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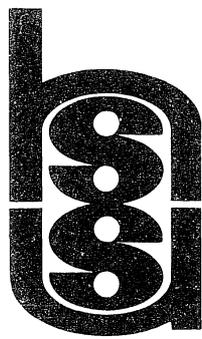
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# Update

Vol. 4, No. 2  
March 1976

## NEW YORK'S LOW COST SPAYING PROGRAM

The Veterinary Medical Association of New York has instituted a low cost program of spaying and neutering dogs and cats of New York pet owners with low or moderate incomes. The program is part of an effort to reduce the large numbers of unwanted stray dogs and cats in the city. It was recommended by the Attorney General's Committee on Humane Animal Care. Also in the works is a city ordinance that will provide lower license fees for spayed and neutered dogs.

## PETS IN BICENTENNIAL WASHINGTON

We have distributed a news release warning pet owners not to bring their pets to Washington, D.C. for the Bicentennial. With the huge influx of visitors expected there will be few kennel accommodations and many motels and hotels have already indicated that they will not allow pets. Attached hereto is a copy of the release giving all of the details. We suggest that, in your dealings with local humane societies, you pass along this timely warning.

## NEW PERSONALIZED PSA

You read in the Winter 1975-76 issue of our News magazine about our new service of offering personalized television spots to local groups. The program is progressing well with a satisfactory response so far. Now, we are in the process of doing a new PSA featuring Amanda Blake. It has been partially filmed in Phoenix, Arizona and the remaining portions will be filmed here in Washington very soon. This is the second production in this Personalized PSA program.

## EDUCATIONAL ADVERTISING

In the March-April issue of Today's Education, the Journal of the National Education Association, an advertisement for our KIND program appears. It offers a free sample of the KIND magazine to interested teachers and others. The publication reaches an estimated 1,000,000 subscribers and we are hopeful the advertisement will successfully draw into KIND a substantial number of new members.

### NEW ENGLAND TRAPPING MEETING

This meeting, mentioned in the last issue of our regular Update, was held on January 15 with trappers, wildlife biologists, and humane society officials. Guy Hodge represented The HSUS; he was accompanied by Admiral Jim Shaw, John Dommers and Cindy Clarke. Other organizations represented were the Connecticut Humane Society, the Massachusetts SPCA, Boston Animal Rescue League, Connecticut Trappers Association, Connecticut Wildlife Federation, Connecticut Sportsmen's Alliance, the Connecticut Legislature, the Massachusetts Game Department, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

After lengthy and in-depth debate in which each side presented its views, there was general agreement on some technical trapping regulations. We list these for your information but caution that there was no agreement on anti-leghold trap legislation:

1. All toothed leghold traps should be prohibited.
2. A mandatory time period in which trap lines should be inspected should be established, probably every 24 hours.
3. Trappers and hunters should have separate license fees and the trapping fee should be higher than is now required in certain states.
4. There should be a competency test and training program for anyone applying for a trapping license.
5. There should be a requirement that only traps in good operating condition can be set.
6. All traps should be tagged with the name and number of the owner.
7. All traps should have a registration number and be registered with the State Game Department at time of sale.
8. It should be legal for humane agents or private citizens to remove an injured animal from a trap. Currently, in most states, anyone tampering with a trap could be found guilty of theft.
9. Persons under 16 years of age cannot obtain a trapper's license but possibly could trap under the supervision of a licensed trapper.

### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

1. Dale Hylton and Eileen Whitlock attended the annual conference of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development in Miami, Florida on March 12-15. NAAHE and KIND shared a booth and large quantities of literature were distributed. The conference was well attended by school supervisors and curriculum specialists. It is expected that The HSUS presence will bring new interest in NAAHE and KIND educational materials and activities.
2. On April 9 and 10 the Gulf States Regional Office is presenting a workshop on solving animal control problems. It will be held in Austin, Texas with the cooperation of the Humane Society of Austin and Travis County. Dr. Amy Freeman Lee will be the special guest speaker. Sessions on a variety of humane programs will be held by Doug Scott and Bernie

Weller from the Gulf States office and Frantz Dantzler, Charlie Herrmann and Phyllis Wright from the Washington headquarters.

3. Charlie Herrmann, John Dommers and Char Drennon will hold humane education seminars in California and Washington in late March and early April. They were at the Central California SPCA in Fresno on March 25, 26 and 27. On March 30 they went to the Peninsula Humane Society, San Mateo and to P.A.W.S., Inc., in Seattle, Washington on April 1, 2 and 3.
4. Phyllis and her traveling colleagues will also hold a workshop co-sponsored by the Alleghany Humane Society in Covington, Virginia. The dates are May 7 and 8.
5. Jack Inman will join with Phyllis in organizing the Great Lakes Region workshop at the Fawcett Center of Tomorrow at Ohio State University in Columbus. The dates are May 22 and 23 and a big audience is anticipated.

#### ANIMAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

Attached hereto is the copy of an article from the Sacramento Bee dated March 23, 1976 dealing with the latest events in the case against Belton Mouras and his Animal Protection Institute. The organization has been sued by the State of California for misuse of over \$100,000. Enquiries you receive in connection with Mouras and the Institute should be forwarded to Washington for reply.

#### NEW ACCREDITATION INSPECTION FORM

A new accreditation inspection form has been developed by Mrs. Anna Fesmire, a member of The HSUS Board, and Phyllis Wright and has been reviewed by the Program and Policy Committee. Some changes still have to be made in the form before it is finalized but it will be ready for distribution and discussion at the upcoming Regional Directors' meeting on April 21-23. The new form is designed to take the guesswork out of assessing an operation and will give us detailed information about an animal sheltering facility, animal rescue and control programs and those other aspects of animal handling and control that we consider the most important.

#### PENSION PLAN CHANGES

There have been some changes in our Pension Plan as required by a new law which went into effect on January 1, 1976. The principal changes are:

1. The age limits for participation were 25 and 52 years of age under the old plan. This now has been revised to an entry limit of age 24½ on the March 1 following the date one has worked for HSUS for six months and a top limit of 65 years of age. It should be noted, however, that there is no legal requirement that anyone hired after

reaching the age of 60 be allowed to participate.

2. There is no requirement now that an employee must be working full time for a period of two years before entering the plan. The new time limit is six months.
3. Each employee enrolled is fully funded at the end of a ten year period. However, those who elect not to participate when they first are eligible but who elect to enroll at a later time will receive retirement payments reduced proportionately.
4. The old plan called for an annual payment of 30% of the salary the employee was earning at the age of 60. The new revision calls for payment of 30% of the average annual salary earned during the last three years of employment.

The other provisions of the Pension Plan remain principally the same. We currently are revising and updating The HSUS Personnel Policies and Employee Benefits and should have the revision ready for distribution within a few weeks.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

For your information we are attaching a copy of the acknowledgement card we are using to express gratitude and appreciation for donors' gifts. You will note the card specifically mentions use of the gift to help stop cruelties of the steel jaw trap. Contributions within the range of \$25 to \$100 prompted by the recent special report on trapping will be acknowledged in this manner. When other special reports are published the wording on the card will be altered to fit the issue involved. We think this will be more effective rather than mailing a general acknowledgement. We hope, too, to use a similar card to persuade constituents to renew their memberships. The card, incidentally, is put with a receipt showing name and address in a window envelope. For gifts of less than \$25 we will mail only the receipt itself. For contributions of \$100 or more we will write a special individual letter.

#### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE THROUGH KIND

The KIND magazine will include the new special report on trapping in its May issue. It will also feature a full page advertisement to children encouraging them to ask their parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts to join The HSUS. It is hoped the new trapping report, which will be bound into the center of the magazine, will help promote this program. Also, all teachers who are now receiving Teaching Tips will be invited to join HSUS.

### AMTRAK ALTERS PET POLICY

Amtrak (National Railroad Passenger Corporation) has revised its policy and will no longer allow pets in any passenger areas of its trains. Pets will be accepted only on trains providing baggage car service and then only if the animals are in closed, secure and well ventilated containers.

Under the new policy all dogs, cats and other domestic animals will be barred from parlor and sleeping cars as well as coaches with the only exception being guide dogs accompanying blind passengers. Present policy, incidentally, allows pets to accompany passengers in the first class sections of Amtrak trains.

The reason for the change in policy is the complaints of numerous passengers. Amtrak is required, of course, by the Interstate Commerce Commission to keep coaches and sleeping quarters sanitary and free from objectionable odors.

Pets are not now accepted on Amtrak's Metroliners or Amfleet trains, neither of which have baggage cars, and the new ban will apply to a number of other Amtrak short-haul, all-coach trains that do not have baggage cars. Additionally, some Amtrak stations do not handle checked baggage and, therefore, pets cannot be loaded or unloaded at these stations.

The new policy also stipulates that passengers wishing to transport pets in Amtrak baggage cars may provide their own pet containers if they meet the company's minimum standards for safety, security and ventilation. Also, 24 of Amtrak's major stations have suitable containers for sale at prices ranging from \$5 to \$30 plus sales tax. These containers can be made available at smaller Amtrak stations if adequate advance notice is given to the station agent.

Passengers can visit their pets en route or during station stops of 10 minutes or more if they have made prior arrangements with the train conductor.

This information is being passed along in case you receive inquiries relating to this new policy. We are hopeful that we can arrange a meeting with Amtrak officials in the near future to discuss the new policy and its ramifications.

### "ALERT" MAILINGS

The "ALERT" mailing about the closing of the W.T. Grant department stores across the country was highly successful. It produced a good response from a respectable number of societies. We have received letters of thanks and appreciation from over 30 local organizations. And we are confident much cruelty and abuse was prevented by local humane representatives checking on the stores.

Since that mailing we have issued a new "ALERT" urging people to ask President Ford not to veto the Foley-Weicker bill, S. 1941. This legislation, as you know, would go a long way toward assuring humane conditions for animals in transit. We hope there will be a heavy pouring of mail into the White House.

The significant thing about these mailings is that we were able to do them on our own computer in about three hours time. At last we have the means of getting speedy word to our constituents and humane societies when a specific issue justifies the cost.

#### SURVEY REVEALS ONE OUT OF FOUR VOLUNTEER

According to a recent article appearing in the Voluntary Action News published by the National Center for Voluntary Action, Washington, D.C., a study conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census reveals that 37 million Americans volunteered their time and talents for the public good during the one-year period from May 1973 to April 1974.

Of the population surveyed--those 14 years and over--nearly one out of every four persons, 24%, were involved in voluntary activities, with more than one-third serving at least once a week.

The results of the study indicate that the main reason people volunteer is that they "want to help people" (60%). Americans also serve out of a "sense of duty" (38%), because they "have a child in the program" (16%), because they "cannot refuse when asked" (11%), and because they simply "enjoy volunteer work" (49%).

The study also provides a demographic breakdown by age, sex, race, education, income and employment. The statistics show, for example, that voluntarism is greater among those with more education and high incomes and that women account for 59% of all volunteers.

(Many thanks to John Dommers for passing along this interesting report.)