Geese Need You!

The HSUS protested a plan put forth by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that assigns responsibility for managing non-migrating Canada geese to overburdened state wildlife agencies and clears the way for mass slaughter of millions of the birds. The plan, outlined in a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) released in February, fails to address the humane, community-based programs that have successfully resolved human-goose conflicts in many towns. Instead, the USFWS plan favors a 10-year program that calls for mass killing of adult and immature geese by shipping birds to commercial slaughterhouse operations or killing them in the field with lethal gas.

USFWS is expected to issue a final environmental impact statement as this newsletter goes to press. A notice of proposed regulations to implement the plan is also expected. Although comments are no longer being accepted on the DEIS, the public will have another opportunity to tell USFWS what they think of the plan during the comment period on the proposed regulations.

Our office is compiling a “goose activist” contact list to notify members if and when another opportunity arises to make formal comments. If you are interested in joining, please send an e-mail to maro@hsus.org and include the words “Goose Activist” in the subject line.

Turnpike Turtles

A n article in New Jersey’s Sunday Star Ledger prompted MARO to assist a father and sons who were rescuing turtles on the New Jersey Turnpike. The creatures were being crushed as they tried to cross the Turnpike near the Lincoln Tunnel exit during their nesting season. It is not uncommon for turtles to cross roads in the spring to lay their eggs; unfortunately the New Jersey Turnpike is one of the most densely traveled roadways in the nation, with average daily traffic of more than 560,000 vehicles. "I couldn’t think of a worse place to be a turtle,” said MARO Program Coordinator Barbara Dyer. "We had to help these turtles without putting this family in harm’s way."

During the early spring, Carl Manners and his sons Tommy and Jimmy drove to the turtles’ crossing in the early mornings to help prevent the animals from being killed by cars. But the work of these good Samaritans was soon no longer needed. Thanks to MARO’s prompting, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority helped resolve the problem.

The HSUS partnered with Jason Tesauro, senior zoologist of the state’s Endangered and Nongame Species Program, to decide the best course of action. Tesauro wrote to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and The HSUS followed up by directly contacting the Authority as well. In response, the Authority constructed a special fence in time for the turtles’ nesting season, which began around May 1. The fence provides a grassy strip suitable for egg laying, but also prevents most turtles and other wetland wildlife from accessing the Turnpike.

The turtle species involved include common snapping turtles, eastern painted turtles, common musk turtles, and northern diamondback terrapins (which are listed as a species of special concern). These turtles are survivors in a very urbanized section of New Jersey. An HSUS survey revealed that 87 percent of respondents are concerned about protecting turtles from traffic.

The HSUS applauds the cooperation of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority in recognizing the importance of sharing our environment with the animals who live here too. We also salute the efforts of the Manners family and Jason Tesauro. But we must caution our readers: Please do not put your safety at risk to help an animal. Do not attempt to move an animal off a road unless you can do so in complete safety. And in the case of turtles, always carry them from the road in the direction they were heading. Otherwise, they will head back into the road to get where they’re going. If you see an animal in a road and cannot safely help, call your local police or animal control.

New Jersey Bear Update

Please continue to contact Gov. James McGreevey (P.O. Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625; 609-292-6000; fax: 609-777-2200) and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell (P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625; 609-292-2885; fax: 609-292-7695) and ask them not to allow a hunt of black bears.
Put Old Fur to Good Use

If you plan to itemize tax deductions, you can claim the fair market value of the fur (the amount you could sell the fur for today) for your donation. Furs valued at $5,000 or more must be appraised. Community-based programs such as this do work. Note: You must have a permit to conduct an addling project.

Long Island/New York City Emergency Conference

The HSUS participated in the first conference of its kind in New York City to address the events of September 11. The HSUS was the sole animal protection organization to exhibit at the Long Island/New York City Emergency Management Conference in May. The conference sponsors included the New York City Office of Emergency Management, Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services; Nassau County Emergency Management Office; Long Island Power Authority; Key Span Energy; and the New York State Emergency Management Office.

The conference opened with a tribute to the heroes of the September 11 tragedy played by the New York City Police and Fire Departments' and Port Authority Police Department's pipe bands. Experts in the field of federal, state, and local emergency services discussed their actions and roles at the World Trade Center. One of the most moving presentations was by the first responders, who told of their experiences at Ground Zero. Distinguished speakers included former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani; James Kallstrom, director of the New York State Office of Public Safety; and Dan Rather, anchor and managing editor of “CBS Evening News.”

“Was this a conference that you will never forget? It was full of emotion, as well as knowledge and insight from the very people who respond to this tragic attack,” stated attendees Barbara Dyer, MARO program coordinator. “It certainly pointed out that planning is essential in any disaster and will improve your chances of survival. That is why The HSUS continues to urge you to have a disaster plan that includes your pets. Being prepared can save lives.”

Morristown Goose Project Update

Cheers to U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer

In recent letters to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director Steve Williams, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, of New York, requested that the agency explore humane methods to control the resident Canada geese on Long Island and in Westchester County. “Hunting is not an option in the suburban communities of Long Island, and extinguishment is unnecessary,” wrote the senator. “When not allowed to overwhelm local facilities, Canada geese can be a pleasing addition to the natural landscape. In addition, many community members may find lethal methods objectionable.” The proposed year-long pilot project would employ a combination of non-lethal tactics, including egg adding, habitat management, improved signage, physical barriers, chemical deterrents, scare tactics, and the use of herding dogs. The HSUS strongly advocates these methods, which are effective in all proven effective in other communities.

The HSUS applauds Schumer, Suffolk County Executive Robert Gerffert, and the Westchester County Parks Commissioners Donnen Banks and Peter Scully, as well as Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano, who have all endorsed this pilot project. We urge all communities to follow Sen. Schumer’s humane lead.

HSUS Keeps Things Cool for the Animals Evacuated by the Arizona Fires

The wildfires that burned more than 460,000 acres of eastern Arizona and displaced an estimated 30,000 people from their homes also forced hundreds of animals into temporary shelters in at least five different locations. The majority of those pets, distressed but otherwise healthy, were returned to their owners, thanks to several animal organizations, including The HSUS.

The temporary animal shelters were set up shortly after the Rodeo and Chediski fires, which were first spotted on June 18 and 20, respectively, began displacing residents in the area. The HSUS’s National Disaster Animal Response Team (N-DART) established a mobile emergency facility—actually a semi-truck, owned by Code 3 from Colorado, that’s equipped with boats, a horse trailer, a four-wheel drive vehicle, cages, and a trash unit—in Eagar, where volunteer veterinarians saw 20 to 25 animals a day. Some animals had serious medical conditions, but most were treated for minor issues such as stress, lacerations, and smoke inhalation.

From their base in Eagar, HSUS’s N-DART members also monitored an Apache Indian reservation in nearby McNary and Hon Dah, near Flagstaff, where more than 100 dogs were left behind when officials apparently told residents to leave immediately, without their animals. The N-DART members, some of whom volunteered outside their normal 8-5 schedules, 조사와, were wearing our HSUS T-shirts in a convenience store,” N-DART’s Rob Archibald says, “and people came up to thank us.”
Saving Hokget

Regional office staff are often called to respond to a disaster such as a hurricane, flood, or wildfire that is impacting animals. But the spring rescue of Hokget (also known as Forgea) the forgotten dog far off the coast of Hawaii was unusual in terms of the resources required to bring an animal to safety.

The request for assistance came from the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS). A ship, the Insiko, had been damaged by an engine fire and had been adrift for nearly two weeks with a crew of about 11 people and one dog (Hokget). The humans were rescued by a cruise ship, but because of a series of miscommunications, the dog was left aboard the listing ship for what turned out to be another three weeks of survival on the open seas.

Initial attempts to locate the ship and rescue Hokget using the services of a marine salvage company, American Marine Services, proved fruitless. Just when HSUS and HHS were about to give up hope and resign themselves to the fact that the Insiko—with Hokget aboard—had sunk, a Japanese fishing vessel radioed the U.S. Coast Guard that they thought they had passed the ship on their way into Hawaii.

This is when HSUS Northern Rockies Regional Director Dave Pauli was called for help. Pauli, at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, submitted a written protocol for possible capture strategies (such as humane traps, nets, or chemical immobilization). Such measures might have been needed because a fishing boat crew who had boarded the disabled tanker had frightened the dog. Hokget ran below deck to avoid capture. Two days later, HHS assembled a capture and recovery team and invited Pauli to join.

The HSUS and HHS developed strategies for Hokget's safe removal should the team be able to board the ship with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard, which was working to ensure that the Insiko's thousands of gallons of diesel fuel would not end up causing an environmental catastrophe. Upon arrival in Hawaii, Pauli met with the other response team members, veterinarian and Kauai Humane Society Executive Director Becky Rhoades and HHS Director of Operations Linda Haller. All that prevented an immediate rescue was formal Coast Guard approval that the ship was safe to be boarded and finding a way to get to Johnson Atoll, which is 500 miles off the Hawaiian coast and serviced irregularly by commercial flights.

Hokget is a Taiwanese dog whose name means “good fortune.” Her name turned out to be prophetic, for on the 21st day of her adventure, crew from American Marine Services tug American Quest boarded the Insiko to check on safety conditions. Hokget was ready to be rescued and made herself available for a quick and quiet capture by the tug boat crew. The entire HSUS/HHS team was ecstatic that Hokget was finally in the care of humans and headed back to Honolulu. When Hokget arrived, Dr. Rhoades evaluated her. The little dog then flew to the Kauai Humane Society where she was to be held for a four-month rabies quarantine before being adopted.

Find Out More ... about the activities of MARO and The HSUS's other nine regions by visiting www.hsus.org/regions. Go directly to MARO's page at www.hsus.org/maro.

Ulster Co., NY, Hosts Training Event

The Empire State Animal Protection Forum drew a statewide audience at the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson, New York, on May 19–21. Representatives of shelters and other organizations working on behalf of animals attended this networking and training opportunity that included workshops on a wide array of topics such as establishing a spay/neuter program in your community, disaster planning and response, and evaluating the health and behavior of animals. An exhibit hall provided attendees with information about supplies and services used in animal shelters.

The HSUS was a major planner and sponsor of the event. Other key planning partners included the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Animal Care and Equipment Services, the Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady, the New York City Center for Animal Care and Control, the Humane Society at Lollypop Farm, the New York State Animal Control Association, and the New York State Humane Association.

Enthusiasm among attendees was high, and plans are underway for next year's Forum, to be held in Albany in the spring. Please check MARO's Web page at www.hsus.org/maro for the exact dates and location.

Region Represented at Expo

The HSUS held its eleventh annual Animal Care Expo at the Fontainebleau Hilton Resort and Towers in Miami, Florida, April 3–6, 2002. Attended by more than 1,000 people this year—including 91 from the Mid-Atlantic region—Animal Care Expo is the world's largest trade show and education conference for animal care and education.
**Butch Doing Well**

In the Spring 2002 MARO Regional News, we announced the signing of S1519/A2699 into law by then Acting New Jersey Gov. Donald J. DiFrancesco. The new law strengthens penalties for animal cruelty and requires mental health counseling for juveniles convicted of certain offenses. We would like to mention that the bill was nicknamed Butch’s Law, after a dog who was found abandoned on the beach in Cape May, New Jersey. The dog had been beaten, shot with a pellet or BB, and had difficulty walking. After months of recuperation, Butch found a loving home with Ray and Roberta Webb of Lower Township, New Jersey.


Above: MARO’s Barbara Dyer (far left) and Samantha Malles (far right) role play scenarios for participants at the National Conference on Animals in Disasters, held May 29-June 1, 2002, in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Regional Snapshots**

Left: Students from Public School #24 in Paterson, New Jersey, proudly wear HSUS T-shirts presented to them by Chief Animal Control Officer John DeCando.

Continued from “Expo,” page 4

**Director’s Report**

By Nina Austenber

**The newly redesigned animal-friendly license plate, featuring New Jersey resident Patrick McDonnell’s (left) famous “Mutts” cartoon characters, is on sale now at New Jersey Motor Vehicle Services agencies. Proceeds from plate sales fund the state’s Animal Population Control Fund, created to spay or neuter pets and cats adopted from shelters and municipal pounds, as well as animals whose owners receive some form of public assistance. McDonnell is shown here with New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey and “Mutts” characters Mook and Earl.**

**Gifts That Keep Giving**

As you receive this newsletter, you will likely also be getting dozens of holiday catalogs from department stores, museums, specialty food companies, and so on. My family feels that we have all been very fortunate, so as the New Year approaches, we try to give back to charities that have had an impact on our lives. For one, we have started to send greeting cards and other items from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in Dallas, Texas. But animal-related causes are always first on our list. I’d like to suggest some ideas to make your holiday special and help fellow creatures as well.

In New Jersey you can purchase the newly redesigned animal-friendly license plate (shown above right) for $50. Proceeds benefit the Animal Population Control Fund to spay or neuter pets adopted from shelters and animals whose owners receive public assistance. You might offer a new license plate as a gift for a family member or friend. You can find more information on the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Services (MVS) Web site, or at your local MVS agency.

For $25 you can give a gift membership to the HSUS. Your friend or family member will receive the quarterly AF Animals magazine and other timely information, plus two issues of the Regional News. Your gift-giving is not limited to the mid-Atlantic region…The HSUS has 10 regional offices across the United States, and any of these would be proud to offer its local publication to your gift recipient. You can also make donations to spay or neuter pets through one of our affiliate programs. Just mark your gift check “Appalachian Project,” “Native Nations Project,” or “Texas Spay/Neuter,” enclose your friend’s name and address, and he or she will receive a letter from that region thanking them and providing information about the project.

Local humane societies and shelters can also use the help—a donation is always welcome, and some even keep “wish lists” for products such as blankets, towels, and chlorine bleach. Call your local shelter and ask! To find a shelter near you, contact our office. For those who have been especially blessed, you might consider ways in which a larger gift can “give back” to the animals who share our lives. A donation of $2,500 to the HSUS could be used as a reward for those who provide information to convict dogfghters or those involved in other forms of animal cruelty. A gift of $1,500 will supply equipment to train volunteers to administer first aid to pets after disasters. Members wishing to make a donation of $8,000 will support the evaluation of a local animal shelter and provide technical assistance to make improvements.

Whatever you do, it’s never too early to start planning an animal-friendly holiday season. Remember the following advice from The HSUS:

- Don’t give animals as gifts. The recipient may be unprepared, the timing could be bad, and a pet owner should be involved in any decision to bring an animal into the family.
- Animals suffer and die when you buy fur. Make this holiday a fur-free one!
- Keep pets indoors always. Dogs and cats are companion animals and are best kept in the home with the family they love.

**Butch and friends.**

**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 relative.
- Providing for my pets in my will, or in the case of emergency.
- Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.

Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

Promoting the protection of all animals.

**Contacting HSUS**

Call: 973-927-5611
Fax: 973-927-5617
Web Page: www.hsus.org/maro
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**Promoting the protection of all animals.**