Investigative & Prosecution Activities

Police Chief Tortures Dogs With Pellet Gun

One of the most unforgivable acts of cruelty ever to come to my attention in the Great Lakes region occurred in Garrett, Ind. last February. The police chief of Garrett, John Herzog, who purportedly holds his community’s trust for law, order, and common decency, shot 2 dogs repeatedly with an air pellet gun to “prove that he was the boss in Garrett and had the power to do as he wished regardless of public opinion.” Herzog made this statement to two city employees before he savagely killed the dogs at the city’s animal shelter on Feb. 14 in an attempt to dispose of them. The witnesses, Joe Velpel and Leon Slaybaugh, whom I interviewed in March, told me that they had seen at least 12 dozen shots fired at the dogs. They said that one of the dogs was still alive almost 1 ½ hours after the shooting spree began. Herzog later shot the dog with his service revolver.

On March 13 I met with DeKalb County Prosecutor H. Charles Winans to request cruelty charges be lodged against Herzog. Winans said he would take depositions from all witnesses to determine whether there is evidence of a violation of Indiana cruelty laws. He said that it was his initial reaction that a violation of the law had been committed. Nevertheless, as of press time Winans had not yet brought charges against Herzog. Winans is mistaken if he thinks I will allow this matter to be swept under a rug. I will continue to press for the fullest and most vigorous prosecution in this case.

HSUS Joins Federal Government to Improve Menagerie

HSUS has joined with the federal government to force a private menagerie owner in Mantua, Ohio, to improve sanitation and housing facilities for his animals. Last March, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) lodged its first formal charges under the Animal Welfare Act of 1970 against Pat J. Camillo, owner of the Camillo Zoo. The USDA accused Camillo of keeping lions, leopards, coyotes, and wolves in cages too weak to prevent their escape and—in some instances—too small for the animals. Camillo was also charged with improper vermin and disease control.

Sue Pressman, HSUS director of wildlife protection, rushed to the aid of the animals while the
HSUS Calls for Public Referendum on Indiana Zoo

After completing an inspection of the Columbian Park Zoo in Lafayette, Ind., last April, Sue Pressman, HSUS director of wildlife protection, called for a public referendum to determine whether "this nonfunctioning menagerie should continue to exist."

"It's obvious that this zoo is neglected," she said. "It looks very much like the public is apathetic about it. If the public wants the zoo to continue, it will need public support through a strong zoological society, private money, and a professional staff. These things go hand in hand." Most of Mrs. Pressman's criticism of the zoo was aimed at the buildings and fenced-in areas, which she called "deplorable," but she also noted the absence of a full-time zoo staff and professional zoo director.

HSUS's inspection of the zoo generated several news stories and opinions in the Lafayette Journal and Courier. Mrs. Kendal Smith, a 46-year resident of the city, suggested that the zoo be phased out. William Bull of Lafayette wrote, "The lion pacing back and forth in its 8 by 11 cage in the middle of a big city is disgusting. If it had the brains, I'm sure it would kill itself, as most of the animals there would. The animals there are lethargic, and it doesn't take an expert to tell that. Locking animals up in such conditions is a disgrace to the city and the person responsible for such a thing."

A Courier and Journal editorial stated, "We have held our noses and turned our heads as long as we could. Now, a long hard look and answers are needed. What shall it be? The park board needs to know."

At press time no referendum had been scheduled by city officials concerning the zoo's disposition. The park board has acted upon several of Mrs. Pressman's recommendations to improve conditions at the zoo, but many major problems remain to be solved. Meanwhile, the animals continue to suffer. Please help these animals by making your views known to Mayor James F. Riehle, 20 N. 6th St., Lafayette, Ind., 47901.

Akrum Zoo Gets Marginal Response to HSUS Recommendations

When I think of HSUS's battle for zoo reform I am often reminded of Sisyphus, a legendary king who was condemned to roll a heavy rock up a hill in Hades only to have it roll down again as he reached the top. So often we fail to achieve our goals because we don't have the legal or persuasive power to reach them. Recently, that lack of power was reflected vividly when officials of the Akron (Ohio) Children's Zoo decided to give only a token response to several HSUS recommendations to improve the quality of life for their animals.

Last October, Sue Pressman, HSUS director of wildlife protection, made numerous recommendations to the zoo's board of directors after conducting an investigation of the facility. In a recent follow-up tour of the zoo, Mrs. Pressman and I found that only the most expedient work on animal exhibits had begun. In addition, the zoo's animal inventory had been decreased, relieving the overcrowded conditions that had existed. Mrs. Pressman praised the attitude and performance of the present zoo staff, but reminded the zoo's board that the staff still needs the guidance and leadership of a professional zoo director.

Unfortunately, the recent cosmetic improvements made at the zoo do not change its poorly planned and antiquated "animal entertainment" design. The zoo's ideal hillside setting, which has great potential for developing a natural habitat, is lost in a maze of cages that look like jail cells. Consequently, the viewing public is losing a valuable opportunity to learn about natural animal behavior.

Hopefully, Akron area citizens will find the money and motivation to take advantage of this potential in the near future.

Shelbyville Pound Improving at Snail's Pace

Inhumane treatment of animals could be as close as your own community animal shelter. Have you checked it lately? Recently, several concerned citizens of Shelbyville, Ind., did, and found such intolerable conditions that they protested them to city officials. Their clamor for improvements at the Shelbyville Pound became so emotional that Mayor Jerry Higgins labeled them "humanitarians" and ignored them. The citizens then came to me for help. After 10 weeks of using every tactic imaginable, I finally got Higgins' attention focused on the pound by threatening a lawsuit against the city for neglect of animals.

Phyllis Wright, HSUS director of animal sheltering and control, and I visited the pound on several occasions offering suggestions for its improvement. On one occasion we found 30 dogs in a cage lying in their own excrement. Water, dank with feces, stood in a puddle several inches deep over a broken sewer drain that was swarming with flies. With flies at the midst of the animals. Worst of all, two mother dogs were nursing their litters of infant puppies among the feces. Conditions at the pound were deteriorating rapidly until we met with Higgins and he agreed to take "some affirmative action."

I made a follow-up visit to the pound in August and found conditions improving at a snail's pace. I will continue to press for improvements until HSUS minimum standards for the treatment of animal shelters are met. When that goal has been accomplished, I plan to go to work on improving the Shelby County Humane Society's shelter, which operates under the noble, but sadly unrealistic, philosophy that there is "a good home available for every dog and cat" that is brought to them for adoption.

Educational Scene

Local Humane Societies, Take Advantage of Us

In the past year the Great Lakes Regional Office has been called upon with increasing frequency to provide information and assistance to state legislatures, government officials, veterinary medical associations, and animal control associations. After only 4 years of operation in the region HSUS is now a recognized and accepted authority on problems of animal welfare and control. Each time the Great Lakes office receives a request for assistance from an individual or organization, I am reassured in my conviction that this office is operating with the expertise and professionalism that is vital in coping with the many animal-related problems in the region.

Presently, I am in the midst of conducting a series of quadrant meetings throughout the region. It is my purpose at these meetings to give guidance and ideas to local humane societies. The response to the meetings has been very gratifying. Many participants have informed me that these meetings have given them a shot in the arm towards the effective daily operation of their facilities. Frequently, I've heard people say, "We're doing a lot more than I thought we were, particularly in comparison to some of the other groups." The sharing of fund raising ideas and educational program ideas has been particularly helpful. I believe that through these meetings I have been able to more effectively communicate with you about what HSUS is doing that should show some of the new tool that we've developed to enable you to do your job more effectively. I have the feeling too that many of you have come to better understand the legislative process in both the state legislatures and the Congress.
My trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was particularly gratifying. I got the impression that the humanitarians who came to the quadrant meeting at Iron Mountain last October really felt isolated in their efforts up there in that beautiful wilderness country.

I often wonder if perhaps I should spend less time on the quadrant meetings and annual workshops and devote more time to the investigation and prosecution of abuse to individual animals. I sincerely believe, though, that I can help more animals by assisting animal control personnel to do their jobs more effectively.

I also wonder if those of you who have attended the quadrant meetings and state workshops have put to use the information that has been disseminated there. Have you changed your shelter operation? Have you introduced an education program? Have you done your investigations and prosecutions of animal abuse cases more effectively? If there were some way to determine whether or not any progress is being made in these areas as a result of these training sessions, it would be easier to evaluate my efforts for you. I have decided that one way to accomplish this evaluation is to find out if you, the humanitarians of the region, want them to continue. I will be available to come into your quadrant to conduct a joint meeting of local humane societies on the following basis:

An individual or representative of a local society will have to make all arrangements for a meeting place. I prefer that you rent a conference room in a hotel near an interstate highway. Hotels are usually better prepared to accommodate such a meeting than most meeting rooms in banks, utilities, churches or shopping center community rooms. The advantage of the latter is that they are usually free of charge. In addition, each society that attends the quadrant meeting will be charged a $10 fee to help defray my travel expense. The meetings should begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. I will provide the leadership for the meetings. If your society is interested in hosting one of these meetings under these conditions, I will be happy to provide you with the mailing list of the local societies in your quadrant as well as other organizational suggestions. Since there are 15 quadrants in the region, I am reserving the following Saturdays on my calendar for the meetings and will assign the dates on a first come, first served basis:

- October 25, 1975
- November 1, 1975
- November 23, 1975
- January 10, 1976
- January 24, 1976
- February 6, 1976
- February 21, 1976
- March 6, 1976
- March 20, 1976
- April 3, 1976
- April 24, 1976
- May 1, 1976
- May 8, 1976
- May 15, 1976
- May 22, 1976
- May 29, 1976

We at HSUS know that the battle to alleviate and prevent the suffering of animals has only just begun in this region. With your continued support, we can win this battle. These are hard times economically. I may be forced to curtail some of my traveling, but I will continue to use your contribution as effectively as I possibly can.

Is Cruelty Occurring in Your Children’s Textbooks?

Recently a New Haven, Ind., resident contacted the Great Lakes Regional Office to complain about a paperback book entitled “Conflict” that was required for her daughter’s 5th grade reading class. Two short stories in the book described and condoned the abuse of animals. One story described a father telling his boys to keep a kitten quiet. “I don’t care if you have to kill it,” he said. The boys did what their father said and put a rope around the cat’s neck until its “little pink tongue hung out.”

The book was being discontinued at the Highland Terrace Elementary School for the balance of the school year. I am sure that all parents realize the damaging effects such reading material has on their children’s textbooks.

The book’s content is outrageous. The authors of the stories give the impression that brutal abuse of animals is acceptable. It is inexcusable for such material to be available to the children of Michigan. This book should be banned from schools.

I wrote the superintendent of East Allan County Schools, Dr. Daryl Yost, who informed me that the book was being discontinued at the Highland Terrace Elementary School for the balance of the school year. I am sure that all parents realize the damaging effects such reading material has on their children’s attitudes. Therefore, I urge parents to maintain constant vigilance over the content of their children’s textbooks.

Spring Workshops Draw Good Response

Over 150 people from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and Canada attended the HSUS-Michigan Federation of Humane Societies workshop at Bay City, Mich., on May 3 and 4. John Hoyt, HSUS president, Phyllis Wright, HSUS director of animal sheltering and control, and I worked with local Michigan humane society leaders Mary Better, Robert DeWolfe, and Donald Sorenson to create a very exciting and educational workshop. Participants were exposed to a variety of animal welfare subjects, including the humane ethic, animal abuse investigation and prosecution, and rescue and shelter operation. Congratulations to Margaret Sarna of Warren, Mich., who coordinated the workshop from beginning to end. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to the Michigan Federation of Humane Societies for the certificate of appreciation presented to me at the workshop.

Hoosier humanitarians attending the HSUS-Indiana Federation of Humane Societies workshop in Indianapolis, Ind., on May 17 and 18 were given an in-depth look at humane education from two of America’s foremost experts on the subject. Dr. Eileen Whitlock, assistant executive secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, and John Dommers, director of the HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education Center, gave advice and leadership to over 75 participants at the workshop. Other leadership was provided by local Indiana humanitarians, including Richard Devine, Alan Thomas, Philip Snyder, and Kathy Flood. Stuart Kroesch, president of the Illinois State Federation of Humane Societies, was a panelist. Prof. Mary Benedict of Indiana University and Jeanne Lee, public relations director of the Indianapolis Zoo, lectured on public relations for local humane societies. Dr. Lee Ellen Ford, an administrative assistant to Indiana Governor Otis Bowen, discussed the revision of Indiana’s animal control laws. Thanks to all of you for a rewarding workshop.

HSUS Will Participate in First National Whale Symposium

John J. Dommers, director of HSUS’s Norma Terris Humane Education Center in Connecticut, will present two major humane education workshops at the First National Whale Symposium in Bloomington, Ind., on Nov. 9-12. Dommers will offer the latest HSUS instructional materials and information on the preservation and protection of whales. The workshops will also include a thorough discussion of HSUS educational materials.

The 4-day symposium will feature lectures, discussions, and exhibits designed to provide educators and concerned individuals with the information necessary for the conservation of the dwindling whale population. Symposium participants will consider such diverse topics as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, biological acoustics, and the literature of Herman Melville. A full orchestral concert premiering music inspired by whales is planned. Many prominent educators throughout the nation will appear as featured speakers. For further information and reservations write: THE NATIONAL WHALE SYMPOSIUM, 605 South Fess St., No. 3, Bloomington, Ind. 47401, or call (812) 339-1484.
This swan became another indiscriminate victim of a steel jaw trap. The Ohio Legislature's recent decision to kill legislation aimed at stopping this cruelty assured still more suffering for thousands of the state's animals.

Legal Setbacks

Trapping Legislation Dies in Ohio

The combined voice of over 400 Buckeye humanitarians who attended a hearing to support legislation that would have banned the leghold trap in Ohio was virtually ignored by the Ohio Legislature's Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee as it voted 14-1 to kill House Bill 179 last April. The committee dumped the legislation after listening to spokespersons representing over 600 trappers who jammed the hearing room and corridors to oppose the measure. At least 4 of the 15-member committee were avowed trappers and were very hostile to the proponents. The Ohio Committee for Humane Trapping (OCHT), which has almost single-handedly been responsible for the drive to eliminate the leghold trap in Ohio, is now actively seeking a referendum on the trapping issue for the November 1976 ballot. If voters elect to ban the trap, the legislature will be forced to pass a law reflecting their wishes. HSUS members and friends wishing to learn more about the OCHT should contact Mrs. Dean Rowland, 12810 S. Dixie Hwy., Bowling Green, Ohio 43402, or Mrs. Adele Caramanian, 4920 N. Raeburn Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45223.

In the past few years the Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan State Federations of Humane Societies have been called upon by their legislatures to provide information primarily on animal control issues. Consequently, the burden of trapping legislation has been borne by individual humanitarians. Accordingly, bills that have been introduced into those legislatures during recent sessions received little attention from the legislators and failed to pass.

In the meantime, trappers are organizing themselves into associations in an effort to sell the general public on the benefits of trapping. Their expressed purpose is to counteract the "lies" that have been spread about trapping and the leghold trap by the humane movement. A recent issue of Fur-Fish-Game, a pro-trapping newsletter published in Columbus, Ohio, warned its readers of the impending threat of OCHT. The newsletter listed a dozen threats to trappers should OCHT be successful in outlawing the trap. Among them were:

- Revenue from fur pelts will be eliminated—thereby increasing taxes.
- Young men who depend on cash from trapping will have no pocket money, and those who depend on this revenue for college will be shut out of higher education.
- A clean, healthful outdoor activity will be wiped out.
- Small gardens (even in large cities) will be raided by raccoons and opposums.
- What will happen to the legacy due our children if they have no incentive to trap?

With such "overwhelmingly" persuasive arguments for the continuation of trapping it's no wonder that the Ohio legislature voted to continue the leghold trapping torture!

It will be quite some time before humanitarians get through the emotional froth of the trapping issue to a point where the facts of the leghold trap are dealt with rationally. All we can do is continue to keep the issue before the public, striving to inform as many people as possible about trapping cruelties. It will probably take as long or longer to win this battle as it did to win the battle for humane slaughter. So let's get on with it, and resolve to do the job more effectively and for the long run.

Indiana Lawmakers Dump Progressive Animal Control Bill

The Indiana Legislature bowed to the will of hobby and professional breeders last February when it failed to vote on animal control legislation that would have, among other things, required the neutering of all dogs adopted from the state's public and private animal shelters. The legislation, House Bill 1225, introduced by Rep. Thomas Fruechtenicht, was tabled by the Human Affairs Committee after an emotional outburst from the breeders who claimed that provisions of the bill were an invasion of privacy violating the U.S. Constitution, creating an unwanted bureaucracy, and adding unwanted taxes to an already overtaxed general public.

The animal control law revision, which followed many of HSUS's suggested guidelines in Responsible Animal Regulation, would have established a Division of Stray Dog Control within the Indiana Board of Health responsible for inspecting and licensing the state's breeding kennels, boarding kennels, grooming parlors, and pet shops. The bill also provided for the licensing of...
neutered dogs at $2 per year and non-neutered dogs at $10 per year. Income generated by the legislation would have been used for numerous beneficial purposes, including animal control education, animal birth control research, and payment for the treatment of rabid dog bites.

Supporters of the legislation included HSUS, Indiana Governor Otis Bowen, the Indiana Board of Health, the Indiana Veterinary Medical Assn., and the Indiana Federation of Humane Societies. I have been advised that plans are under way to introduce a similar bill in the 1976 session of the Indiana General Assembly. Indiana humanitarians who wish to support this effort may contact John Kelley, president, Indiana Federation of Humane Societies, 215 W. William St., Michigan City, Ind. 46360, or telephone (219) 872-1633.

The HSUS Great Lakes Region serves Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Requests for assistance or information should be addressed to John W. Inman, Jr., Great Lakes regional director, 927 S. Harrison St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46802 (219-743-6242).

Linda Livers, a staff member of the Calumet Area Humane Society in Hammond, Ind., plays with Clarisa, a frequent shelter visitor.