CSRO Responds to Charley

Hurricane Charley hit Florida on Friday, August 13, 2004, as if it carried a grudge. The storm not only defied all expert predictions by rapidly developing into a Category 4 'cane, but it also took an unexpected right turn into the heart of Charlotte County—an area dotted with dozens of trailer parks and populated with thousands of senior citizens who had little time to evacuate. And they weren't the only ones. Animal victims of the storm were in need of assistance too.

Activated earlier by the state of Florida, The HSUS's Disaster Animal Rescue Team (DART), which includes nearly 30 volunteers from around the Sunshine State, set up tents in Carmelita Park to serve as an animal services area. There volunteers cared for animals brought in by the public and by rescue teams. The temporary facility also took in found animals as well as those pets voluntarily surrendered by displaced persons.

Disaster training paid off for CSRO's Richard Rice, who responded to Hurricane Charley.

New CSRO Staffer Helps at Tennessee RAVS Clinic

CSRO's new Program Coordinator Richard Rice was put straight to work once he arrived in Illinois from Florida, where he had been the animal care manager for Brevard County's two animal shelters. One of his first assignments was to attend the Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) clinic in Scott County, Tennessee, where more than 85 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered over the course of a weekend by a dedicated RAVS team. Three veterinarians and 28 volunteer veterinary students worked tirelessly to perform surgeries on animals brought to the free clinic. It was a huge step forward in the effort to reduce the severe pet overpopulation problem facing the citizens of Scott County.

Rice assisted in the effort by providing humane education information to everyone who brought an animal to the clinic. He was able to answer many questions about responsible pet ownership, as well as address specific animal care concerns about heartworm prevention, flea and tick treatments, and the importance of preventative measures such as annual exams and vaccinations.

The people of Scott County were very grateful, receptive, and kind. They were amazed at the number of volunteers who gave so much of themselves to make the clinic a tremendous success. This was the fifth RAVS clinic within the region this year. We have several more planned for the remainder of 2004, and have already begun to fill our 2005 calendar. This will include a return visit to Scott County.

The HSUS is proud of the many accomplishments of its RAVS program. Through RAVS we are able to bring free veterinary services to impoverished communities around the globe. With a particular emphasis on assisting native nations and rural communities that offer little, if anything, in the way of veterinary or humane services, RAVS clinics provide for those who need it the most. Veterinary students volunteer their time to work with experienced veterinarians and practice surgery techniques under close supervision. The education component of each clinic is vital in raising public awareness in communities where this information may not be readily available otherwise. Because its work is never done, RAVS is continually looking for two things: more veterinary volunteers and more funds. To learn more about RAVS, or if you are a veterinary student interested in volunteering, visit www.ruralareavet.org. To make a donation, please go to www.hsus.org/ravs.
A state’s attorney in Macon County, Illinois, recently asked CSRO’s Phil Snyder and Richard Rice to review boxes of documents confiscated from a suspected dogfighter. A Decatur man had been charged with dogfighting after county animal control officers found equipment inside his home that is used to condition dogs for fighting. The suspect was arraigned on 18 counts, ranging from misdemeanors to felonies, known only among dog-fighters or people who deal in illegal activities. Dogfighters may advertise in underground magazines and use coded jargon-known to disguise their activities-to evade authorities.

Individuals involved with disaster planning and response groups across the country attended the session, eager to take information back to their states for planning and implementation. More than 300 people from 42 states, as well as Costa Rica, Canada, and England, were in attendance. They represented humane societies and animal control, the veterinary community, disaster planning and response groups, state and federal government emergency managers, and agricultural officials. Fifty-eight speakers presented 32 workshops. The keynote speaker was Temple Grandin, associate professor of animal science at Colorado State University. She is perhaps the world’s foremost authority on humane animal handling methods. Her talk included how to use animal’s natural behaviors to help reduce stress during emergency evacuation, transport, and sheltering of livestock and other animals.

Attendees described The HSUS’s conference as a great success. There was a wide range of communities represented, both geographically and by vocation. They came together, many for the first time, to address issues of mutual concern. It was gratifying to see the excitement and enthusiasm of the attendees and speakers alike. Many participants experienced a renewed vision of how they could help the people and animals in their communities.

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owners. Livestock was housed on a series of baseball fields across the street. The goal, of course, was to reunite all lost animals with their families. But until then, they could stay at one of the four temporary animal emergency shelters that The HSUS set up in the devastated towns of Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte.

As part of the HSUS DART, CSRO Program Coordinator Richard Rice was deployed to Florida to assist with relief efforts following Charley. He helped staff the four emergency shelters, one of which alone took in more than 500 dogs and cats in just a few days following the hurricane. Other efforts included receiving and distributing donated pet food and supplies and coordinating rescue efforts with local animal care and control organizations throughout the area. Rice stated that, “The cooperative efforts to help people and animals in need reflect the work and training of The HSUS. It has paid off immeasurably with many locally trained personnel being able to help their neighbors.”

I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about:
- Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or family member
- Providing for my pets in my will and as part of my estate planning
- Helping The HSUS protect and promote the welfare of all animals
- Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.
Special Report from New HSUS CEO

By Wayne Pacelle
HSUS President and Chief
Executive Officer

HSUS Golden Anniversary: The Next 50 Years

At the age of 50, any individual or institution pauses to reflect on both the past and the future. That moment has arrived for The HSUS.

Five decades since its inception, The HSUS can look back on its accomplishments with pride. The HSUS has grown and diversified since 1954, now employing experts in companion animals, wildlife, farm animals, and animal research and attracting more than 8 million members and constituents. The HSUS has developed the most sophisticated government affairs, investigations, and humane education programs of any animal protection organization, and, recognizing that animal exploitation extends beyond our borders, today, a truly humane society that accounts for the basic needs of animals and treats them all with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Wayne Pacelle took over as The HSUS’s president and chief executive officer this summer. He has been with The HSUS for 10 years and served most recently as senior vice president for communications and government affairs.

Celebrate the Season and The HSUS Anniversary

The HSUS is proud to have May Company department stores and Radko as sponsors of our 50th anniversary. As part of the celebration, May Company is offering three exclusive HSUS 50th anniversary products for sale this fall: a Radko ornament (shown here) and a dog and cat plush toy by Gund. For more information visit www.hsus.org/marketplace.

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Yet while our gains and our growth have made us the largest and most influential organization in the field, the challenges ahead are daunting. Animal abuse—especially in institutional forms, such as factory farming—remains more acute than ever.

As we look ahead, The HSUS will continue to pay attention to the wide range of issues that affect the lives of animals. We will never forget our birthright: the responsible care and protection of companion animals. We will also work to root out persistent forms of animal cruelty such as dogfighting, cockfighting, and other blood sports. But we must redouble our efforts to protect long-neglected classes of creatures, specifically animals reared for food, who are confined and killed by the billions every year.

We must become a powerful and unrelenting force in the public policy domain, working to halt intensive confinement of animals on factory farms; to compel companies to stop needless and duplicative testing on animals when alternatives exist; to shutter “puppy mills” that mass-produce dogs for the pet trade when millions of healthy and adoptable animals face abandonment or euthanasia for lack of suitable homes; to halt the fur trade; and to safeguard animals’ habitats so they, too, have space and shelter.

The professional staff of The HSUS can do a great deal to achieve these goals. But we cannot accomplish them alone. Only when HSUS members in communities are active in financially supporting our work, writing letters to newspapers and lawmakers, making responsible and humane choices in the marketplace, and educating people about animal issues in their communities—can we succeed.

Only with your active engagement will we see, on the distant horizon 50 years from today, a truly humane society that accounts for the basic needs of animals and treats them all with the dignity and respect they deserve.

The CSRO Regional News is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Central States Regional Office, 800 W. 5th Ave., Ste. 110, Naperville, IL 60563; 630-357-7015. Phillip R. Snyder, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays. © 2004 by The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved. A COPY OF THE LATEST REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FILED BY THE HSUS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE HSUS, OFFICE OF THE TREASURER, 2100 L ST., NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037, 202-452-1100. IN NORTH CAROLINA, FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT 919-807-2214. REGISTRATION OR LICENSING DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. Printed on recycled paper.