

The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy
Animal Studies Repository

1979

RMRO 1979 Annual Report

Follow this and additional works at: <http://animalstudiesrepository.org/rocmourn>

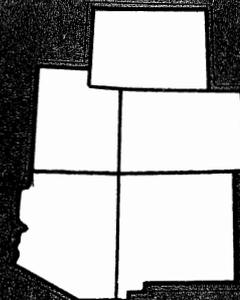
Recommended Citation

"RMRO 1979 Annual Report" (1979). *Rocky Mountain Regional Office*. 6.
<http://animalstudiesrepository.org/rocmourn/6>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the Animal Studies Repository. For more information, please contact eyahner@humanesociety.org.



REPORT



RMRO Investigates Wyoming Dog Shootings

Over 200 dogs were shot by game wardens in the Rock Springs and Green River area of Wyoming, according to officials of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. HSUS Field Investigator Phil Steward recently visited this area to investigate the matter. He was told by wardens that approximately 206 dogs that were allegedly attacking wildlife had been shot between December and mid-February.

In addition to the wardens, Steward interviewed several owners of dogs that were shot, local humane workers, and concerned citizens. He also observed feeding operations of the wildlife in question. After returning to Denver, Steward interviewed two experts in the care of antelope before completing a report of findings. This report was sent to Governor Ed Herschler.

In his report Steward agreed that severe winter conditions had driven thousands of antelope from their normal winter ranges into inhabited areas throughout the state. Sweetwater County was one of these areas. Despite feed lines set up by Game and Fish personnel, hundreds of antelope died. According to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, many of the deaths were caused by the hunger-weakened antelope being chased by free-roaming dogs. In an effort to protect the antelope, game wardens turned to a permissive state law permitting the shooting of dogs injuring or threatening big game animals.

Steward agreed with game wardens that a large part of the immediate problem was caused by irresponsible pet owners. Steward said, however, that the Game and Fish Department was not without fault for so many dogs being

shot. It was not illegal for the dogs to run loose, since no state law had been enacted at that time to permit county governments to institute animal control ordinances. While the Game and Fish Department knew free-roaming dogs were a problem, Steward indicated, it did not encourage the passage of such enabling legislation. Such legislation now has been passed through the efforts of the Humane Federation of Wyoming.

Steward also reported that the Game and Fish Department had failed in its responsibilities to the wildlife by establishing feed lines along well traveled roads near residential areas. This is based on information supplied by the experts he consulted. After relaying his findings to them, they agreed with him that the antelope had become hardcore welfare cases due to the way they had been fed. For three months the antelope had been fed in the same

(Continued on page 2)

RMRO Has New Director

Douglas M. Scott was named the new Director of HSUS's Rocky Mountain Regional Office. He comes to the Rocky Mountain Region from HSUS's Gulf States office where he organized and directed that region's programs for six and one-half years.

While in the Gulf States region, Scott was instrumental in the formation of the Texas Humane Information Network (THIN). The network was developed to keep Texans up-to-date on animal-related legislative activities. Through his efforts the Texas Education Agency requested HSUS's National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education to write a humane curriculum guide for the public schools of Texas. Scott was also instrumental in helping to create a graduate humane education course at Stephen F. Austin University and was on the original planning committee for the annual Animal Control Personnel Development Workshop at Texas A&M.

Scott received a B.A. from Baylor University and a M.Div. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He and his wife, Dolores have three children, Diane, age 22, Cindy, age 17, and Greg, age 12. The Scott family resided in Casper, Wyoming for four years before moving to Texas, so their return to the Rocky Mountains is a homecoming.

— Euthanasia Bill Passes —

Colorado state senate bill 71 passed the legislature May 8. This bill will permit animal shelters to obtain sodium pentobarbital for use in euthanasia when the shelter has a trained and licensed technician and properly instituted controls. In testimony on the bill, HSUS offered to assist in training shelter personnel. Previously, sodium pentobarbital (a restricted narcotic drug) was only available to veterinarians. With certain limitations, this bill will enable animal shelters which do not have access to a veterinarian to obtain this drug, thereby giving them access to the method of euthanasia considered by HSUS and most veterinarians to be the most humane. Further information can be obtained from RMRO.

Accreditation — Who Needs It?

The prevention of cruelty to animals is a painstaking, arduous and unending task. When an organization labels itself as a humane society or an agency to promote animal welfare, there may be difficulties in living up to these titles. How can The HSUS help local agencies in their desire to be truly humane?

The HSUS has established a program which will use all of its capabilities as a national organization to help local agencies attain the highest degree of humane treatment for animals. The standards and goals of this program are:

1. Quality animal care which concerns both the physical and psychological welfare of animals;
2. A total humane education program;
3. Animal control policies which include humane euthanasia and proper adoption standards;
4. Investigation of cruelty cases;
5. Proper administrative practices which include good recordkeeping, financial reporting and ethical fund raising methods;
6. Communication to the community to elicit public support.

To better serve the western states, Miss Leslie Eustace, HSUS Accreditation Associate, is based in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. Miss Eustace was manager of the Brooklyn and Manhattan ASPCA shelters in New York before joining the staff of The HSUS and brings to this program her firsthand knowledge of shelter operations.

During the month of January, Miss Eustace traveled to New Mexico and met with a number of animal welfare organizations, introducing the Accreditation Program. She found many of these organizations very excited about The HSUS's total commitment to working with local societies to establish these standards of competence. They were delighted with the guidance, information, literature and helpful comments she was able to offer. She has also visited organizations in Colorado and Wyoming.

Any humane society, animal control agency, or humane educational organization interested in the Accreditation Program can receive further information by contacting Miss Eustace at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver.

Remember Animals In Your Will

There's only one way to make sure you can help animals after you're gone... make a Will and provide for them in it. HSUS will send you an informative booklet without obligation about how to make the best 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 St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037

Wyoming Dog Shootings

(Continued from page 1)

place and at the same time each day. They were not forced to follow natural instinct to search for food, but rather were encouraged to stay on the established feed lines waiting for the handouts.

Additionally, Steward cited negligence on the part of Game and Fish officials for not insuring the safe southward migration of the antelope during winter months. Although the Game and Fish Department knew their normal migration route to the south, it made no provisions for the antelope to cross Interstate 80. As a result, the antelope were forced into an unnatural commingling with humans and domestic pets. This resulted in the death of many animals, both wild and domestic.

In a follow-up letter to Governor Herschler, Steward emphasized that passage of enabling legislation to allow for animal control laws within counties "...alone cannot solve the people/pet/wildlife problems in the future." Steward feels what is needed now is citizen pressure on county officials to establish responsible animal control programs in all parts of the state and to encourage the Game and Fish Department to improve its wildlife management program.

Note: copies of Steward's report of findings are available from The HSUS/RMRO. Please enclose \$1.00 to help cover postage and duplication costs.

Court Order Prevents "Dog Day" Shootings

Sunday, April 22nd, had been declared "Dog Day" in the small Wyoming town of Medicine Bow. The Town Council passed a special ordinance which would have allowed town policemen, firemen, council members and other "selected citizens" to conduct a roundup of loose, unconfined dogs. A clause in the ordinance, however, came under fire from the Humane Federation of Wyoming and The HSUS/RMRO. This clause would have permitted the special patrol force to shoot, on the spot, any dog determined to be "vicious or incapable of being captured."

Several town residents felt the Town Council had overreacted to the loose dog problem and signed the petition for a court order to prevent the roundup. Carbon County District Court Judge Robert Hill issued a temporary restraining order against the town prohibiting the planned shooting of any dogs.

HSUS/RMRO Investigator Phil Steward, together with Wyoming Federation President Sherman Mast and several Federation members were in Medicine Bow on "Dog Day." Not one loose dog was sighted anywhere in the town and Steward reported, "It was very clear that the dog problem was really an irresponsible pet owner problem, not one of feral dog packs roaming around." After talking with numerous citizens and an official of Medicine Bow, a cooperative effort is now underway to establish a responsible and effective animal control program.

Spotlight on Sharing

Communication is essential to all — whether it be individual or group oriented. The Rocky Mountain Regional Office wants to serve as a means of communicating exciting ideas about animal welfare for all in this region to share — *information on immunization clinics, animal control ideas, what's being done by individual animal agencies, and any and all tidbits that might be helpful to animal owners, animal lovers, and animal caretakers.* We shall provide the means; you can provide the information.

We welcome your newsletters, magazines, fund raising ideas, articles or whatever you think might be beneficial to other groups or persons interested in animal welfare. Then the spotlight will be on you!

ALBUQUERQUE ANIMAL CONTROL (Albuquerque, NM) is using solar heating panels in its brand new shelter. They are attractive and very timely considering the high heating bills all shelters are facing.

CHEYENNE ANIMAL SHELTER (Cheyenne, WY) is starting a fund raising drive for a new shelter to be built on a beautiful piece of land already acquired.

DENVER DUMB FRIENDS LEAGUE (Denver, CO) has produced a new slide film show for Be Kind to Animals Week, using professional and shelter talent. It is an excellent humane education film and explains the work of their organization.

EASTERN VALENCIA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER (Los Lunas, NM) has opened a new full-service shelter complete with veterinary office.

ANIMAL HUMANE ASSOCIATION OF ALBUQUERQUE (NM) runs their shelter on a daily basis using almost all retired persons. This is a source of personnel not yet tapped by many shelters.

WESTMINSTER ANIMAL CONTROL (Westminster, CO) ran an immunization and licensing clinic for their citizens in February. Approximately 400 animals were immunized and extensive counselling was done with individual pet owners on spaying, neutering, and animal care.

COLORADO HUMANE SOCIETY (Henderson, CO) provides general animal information and promotes animal adoptions on the Blinky Fun Club Show which is televised in 17 states. Director Tony Stone gives information on a variety of topics including various breeds of animals and their care, what type of animal fits individual situations, wildlife information, and the need for proper immunization for pets. The response to this telecast has been tremendous and every animal shown for adoption on the Blinky Fun Club has found a home.

FEDERAL HEIGHTS ANIMAL CONTROL (Federal Heights, CO) held an immunization and licensing clinic on May 19th for local citizens. Information on spaying/neutering was dispensed and general pet care was discussed with the participants.

Animal Control Agencies Perform Vital Services

Since the opening of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, we have received hundreds of local and long distance calls regarding animals. Many of them deal with adopting animals and giving up animals the caller can no longer care for properly. But when the suggestion is made to contact the local animal control department, one comment outweighs all other responses — many people do not want to deal with the local "pounds" in their community.

This attitude is unfortunate since the most prevalent type of animal organization in this region is the municipal animal control agency. We are very fortunate to have some good humane organization shelters in the area as well. But they cannot be expected to do the work of the municipality. The public, therefore, needs to support local animal control agencies, improving their work when necessary.

Animal control departments perform, or have the potential for performing, vital services for animals and the community. These include investigation of cruelty and abuse, animal pickup, emergency medical services for stray animals, immunization clinics, and a variety of other services.

Most animal control officers care about what they are doing and are interested in seeing that animals are cared for humanely. Animal control agencies often must deal with practical problems of low budgets, few officers, and thousands of stray animals as well as irresponsible pet owners.

There have been problems and these will continue to exist in both municipal facilities and animal welfare organizations. These problems can be corrected if and when responsible citizens will involve themselves in their local animal control departments. INTEREST is needed to spur animal-related agencies to have a competent, caring program which works constantly to improve and maintain high standards.

The HSUS/RMRO is interested and wants to work with municipal animal control agencies toward the betterment of their departments. Is not our collective goal the humane treatment of animals through responsible pet ownership and caring, involved citizenry?

Make Plans Now For Regional Workshops

Plans are being made for two workshops in the Rocky Mountain Region in the coming months. Tentatively they will deal with problems of animal control, sheltering, investigations and organizational matters.

The first one, a mini-workshop, will probably be 1½ days in length on October 5 and 6, 1979, in Denver.

The second will be a regular HSUS workshop and will take place on March 21, 22 and 23, 1980, in Phoenix, Arizona.

More information will appear in future Reports, but we welcome any and all inquiries about these events.

Mile High Reflections



I am delighted to be back in the Rocky Mountains. Undoubtedly, this region is one of the most beautiful parts of our great country. Having lived in the area before, I have come to respect its citizens as among the most intelligent and sensitive people in the land. I am looking forward to working with all of you and hope we shall meet very soon.

The HSUS placed this office in the Rocky Mountains to assist the variety of animal organizations and programs that exist within the region. We are not here to do the work of local organizations, but rather to help them do their work. Naturally, the basic premise for all that we do is to alleviate the suffering of helpless animals.

In order to do the job as efficiently as possible, the following division of labor exists among regional HSUS staff members: as Director of the region, I am concerned with the oversight of all HSUS programs within the region and the day to day work in the regional office. Besides the necessary administrative matters, I shall be devoting my time to various kinds of educational enterprises such as setting up and directing workshops and seminars, meeting with educational institutions and educators, and so on. I shall also fulfill requests that come into the office for speaking engagements by interested groups such as humane, civic, church, government or private organizations. Legislation will also be my concern where requests are made of the office to assist in such matters. I shall act as an interpreter of HSUS activities and programs with the news media and other groups seeking such information, and will engage in one to one meetings where counsel is desired.

The Field Investigator of the region, Mr. Phil Steward, will handle cruelty matters of national import as well as

assisting organizations with cruelty cases local in nature. He will be in charge of inspecting the variety of animal facilities that exist within the region, whether they be municipal or private shelters, zoos, cattle barns, or wildlife habitats.

Mrs. Peggy Napper is the secretary for the regional office and we are most fortunate to have her on the staff. She worked as the secretary for our Administrative Vice President, Mr. Pat Parkes, while living in Washington, D.C., and is very knowledgeable about animal welfare. Mrs. Napper is a unique combination of ability when it comes to secretarial skills and humane concerns.

We are happy to have our western states Accreditation Associate, Miss Leslie Eustace, in our office as well. Though she is not on the regional staff, but rather works with several regions, we place a high value on the services she is giving to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. We feel she is one of us. More is written about Miss Eustace's work on page two of this Report.

If we can ever be of service to you, please feel free to write or call us. Whenever you are in Denver, be sure to stop by and see us.

Peace,

Douglas M. Scott

The Rocky Mountain Report is published by The HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 1780 S. Bellaire, Suite 103, Denver, CO 80222, (303) 759-8880. We welcome all calls and correspondence from members and friends regarding any animal welfare matter.

Douglas M. Scott Director
Philip E. Steward Investigator
Peggy Napper Editor & Secretary
Leslie Eustace Accreditation Assoc.

The Humane Society of the United States

Rocky Mountain Regional Office
1780 S. Bellaire,
Suite 103
Denver, CO 80222

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Denver
Colorado
Permit No. 2103

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Ms. Char Drennon, Director
The HSUS/West Coast Region
1713 J Street, Ste. 4
Sacramento, CA 95814

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN THE HSUS?