MARO Fall 1986

Follow this and additional works at: http://animalstudiesrepository.org/midatlrn

Recommended Citation
"MARO Fall 1986" (1986). Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. 17.
http://animalstudiesrepository.org/midatlrn/17
PROTESTS, PUBLICITY CURTAIL ANIMAL ACTS

The first annual fair at the Meadowlands Sports Complex in East Rutherford, New Jersey, was held on August 3–10, 1986. Promoted as a "family-oriented event," the fair staged two animal acts that drew sharp criticism and protest from The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other animal-welfare/rights groups and individuals.

Tim Rivers' High Diving Mules and Victor the Rasslin' Bear were scheduled for four performances daily at the eight-day fair. The mule act featured two mules, one pony, and one dog that are lead up to a 30-foot-high platform, and each animal dives into an 8-foot tub of water. The bear act featured an 8-foot, 3-inch, 650-pound bear, wrestling all contenders 18 years and older.

Offered as wholesome entertainment, these acts are blatant exploitation in which animals are put in risk of severe injury. Further, they are an insidious way of conditioning the public, especially impressionable children, to accepting performances in which animals are put in ludicrous and dangerous situations.

Prompted by The HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (MARO), the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (USDA–APHIS) investigated the animal acts for possible violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

On opening day, protestors attended the fair to oppose the performances. By the third day, due to much publicity of the opening day's protest in New Jersey and New York newspapers, news teams from WABC-TV, New York, came to cover the controversy. MARO program coordinator Rick Abel; Kathy Johnson, Bergen County (New Jersey) Humane Society; and Pamela Marsen, Mobilization for Animals, were interviewed on camera.

On the fifth day, the Bergen County prosecutor's office stepped in. Owner George Allen was advised his bear act might be in violation of New Jersey's anti-cruelty laws, and the act was temporarily stopped. Next day, a court ruled the bear act could continue.

Meanwhile, citizen opposition to the animal acts continued to swell. Plans were made for a mass protest on the eighth and last day of the fair. After the seventh day, however, Tim Rivers and his Diving Mules ended their per-

(continued on page 2)
to complete the eight-day run.

Such performances condition spectators to accept animals in unnatural situations where exploitation. We need to convince the public that animals should not be used for public entertainment.

The HSUS and its services, and to familiarize the humane societies with their work to meet their organizations' goals and objectives.

Since March, he has visited 25 animal welfare groups in the eastern part of Pennsylvania and, eventually, will visit organizations in New York.

The pet industry worked and lobbied for legislation that would help tenants and we are most fortunate to have those men supporting this bill.

For further information: (201) 377-7111

Chief Executive Officer, New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, Executive Offices across the country participated in the New York demonstration at the opening of the Jacob Javits Center in the city.

Extends MARO's outreach within the state pets-in-housing legislation has been enacted by the state assembly with the local groups and establish a test letter to Governor Thomas H. Kean, 07073-0700.

The court battle to test the constitutionality of the New Jersey trap ban ends in May. At our home, we are trying to let the bats leave. I appreciate this much-maligned creature.

New York Bird Law

Bats are well-liked in China and elsewhere but are not well-tolerated here. I have enjoyed picnics or visits with friends this past summer, as well as a well-deserved vacation.

With the local groups and establish a test letter to Governor Thomas H. Kean, 07073-0700. Send a copy of your protest, public letters to the governor and local legislators. Write to him to support and sign up.

The HSUS and its services, and to familiarize the humane societies with their work to meet their organizations' goals and objectives.

Please contact your state representative and ask them to support and sign up for the new law. If you have a constituent, especially the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, you should contact them.

Assemblyman Ben Mazur and MARO Director Nina Austenberg compare notes during a recess in the N.J. trap ban trial.

The court battle to test the constitutionality of the New Jersey trap ban ends in May. At our home, we are trying to let the bats leave. I appreciate this much-maligned creature.

At our home, we are trying to let the bats leave. I hope that we can find a better solution. The HSUS and the National Wildlife Federation, and representatives, have a negative impact on it.

Write to Governor Mario Cuomo, 12224.

Mr. Governor, please sign the new law for the time being. Senator Robert E. Mulcahy, III, President and Chief Executive Officer, New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, Executive Offices across the country participated in the New York demonstration at the opening of the Jacob Javits Center in the city.

Extends MARO's outreach within the state pets-in-housing legislation has been enacted by the state assembly with the local groups and establish a test letter to Governor Thomas H. Kean, 07073-0700. Send a copy of your protest, public letters to the governor and local legislators. Write to him to support and sign up.

The HSUS and its services, and to familiarize the humane societies with their work to meet their organizations' goals and objectives.

Please contact your state representative and ask them to support and sign up for the new law. If you have a constituent, especially the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, you should contact them.

Assemblyman Ben Mazur and MARO Director Nina Austenberg compare notes during a recess in the N.J. trap ban trial.
Carriage Horses at Risk in N.Y.

The introduction of the automobile basically negated the horse-drawn carriage as a major mode of personal transportation. But, over a half century later, many communities and urban centers maintain carriage horses as a tourist attraction.

The horse-drawn carriage has been a constant feature in New York City for nearly 120 years. In contemporary times, these animals are subjected to severe stress, forced to inhale noxious fumes as they plod nose-to-bumper behind buses, trucks, and cars, their ears assaulted by noisy traffic. Currently, not limited to any parts of the city, the horses must compete with congested traffic. This causes accidents, leading to injury and sometimes death. And, an injured or wornout horse will most likely end its days at the slaughterhouse.

The problem is compounded by carriage horses being driven and handled by people with little knowledge of proper equine care and management.

Two bills have recently been introduced in the New York City Council that would help the carriage horse. The Dryfoos Bill (Intro. #489) was originally introduced in 1983. This bill is primarily offered to amend the charter and administrative code of the City of New York, so that "horsedrawn cabs may only be worked inside Central Park after picking up a fare at the designated stand and then proceeding on the public street to the closest legal entry point into the park."

The most recent bill, introduced in 1985 by Council Member Eisland at the request of Mayor Koch (Intro. #6), proposes to restrict the carriage horses during peak traffic hours in areas where there is heavy traffic congestion. According to the bill, "Horsedrawn cabs shall not be operated between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday within the area bounded on the east by Lexington Avenue, on the south by Thirty-third Street, on the west by Seventh Avenue and on the north by Fifty-ninth Street."

Also, noted in this bill is the inclusion of, "Training program and examination. The department shall offer a training program and examination for horsedrawn cab drivers. Subjects addressed in such training program shall include, but need not be limited to, proper horse care, handling and maintenance and the laws and regulations applicable to the operation of a horsedrawn cab in the city."

The ASPCA and New York-based Carriage Horse Action Committee have informed MARO that they are recommending to New York City Council members a combination of the bills to restrict the carriage horse to Central Park and create mandatory training for drivers.

In support of this recommendation, we urge all New York City residents and visitors to write letters encouraging the creation and passage of this more humane legislation. Please write to Mayor Ed Koch, Office of the Mayor, City Hall, New York, NY 10007.