GLRO Exposes Deficiencies, Zoo Closes

A headline in the May 11 edition of The Cincinnati, Ohio, Enquirer reads, “Goodbye to Zoo, but no Boo Hoo. Panel backs end of poor exhibit.”

The zoo referred to is the Glen Miller Park Zoo, located in Richmond, Indiana. It had been the subject of many complaints that prompted the Great Lakes Regional Office (GLRO) to do extensive work in an attempt to improve or, if necessary, close the facility.

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Betsy the Beaver

School children touring the Ohio State House were delighted by the appearance of a 22-foot high, 36-foot-long beaver called Betsy. In April, the GLRO worked with the Society for Animal Protective Legislation to bring Betsy to Columbus to draw attention to H.R. 1409, a federal bill which, if passed, would outlaw the leghold trap nationally. Rob Russell of Protect Our Earth’s Treasures in Columbus, Ohio, helped with local media arrangements.
How Much Is That Doggie In the Window?

Does $299.99 seem too much for an appealing dog, complete with behavior-
ali disetimes, parasites, and congenital diseases?

This is often what the buyer gets when purchasing from a pet store. But what about from a pet store. While there are, ad-
mit tedly, some very professionally operated pet shops, the care and welfare of animals, we most often hear about the cases where pets are par-
chased at above cost. Many pet shops, when taken home, are sometimes found to be ill, or unmanageable due to lack
of socialization during the early, crucial weeks of their lives.

Despite confirmed the pet store situa-
tion this summer and found conditions bad in many cases for dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and small mammals. Our investigators uncovered cases of unani-

dous conditions, poor ventilation, and blatant lack of animal-husbandry practices.

In addition, our experience in this area of animal protection has included many reports of alleged abuse or cruelty inflicted upon animals in pet stores by uncaring persons. Unfortu-
nately, in virtually all of these cases cruelly charges could not be filed be-
cause the witnesses would not come forward to cooperate. This animal protec-
tion organizations like The HSUS that are working hard to stop cruelty.
Pulling Contests Cause Suffering

Back in the days when oxen, mules, and horses were used as work animals on the farm, the owners would never have thought of overloading the animals and driving them to their maximum capability. Yet, organizers of today's animal-pulling events claim that these contests (often held at county fairs) are reenactments of what the animals did in bygone days.

The GLRO looked into pulling contests this past summer and found much that was appalling. Not only were the animals overloaded and overworked, but also the events were usually held during the hottest time of the day. The competing animals were often worked to the point of breaking, and bits which cut into the mouth so badly they sometimes caused bleeding were a common sight.

Frustratingly, rural communities try to defend these events as part of Americana. It is an invalid defense of an activity that causes considerable animal suffering and HSUS will continue to work for its elimination.