Dear Friends:

It was five years ago that the Gulf States Region of the Humane Society of the United States was established. The pictures on this page are but two of the many animals we have been able to help during that time. Such help has only been possible because of the faithful support of our many friends in the region.

As I am sure you can sense, the rewards of our work have been many and I want to thank all of you who have had a share in the support of our work. But as you continue to read this newsletter about our activities you cannot help but note that the rewards are often outweighed by the cruelties we encounter. We cannot continue our work without the help of our many friends.

The financial burden of the region continues to spiral as the demands for assistance increase and inflation rises. We need the assistance of all our friends in the Gulf States Region. Your liberal support will help us continue our work on behalf of helpless animals. May we hear from you soon?

Sincerely yours,

Douglas M. Scott
Director
While visiting the “pound” in Kingsville, Texas on May 14, 1977, Bernard Weller, Field Representative for the Gulf States Region of the HSUS, found conditions existing that violated the Texas penal code. In his report to the city, Mr. Weller noted that several dogs were found infected with mange, resulting in bleeding skin sores. This problem was so prevalent that the entire facility was infected. The cages used to house cats were so small that a confined mouse could not stand, lay, or sit in a natural position. Another wire cage had no food, water or a place for shelter for the cat it contained.

Mr. George Filley III, Kleberg County Attorney, responded to Mr. Weller’s report by conducting his own investigation and found a large dead dog with a rope tied tightly around its neck, skeletons and other remains of pets which apparently had died inside the pound and small puppies confined in very small cages without food or water. He asked Mr. Weller to join him in a presentation before the County Commissioners on June 20.

Recently, Douglas Scott and Bernard Weller made a two week visit to the State of Arkansas where they visited with several humane organizations and inspected some of the state’s animal facilities.

The societies visited were the Pulaski County Humane Society in Little Rock, the Northeast Arkansas Humane Society in Jonesboro, the Good Shepherd Humane Society in Eureka Springs, the Fayetteville Humane Society and the Sebastian Humane Society in Ft. Smith. Mr. Scott spoke to these societies about the meaning of the humane ethic, the programs of the HSUS and the relationship of the HSUS to local societies.

During their visit, they inspected zoos in Jonesboro, Eureka Springs, Gentry and Hot Springs. They also inspected animal shelters in all the places they visited and met with city and humane society officials in Little Rock, Jonesboro and Fayetteville about improving their animal control program.

Both Scott and Weller appreciated the great hospitality extended to them by the citizens of Arkansas and look forward to regular visits to that state.

Mr. Scott is available to speak to local organizations upon request and welcomes such opportunities.

**REGIONAL STAFF VISITSARKANSAS**

The 23rd Annual National Conference of the HSUS will take place at the Vacation Village Hotel on Vacation Island in San Diego’s Mission Bay, October 13-16. It will open on Thursday afternoon, October 15 with seminars at the Animal Care and Education Center and San Diego Zoo. (Limited to 50 people each). The Conference will feature Roger Caras, ABC Television Pets and Wildlife Reporter, Dr. John C. Lilly, Director of the Human/Dolphin Foundation, Dr. Michael Fox, Director, Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, and others from the HSUS staff. Consists of the summer issue of the HSUS News for more details or contact the Gulf States office.

**HSUS SEMINARS ANDCONFERENCE SET**

Plans for two regional workshops and the 1977 HSUS National Conference have been set. Members and friends from the Gulf States Region are encouraged to mark their calendars now and make plans to attend these events.

**HSUS SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS GIVEN**

Two persons in the Gulf States Region have received HSUS special recognition awards within the last year. Such awards are not given lightly, indicating the high degree of importance that is placed on the service performed by those receiving them.

The first award was given to Mrs. Melinda Goemaat (pictured above with Douglas Scott, Regional Director), publisher of the San Antonio News, for her contributions to animal welfare work in the region. The second award was given to Mrs. Debra, Fitch & poor animal husbandry characterized this zoo in Jonesboro, Ark. Regional personnel said this was one of the worst zoos they had ever seen yet it had been approved by the U.S.D.A. They have convinced the owner to close this facility.

A regional animal control workshop will be held in Oklahoma City, Okla­homa, beginning the morning of Feb­ruary 4th and ending at noon Febru­ary 26. This event will feature HSUS personnel from the Gulf States Region and Washington offices and will include such topics as shelter procedures, cruelty investigations, public relations, education, spaying, neutering and others. Contact the Gulf States office for more information.

**Arkansas “Pound” Horror Chamber**

This picture depicts a chamber of horrors witnessed by Douglas Scott & Bernard Weller during recent trip to Mexia, Arkansas. Snips are being taken by the HSUS to correct this situation.

**Very poor cageing foe cats with no shelter, food or water in Kingsville facility.**
president of the Volunteers for Animal Welfare in Oklahoma City. Mrs. Goe­maat, with the help of her husband Bob, has performed invaluable service for the HSUS on behalf of helpless ani­mals through investigations she did in Oklahoma zoos miles away from her home, and for the thorough investiga­tion and analysis she did of the Inter­national Science & Engineering Fair that was held in Oklahoma City in May 1975 (written up in the Summer 1975 issue of HSUS News).

Dr. Edwin L. Miller (second from right), past president of the Humane Society of Nacogdoches County in Texas, was the recipient of the second award. Dr. Miller has long been concerned about animal welfare and has been of tremendous assistance to the HSUS in inspecting and improving conditions in cattle auction barns and poultry houses. He has also performed a real service in establishing under­standing with law enforcement officials in the Nacogdoches area about their important role in enforcing anti-cruelty laws. Pictured with Dr. Miller are Paul Irwin, Vice President/Treasurer of the HSUS (extreme right), Dr. Grady Wil­lingham, President of the Humane So­ciety of Nacogdoches County (extreme left) and Douglas Scott.

NORTH TEXAS UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Douglas Scott and Bernard Weller of the Gulf States Region of the HSUS visited North Texas State University in Denton, Texas in June to inspect their animal laboratory. They report a con­tinuation of the progress written about in the Summer issue of the HSUS News. As a result of the efforts of HSUS, new cages have been installed, living condi­tions for the animals have improved and more consideration is being given to hiring personnel with animal husbandry experience.

**********

TEXAS LEGISLATION

Two important bills affecting ani­mals were considered by the Texas legis­lature this year, but did not make it. These were H.B. 874, a bill that would have set standards for the humane care and treatment of animals in mu­nicipal and private animal shelters, pet shops, zoos, riding stables and other facilities, and H.B. 887, a bill that would have prohibited the use of a live animal as a lure or quarry in a dog race or in dog coursing. Vested interests managed to twist the meaning of both bills resulting in strong opposition to them on points that were not covered or even hinted at in either bill. We de­plore the use of such tactics and point them out as an illustration of what humanitarians must overcome if we are ever going to get effective animal legis­lation in the State of Texas.

**********

HOYT & DOMMERS TO BE AT 1977 A&M WORKSHOP

The fourth annual Animal Control Personnel Development Program will be held at Texas A&M University No­vember 15-18, 1977. Mr. John Hoyt, President of the HSUS and Mr. John Dommers, Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, a division of the HSUS, will both be on the program. Inquiries about this program may be directed to the Center for Urban Pro­grams, Texas A&M University, Zachry Center, College Station, Texas 77843, (713)-845-4527.

HSUS Board Member, Amanda Blake, on panel at 1976 A&M Conference.