Protecting Bison

Treatment of bison—particularly in our national parks—has been in the news for the past few years. NRRO is working on two fronts to ensure the humane care of bison on park and tribal lands. First we followed up with the Montana Governor’s Task Force for the Humane Handling of Bison, which was set up to monitor the capture and testing of bison as they leave Yellowstone National Park.

NRRO Director Dave Pauli and veterinarian and bison specialist Don Woerner met with Yellowstone officials and members of the public and inspected bison handling facilities. NRRO submitted a report commending the park for some improvements, but also noting that some previous recommendations have still not been implemented. Pauli met with Yellowstone authorities in late June, and they convened the next week to discuss the report and other staff input for the 2004 bison handling season.

The second bison case involved the Three Affiliated Tribes Bison Ranch in North Dakota and the transfer of bison from Teddy Roosevelt National Park to the tribes. NRRO had received several complaints about the tribal care continued on page 2

NRRO Comes to Aid of Montana Breeding Dogs

The dogs were in a sad state. They were found cold, matted, dehydrated, and suffering from numerous veterinary ailments by veterinarian Doug Anderson and a NRRO team of animal care volunteers. Judith Basin County Sheriff’s Office requested NRRO’s assistance in executing search and seizure warrants at two dog-breeding operations.

Authorities seized 13 dogs at the first residence in the small town of Hobson. At the second location several miles away in an area known as Benchland, 97 dogs of various breeds and a horse were taken into custody. Six days later, Judith Basin County Sheriff’s Office executed a third search and seizure warrant at another residence in Hobson with NRRO assistance. This time seven dogs were taken into custody. The seizure of so many animals brought up a critical question: How can a local government with a population base of just over 2,000 and no animal shelter or animal welfare groups within its boundary house more than 100 animals?

That’s where NRRO’s expertise paid off. We got permission to set up an emergency animal shelter to temporarily house the dogs at the Fergus County Fairgrounds in neighboring Lewistown. But because of previously scheduled events at the Fairgrounds, the dogs had to be moved on June 17 to the town of Stanford. The new shelter set up in Stanford was dubbed “Cause for Paws,” and was set up using portable buildings purchased by Toole County with money left over from their Camp Collie fund. The buildings will be donated to NRRO after their use in Judith Basin is finished for future emergency and disaster services in the region.

The HSUS team made up of the entire NRRO staff initially managed the emergency shelter. For three months, HSUS paid for a full-time shelter manager for the Cause For Paws shelter as well as provided an HSUS staff member on a daily basis to help coordinate veterinary health assessment, volunteer needs, and numerous other issues. The HSUS kennel panels stored since the breakdown of Camp Collie were used again in this case.

The case then took some negative turns when the two defendants who owned most of the dogs had their charges dropped because of technicalities in the search warrant; their dogs were to be returned. A coalition of animal groups then banded together and did the only thing they could to help these dogs. They purchased 56 of the more than 100 dogs who continued on page 4
HSUS Golden Anniversary: The Next 50 Years

By HSUS President and CEO Wayne Pacelle

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 its inception in 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 largest and most influential programs of any animal protection organization, and, recognizing that animal exploitation extends beyond our borders, now extends its programs across the globe.

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 before.

As we look forward, 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. 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 inhumane and painful practices, and to fight back against a culture that views farmed animals as commodities. We will also work to root out persistent forms of animal cruelty such as dogfighting, cockfighting, and other blood sports. 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.

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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.

HSUS members in communities are active—in financially supporting our work, writing letters to newspaper 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.

Want To Be More Involved? Here’s How.

In the last issue of the “NRRO Regional News,” we invited you to become more involved with our work helping animals in your region. We received a number of responses: many requesting e-mail alerts, and others offering to lend us everything from animal airline carriers and a generator to animal handling and computer skills. These offers are greatly appreciated.

We have an idea, however, that there are still many more of you who might be interested in getting involved, and we hope you will take this opportunity to do so. If you are interested in learning more about animal issues in the region, or if you want to become more directly involved in animal protection, please fill out the form here. We are looking forward to including you in our database.

Yes, I’d like to help. Please include me in your database.

Name ____________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______
Phones: (home) _______ (work) _______ (cell) _______ (fax) _______
Please add me to your database for: □ legislative alerts □ disaster notices □ special projects □ animal rescue needs
□ I have the following skills/abilities: □ veterinarian □ vet tech □ pilot □ groomer □ trainer □ I can house livestock □ I can foster small animals □ I’m a good animal handler □ I can house responders during local events □ I can travel with NRRO teams □ Other ____________________________
□ I have the following equipment that you can use in time of need: □ recreational vehicle (RV) □ horse trailer □ plane □ boat □ trailer □ Other: ____________________________

Please fax this form to 406-255-7162 or mail it in the enclosed envelope to NRRO, 400 N. 31st St., Ste. 215, Billings, MT 59101.

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: □ Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS. □ Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.
□ Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
□ Promoting for my pets in my will and in my estate planning.
□ Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

Promoting the protection of all animals.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

NRRO Regional News

FALL 2004

2

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

FALL 2004

3
Dave’s Dialogue

By Dave Pauli
Director of the Northern Rockies Regional Office

Our Office Keeps Going and Growing

The first half of 2004 blew by faster than a deer mouse seeking refuge from an owl’s shadow. Our hectic year started in January with workshops that have just never slowed down. In addition to the cases detailed in this newsletter, we’ve been on hand for four consecutive legislative sessions, Animal Care Expo, and training programs for the Montana Animal Care and Utah Animal Control Officers Association.

In addition, we responded in an animal hoarding case in White Sulphur Springs and assisted numerous local prosecutors, veterinarians, and animal control officers. With spring came our annual rescue and placement of dozens of wild animals, including a fox pup, baby geese, and many “orphaned” wild babies.

To help with all this work, we hired a new NRRO team member. We are pleased that Colin Berry (in photo below with her dog, Gracie) left the warmth of Tennessee to join Sylvia, Suzi, and me. Colin hit the ground running with her first two workdays spent on a native nation wellness clinic. She’s since become involved in a dozen different projects.

All this work is paying off. The HSUS-produced “Camp Collie” video won first prize in the Advocacy/Public Policy/Awareness category of the Latham Foundation’s Video Search for Excellence Contest. Our hats are off to HSUS video services and producer Kathy Milani for recording the emotion and drama of this large and unique 10-month cruelty case that resulted in both a cruelty conviction and a new Montana felony cruelty law.

The remainder of our year is already booked with projects. As always, please know that we could not have success without your support!

continued from “Montana Breeding Dogs,” page 1
would have been returned to the defendants. The Montana Attorney General’s Office is still charging the remaining suspect with one count of felony animal cruelty, two misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty, and two counts of child endangerment.

While it is unfortunate that many of the dogs went back into the breeding operation, the facility is now under the close scrutiny of many county, state, and federal agencies. If conditions or animal care do not meet standards, our team will take the necessary actions. The HSUS spent more than $40,000 to shelter the animals for three months and is seeking donations to defray the costs. Anyone wishing to donate may send a contribution to NRRO, 490 N. 31st St., Ste. 215, Billings, MT 59101. Please make checks payable to HSUS/AHAT (Animal Health Assessment Team).

Contacting HSUS

Write:  
HSUS Northern Rockies Regional Office  
490 N. 31st St., Ste. 215  
Billings, MT 59101

Fax:  
406-255-7162

Call:  
406-255-7161

Web Page:  
www.hsus.org/nrro

Promoting the protection of all animals