fact, to speak chiefly of what I think The HSUS should do and can do. It seems to me, however, that all that I aspire to have The HSUS do is relevant to the problems, the aspirations, and the moral responsibilities of other humane societies of every size and condition—of, in other words, the entire humane movement.

Let me run through, in random order, what I conceive to be the major tasks that the HSUS and the humane movement must undertake in the next five years. Later on I will attempt to sort them into an order of priority.

**As Irene Castle has so forcefully pointed out today, we must somehow reduce, radically, the breeding of cats and dogs for which there can be no homes.**

**We must improve and modernize many of our animal shelters and all of the attendant services to animals and to the public.**

**We must persuade and coerce hundreds of county and city governments into improvement of public animal pounds and animal regulation programs.**

**We must achieve enactment of an effective national law to protect laboratory animals—a law with real teeth in it.**

**We must amend the federal humane slaughter law and achieve enactment of additional state humane slaughter laws.**

**We must organize new humane societies in at least 80 major communities in which there now is no organized animal protection service or humane education activity.**

**We must find a means of extending our influence and our physical work into many other communities that because of low population density or other factors cannot now support an independent local humane society.**

I could easily, of course, name many other problems and tasks that confront us now and that will not disappear in the next five years. We do almost nothing, as yet, to protect wildlife from cruelty and suffering. We are inadequate in protection of agricultural livestock. We have lost ground in recent years to the commercial promoters of rodeos and other spectacles in which animals are cruelly exploited.

Itemizing our problems, our tasks and our goals as I have just done, it would be easy to become discouraged. No humane society in the United States, including The HSUS, has sufficient funds or manpower to spread itself effectively over all of the areas that I have mentioned. I would be talking pure fantasy were I to suggest that the St. Petersburg SPCA or the Boulder County Humane Society or the Humane Society of Nacogdoches—or any other local humane society—independently launch a program of the magnitude that I have outlined.

**Nevertheless—and here I come to the thesis behind all that I stand here to say—nevertheless, every problem that I have mentioned can be substantially eliminated in the next five years, every task that I have outlined can be accomplished.**

**Three things are necessary—unity in the humane movement, a cooperative division of labor within that unity, and humane education of a kind, magnitude, variety and quality heretofore hardly envisioned.**

Let me tell you now about some of the things that The HSUS plans specifically to do in the next five years. My purpose is not to boast about what The HSUS will do but to show, in concrete detail, how the humane movement may achieve effective unity, how each individual society, big or small, can work with all other organizations and humanitarians in our common enterprise, and how a totally new kind of humane education can solve many of our problems.

It is my privilege to announce to you that The HSUS right now is moving to establish near Waterford, Virginia, which is only a half hour's drive from our headquarters in Washington, a National Humane Education Center that will serve the entire humane movement. Most of you undoubtedly already have seen the photographs, at the entrance to this room, of the land and buildings that already have been acquired for the National Humane Education Center. I hope that all of you will look at those pictures again after this meeting adjourns. I ask you to join me in envisioning what is going to develop there and how the effects of that development will benefit every humane society and every humane worker of the nation.

We propose to create at Waterford the most exciting, the most useful, facility in the entire world for advancement of the humane cause.

More than \$350,000 eventually will be invested in the land and buildings of the Center and operation of the Center will rise in a very short time to a level that will cost more than \$100,000 a year.

At the Center we will begin within thirty days the construction of a modern, model animal shelter for dogs, cats and other small animals. An existing large barn will be remodeled and modernized to provide a shelter for livestock and other large animals. There will be another new building providing a small auditorium especially planned for children, an exhibit hall, a library and art gallery, and administrative offices. The very lovely house now on the property, approximately 160 years old but modern and substantial in every respect, will be used as living quarters for humane society and government workers, school teachers, and leaders of youth organizations who will come to the National Humane Education Center from all over the nation to receive intensive training in the care and handling of animals, the operation of animal shelters, methods of community humane education, and the use of animals in the development of the psychology and character of children.

By next summer we will have created on the property a ten-acre lake which will be managed to attract and support local aquatic and amphibious wildlife as well as domestic waterfowl. The entire 140 acres is to be planted and horticulturally developed to provide shelter, nesting sites and food for the maximum possible population of birds and of wild animals native to the area.

The animal shelter facilities will serve the animals of the entire county. We think that animals of few other such areas in the United States will be as well served because the primary purpose of our shelter facilities will be to search continually for the very best methods of operation, to maintain the highest possible standards of policy and program, and to serve as an educational workshop for professional animal shelter workers and the leaders of local humane societies from all over America.

We intend to build around the National Humane Education Center a working demonstration of a model program of community responsibility for animals, including the rescue, care, protection and regulation of animals by individual owners, by the community as a political and social unit, and by organized local philanthropic action.

The Center will conduct, always experimenting with the best ideas that both theoretical psychologists and practical workers can devise, an intensive program of humane education of children of the local community.

We expect that the teacher training college of one of America's major universities will send part of its own faculty to the National Humane Education Center every summer to conduct academic in-service training

courses in humane education concepts and methods for public and private school teachers.

We hope and expect that humanitarians of the nation will provide an endowment for the National Humane Education Center, to be kept entirely apart from ordinary funds of The HSUS, which will enable us to invite approximately 200 selected humane workers, every year, to attend in-residence training courses in animal shelter operation, humane society business management, principles and techniques of humane education in a local community, and other similar subjects. Our goal is to make such professionally taught courses available without cost to local humane societies.

I want to pause right here, momentarily interrupting the development of my thought, to express inadequately my really inexpressible gratitude to the National Humane Education Society, which has donated most of the land at Waterford as well as a substantial sum of money to be used in initial development of the Center, to Miss Edith Goode, a Director of The HSUS and of the National Humane Education Society, who has contributed additional land on which stands the house in which students at the National Humane Education Center will live while in training, and to Miss Alice Morgan Wright, who has contributed an additional substantial sum to be used in the first development of the Center.

The National Humane Education Society, Miss Goode, and Miss Wright have enabled us to begin. The project is of such magnitude and of such national importance that it will require very generous additional philanthropy from many persons and organizations.

And this is how I tie this specific great project of The HSUS into the fundamental thesis that I stated earlier. The humane movement needs to improve—the humane movement *must* improve—the operation of its animal shelters. We need—all of us need—a means of training our animal shelter managers, our animal shelter workers. We need to discover and develop new techniques, new equipment. We want to offer training in humane methods of animal care and handling to employees of city and county animal-regulation departments as well as our own workers. We need to experiment daringly and creatively in the development of humane education programs—programs with real psychological impact and effect—for elementary schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs. We need a place where everything that can be learned, developed and tested will be passed along promptly and freely to every organization and individual worker of the movement.

**The National Humane Education Center will provide all of these things, do all of these things, be all of these things. In this project The HSUS will be applying the prescription for effectiveness that I offered earlier. The HSUS will manage the National Humane Education Center but we will**

invite the most experienced and thoughtful leaders of humane work from all over the country to serve on several advisory councils that will help to plan and orient various aspects of the Center's program. There will be a wide unity of the humane movement in this project. The HSUS will provide a technical and professional staff at the Center and our field staff will see to it that scholarship-financed training courses are made available where they are most needed, but philanthropists all over the country will participate in the financing and students who will come from all over the United States to live and study at the Center will constantly contribute ideas and bits of knowledge that will in turn be passed along to later students by our teaching staff. There will be a cooperative division of labor and function as well as unity.

No single society, not even The HSUS, could create or maintain a project and program of this kind without cooperation by many organizations and persons. The other side of that coin is that no humane society anywhere could obtain the great help and benefit that will flow from this National Humane Education Center if we did not unite and cooperate to create and operate it.

The already developing National Humane Education Center is a sufficiently great and exciting project to justify much more discussion than I am now offering. You will later hear very much more about it. I have told you about it at this time because the conception behind it exemplifies and elucidates the basic idea that I am trying to hammer home—my conviction that virtually every major problem that we face can be solved, virtually everything that we wish to do can be achieved, if we will but unite, work cooperatively together, and see clearly that every one of our problems is a problem of education.

Now let me speak more fully about what I hope that The HSUS will do and become in the next five years.

I have been a Director of the HSUS for eight years but I became the society's President and chief staff executive only last month. I have not had an opportunity since I became President for a meeting with the full Board of Directors of The HSUS so what I shall say to you now is an expression of personal aspirations and opinions. The Board of Directors will have its opportunity tonight to tell me in what respects the Board disagrees with me. You will have your own opportunities, in the forthcoming Committee meetings and in plenary actions of the Conference, to express your own opinions.

I believe that The HSUS, which will not be nine years old until November 22, already is the most influential organization and force within the American humane movement. Speaking for the moment as a lay humanitarian and one who until very recently was the President of a local mid-west humane society, I am happy that this is so. I know intimately my

colleagues of the HSUS Board of Directors—the men and women whom you have elected. I know every member of the society's professional and clerical staff. I have spent hours and whole days reading back through the never ending, amazing, immensely varied flow through the HSUS headquarters office of correspondence from every nook and cranny of the country, every level of the American public. I can and do tell you, with admiration in my mind and excitement in my blood, that The HSUS is idealistically and efficiently led, that your staff is truly dedicated to the humane cause, imaginative, aggressive, thoughtful of hours of work, and that in the broad membership of The HSUS—by far larger than that of any other national humane organization—there is a vitality, a questing, pushing demand for true humane work on new frontiers, that is exaltingly inspiring.

Still speaking as a lay humanitarian, I want the influence of The HSUS within the humane movement to continue to grow. The local humane society that I formerly served as President and every other local humane society in America will benefit if the moral qualities, the aggressive, fighting spirit, and the technical efficiency of The HSUS reach ever more deeply into every level of our national and local work.

I expect, and as the new President of The HSUS I intend, that this shall happen.

My own first desire for The HSUS is the development of its education department. We have just freed Fred Myers, our former Executive Director, to concentrate his work in that area. I hope and expect that within the next five years the HSUS education department will be working at a truly professional level with teacher training colleges, the National Education Association, and the churches of the nation. I expect that by the end of five years we will be producing a steady flow, in cooperation with the staff of the National Humane Education Center, of folders, pamphlets, booklets, and books that can be used by every local humane society in its local humane education program. I expect that at another level of education, the HSUS education department will be using all of the techniques of Madison Avenue to sell the American public the entire humane program.

My second goal, in order of priority, is a large expansion of our field staff. It is a sad fact that right now we do many things badly and we pass up many opportunities for useful work simply because the very few men that we have available for field work cannot be everywhere in the United States simultaneously. I intend to try very hard to talk the humanitarians of the country out of enough money to expand our field staff quite substantially within the next twelve months.

I strongly believe that the organization of state branches of The HSUS should be energetically pushed. Past conferences of this kind have dis-

cussed the theory of HSUS branches many times and I will not cover the same ground again. I am quite convinced that state organizations of this kind are a necessary and even inevitable unit of the national organization of the humane movement. No other form of organization, as far as I can see, can extend our work and our influence into the vast areas of the United States in which there now are no local humane societies and in which, for the most part, no local humane society can be organized. We think that we now know how to organize and activate viable and highly useful state branches but we need more money than we now have in order to launch them. I hope and believe that we shall find a way to organize at least twenty new state branches in the next five years.

I am sure that I speak for the full Board of Directors of the HSUS as well as for the staff and the membership when I say that we intend to achieve, in the imminent future, an effective federal law to protect laboratory animals. How quickly that can be achieved depends upon the degree of unity that the humane movement puts into this project. The HSUS will spare no money, no manpower, and no effort to get this desperately needed job done.

I shall not recite again the problems and tasks of the humane movement that I mentioned at the beginning of these remarks. The HSUS in this coming year will be working on every one of those problems.

It is time for me to conclude. I hope that somehow I have managed, in all of these words, to convey to you my own conviction—my wholly confident conviction—that in the next five years we can and we will rejuvenate the humane movement, magnify its influence in American life many-fold, save vast numbers of animals from suffering, and, most important and, indeed, the climactic goal—move the next generation significantly toward reverence for all life.

## Following are resolutions adopted by the conferees:

### I—Condition of the humane movement and program development

WHEREAS, the committee recognizes need for a long range program to accelerate the rate of growth of the humane movement, and

WHEREAS, a plan that embraces the elements inherent in the promotion of the humane cause must be formulated, and

WHEREAS, consideration has been given to the major categories pertinent to a five-year development plan including legislation, education, communication, organization, and public relations, be it

RESOLVED, That this committee recommends:

(1) Continued and intensified action in support of the Randall bill for protection of laboratory animals; amendment of the federal humane slaughter law and enactment of new state humane slaughter laws; development by The HSUS of a uniform code of anti-cruelty laws that can be recommended to all state and local governments;

(2) Development by The HSUS of a comprehensive program in techniques of education for humane leaders; increased education of public officials, the general adult public, and school children through all existing avenues; and support by all Branches, Affiliates, and individual humanitarians in development of the National Humane Education Center;

(3) Development of a program designed to improve communication and understanding among international, national, state and local humane organizations;

(4) Intensified effort in program development and establishment of additional state branches, organization of new humane societies in at least eighty communities of the nation, and continuing cooperation and assistance to unaffiliated humane societies;

(5) Greater utilization of advertising and publicity in public relations activities; and

(6) Full financial and moral support of The HSUS by all humanitarians through gifts and bequests to implement inauguration and development of these recommendations.

### II—Laboratory animals

WHEREAS, in terms of the number of animals and magnitude of cruelties involved, experimentation in laboratories ranks as one of the three leading humane problems in the United States, and