IL Horse Protection

The Hooved Animal Humane Society (HAHS) and CSRO co-sponsored an equine cruelty investigations workshop last September for 75 humane society and animal control agency staff, humane investigators, law enforcement officers, veterinarians, and veterinary students. Attendees learned how to identify adequate and inadequate horse management practices, apply existing laws, carry out a thorough investigation, impound animals, and prepare a case. Tips attendees learned ranged from taking better photographs to testifying in court. The seminar included both classroom lectures and hands-on learning. CSRO staff members spoke, and CSRO Director Phil Snyder and HAHS Executive Director Dr. Lydia Gray facilitated the event. Snyder serves as a HAHS advisory board member.

HAHS, the first humane society established in the United States to focus specifically on large animals, is located in Woodstock, Illinois, on a 26-acre facility that includes five barns, a hospital facility, and an educational center. HAHS plays a leading role in addressing national issues such as drug abuse in horse racing.

This course was considered a huge success and plans are already underway to offer it again this year.

A farrier demonstrates proper hoof care to workshop attendees.

CSRO Helps North Carolina Animals Stranded by Isabel

When the HSUS-led disaster animal response team noticed several chickens wandering aimlessly near two North Carolina chicken houses in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel, they knew something was wrong. The crew immediately made a U-turn and discovered that the houses had suffered extensive damage, their protective roofs blown far afield. The team found as many as 400 young chickens still alive, although some were clearly injured or near death, as well as many more who had died during the storm or sometime thereafter. The stench of rotting animals was overwhelming. There was no food or water available for the surviving chickens.

The team found a grain silo with feed and promptly distributed it to the chickens. Members also dug shallow trenches, lined them with plastic bags, and filled them with water for the animals. They then notified the North Carolina State Animal Response Team (SART) so that the state could take control of the situation. This example is one of many ways The HSUS contributed to the rescue efforts.

Isabel caused more than 150,000 people to evacuate the coastal regions of North Carolina and Virginia as it approached land last September. It was the largest storm to threaten North Carolina since the devastating Hurricane Floyd in 1999. At SART’s request, The HSUS deployed our disaster animal response teams to Raleigh as Isabel’s 100-mpg winds battered coastal communities and caused power outages. HSUS vehicles carried necessities such as leashes, collars, pet food, and supplies to establish a temporary animal shelter.

HSUS Vice President for Field and Disaster Services Melissa Seide Rubin asserts, “We have one of the most experienced and professional search and rescue teams in the country. That’s why states look to us when the major disasters strike.”

While volunteers performed widespread damage assessment, they also provided rescue services. CSRO Director Phil Snyder said that, from an animal perspective, luck and preparation kept the situation from being much worse. Snyder, a long-time proponent of disaster planning and training in North Carolina, coordinated the search-and-rescue teams on behalf of SART.

The teams’ work did not escape SART’s attention. “The HSUS played an essential role in the effectiveness of SART during Hurricane Isabel,” noted Jodi Jackson, SART’s executive director. “They provided leadership throughout our assessments and animal search and rescue efforts. Their contributions were invaluable.”

State, county, and local governments were continued on page 2
Create a Kit

The HSUS suggests that all pet owners have an emergency supply kit for their pets, which should include:
- A three-day supply of food and water, boots, cat litter and litter box, and a manual can opener.
- Current photos and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them should you and your pets become separated. Pets should wear up-to-date identification, including the phone number of someone out of the area in case your pet becomes lost while you’re not at home.
- Medications, medical records, and a first-aid kit stored in a waterproof container.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and carriers to transport pets safely, as well as blankets or towels for bedding and warmth. A carrier should be large enough to comfortably house your pet for several hours.
- If the need arises to evacuate, keep your pet with you. If it isn’t safe to ask, check with friends and family members who live outside your area to see if they can shelter you or your pets if needed.

For more information on disaster preparedness, please contact CSRO.

Rewards Can Help Bring Abusers to Justice

The black Lab had been sealed in a 55-gallon drum for at least five days before someone found him. The poor dog had suffered chemical burns and other injuries but survived the ordeal to be adopted into a loving home. Now Miracle is doing great, and the person responsible for his torture turned himself in. If only more animal cruelty cases turned out so well.

CSRO has been involved in many cases over the past year involving animal neglect and cruelty. When our office gets a request for help, we immediately contact those involved in the case to see how we may be of assistance. This typically includes working with local humane societies, animal care and control staff, local humane investigators, law enforcement officials, and prosecutors. We can provide expert testimony to prosecutors to help strengthen cases, resource materials for animal care agencies, and other expertise.

Very often in cases of intentional cruelty, the perpetrators are unknown. If investigators are fortunate, some details may be known about the identity of the alleged offender. But often, there is no information at all. Without a perpetrator, prosecutors can’t pursue a legal case. In those instances, a reward may be the most effective means of gathering information.

In the past year alone, CSRO staff have assisted with hundreds of cruelty and neglect cases, and offered rewards up to $2,500 in more than 20.

Increasingly, the media has played an important role in bringing these horrific cases to the public’s attention. This was the case when a picture of Miracle’s case appeared in the newspaper. Entire communities expressed outrage at the stories they read in the newspaper or see on television.

We are eager to offer guidance to local officials and rewards as incentive to help bring animal abusers to justice. If you are aware of cases of intentional animal cruelty, please contact CSRO.

North Carolina General Assembly Takes an Interest in Animal Welfare

In 2003, a six-part series of articles entitled “Death at the Pound” appeared in the “Charlotte Observer” publicizing issues that have long concerned The HSUS and residents of the state. Following public outcry over problems outlined in the articles, such as inhumane euthanasia methods, poor sheltering conditions for animals in certain counties, and pet overpopulation, North Carolina House Speaker Jim Black pledged to form a legislative committee that would study the issues and introduce legislation to benefit animals in the state. October 2003 marked the first meeting of the House Interim Committee on the Prevention and Disposition of Unwanted and Abandoned Companion Animals.

Along with many other animal advocates, CSRO Director Phil Snyder took part in the initial meeting and provided testimony to the 28-member committee in support of improving conditions for animals. Specifically, he addressed the impractical use of carbon monoxide chambers, despite state requirements that recommendations by The HSUS and others be adhered to. Additionally, an apparent lack of state regulation of county programs has allowed sub-standard conditions to exist at certain facilities around the state.

An additional series of meetings has enabled CSRO and others to express concerns and let the legislators know just how important these issues are to those who care about animals.

The House Interim Committee is expected to propose legislation to ensure better conditions for animals in North Carolina. CSRO plans to remain an integral part of the process. If you live in North Carolina, please urge your representative to support the efforts of Speaker Black and the House Interim Committee members. To find out who your representatives are, visit www.ncleg.net/GIS/Representation and click on “Who Represents Me?” or call your library or the League of Women Voters. You can make a difference!

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 difference" to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
- "Proving for my pets in my will" and in case of emergency.
- "Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS."...and much more.

Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.

Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

Promoting the protection of all animals
Director’s Report

By Phil Snyder
Director of the Central States
Regional Office

Fifty Years of Good Work

This year marks the 50th anniversary of The HSUS and my 15th year as a regional director. Having spent 20 years as executive director of local humane societies in Indiana, Texas, and Florida, I benefited greatly from the support of The HSUS long before I became a staff member.

Founded in 1954 by a small group of visionaries, The HSUS has emerged as the world’s largest animal protection organization. We have an international arm, Humane Society International; a global environmental arm, EarthVoice; a youth education division, National Association for Humane and Environmental Education; and of course, 10 regional offices. HSUS staff members include veterinarians, wildlife biologists, attorneys, animal behaviorists, and other dedicated animal specialists and professionals. More than eight million people now support the work of The HSUS.

The HSUS has initiated numerous major campaigns and programs over the past half century to protect America’s most beloved companion animals, dogs and cats. We have also worked to promote the protection of all animals, domestic and wild, through investigation, rehabilitation, public education, political and consumer advocacy, and litigation.

This regional office is proud to have played a role over the years in improving conditions for animals in the states we serve. A few key accomplishments come to mind.

CSRO has actively pursued the passage of important legislation throughout the region, including laws that now protect guard dogs from inhumane treatment, the banning of horse tripping at rodeos, and student choice on dissection in high schools in Illinois. Increased penalties for animal cruelty have passed in many of our states. Dogfighting laws now carry stronger penalties. License plates to benefit animal programs can now be purchased in Tennessee and Illinois.

A local television exposé on the shooting of homeless shelter animals in Kentucky prompted CSRO staff to lead a campaign to improve euthanasia methods. After meeting with local officials, we offered financial assistance and training of animal control personnel. These efforts led to the passing of legislation to improve humane euthanasia methods in both Kentucky and Tennessee.

Following increased reports of the cruel and barbaric activity of animal fighting, CSRO initiated the formation of the North Carolina Task Force to Abolish Animal Fighting. Members include representatives from law enforcement, judicial groups, and animal care and control professionals. I am proud to have the privilege of heading the steering committee. Dogfighting is now a felony in each of our five states.

After providing disaster assessments, temporary sheltering, and search and rescue for more than a month during the Midwest floods in 1993, CSRO led efforts to write the Illinois Disaster Plan for Animals, which now stands as an official annex to the Illinois Emergency Management Plan.

We have played an active role throughout the years in developing animal disaster plans and providing disaster response. Most recently, CSRO headed animal search and rescue efforts during Hurricane Isabel in North Carolina, which helped save countless animal lives.

More than 600 law enforcement officers attended HSUS’s bite prevention and dangerous dog training in Tennessee and Kentucky. The classes were CSRO’s response to public outcry after high-profile cases were publicized in which police officers unnecessarily shot and killed family pets. The classes were so successful that HSUS created an online course for first responders.

It has been an exciting past, but there is much more work to be done. Rest assured that we will not stop to celebrate; rather, we will strive even harder to help create a more humane environment for people and animals in this region.

Contacting HSUS

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Call: 630-357-7015
Fax: 630-357-5725
Web Page: www.hsus.org/csro

Promoting the protection of all animals

As CSRO director, Phil Snyder has met various celebrities, including Morris the cat and his trainer Dawn Haney.