The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy
Animal Studies Repository

Fall 2004

NERO Fall 2004

Follow this and additional works at: http://animalstudiesrepository.org/newengrn

Recommended Citation
http://animalstudiesrepository.org/newengrn/17

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the Animal Studies Repository. For more information, please contact eyahner@humanesociety.org.
Greyhounds Win One!

In a legislative victory that was nothing short of a miracle, New Hampshire became the eighth state to mandate a record-keeping system for the disposition and injuries of racing greyhounds with the landmark passage of H.B. 520, the Greyhound Protection Act. Animal advocates reached out to legislators in record numbers to overturn negative committee reports in both the House and the Senate, pass the measure in both bodies, and even override Gov. Craig Benson’s veto!

The state receives millions of dollars from dog racing each year, yet records on where these gentle creatures go when their racing days are over and what injuries they incur while racing were never available to the public. In light of a recent Fox News investigation that revealed a burial ground behind Hinsdale Greyhound Park that may contain thousands of ex-racers, NERO saw this legislation as a vital step toward ensuring accountability. It also provides penalties for falsifying information supplied to the racing commission.

The HSUS asked our members to contact legislators and helped fund newspaper ads that dispelled misinformation being fed to legislators by racing lobbyists. The response was tremendous. On behalf of the greyhounds, we thank everyone who helped pass this important legislation.

NERO Director Joanne Bourbeau and some supporters rally for H.B. 520.

Safe Cats Comes to New England

Known for its pastoral landscapes and snowy slopes, New England attracts plenty of residents and visitors who love the outdoors. But there are some inhabitants who should never have to face the many challenges of this harsh climate—free-roaming cats.

Unlike their wild counterparts, domestic cats are not naturally suited for the “great outdoors.” Many cat owners believe that the enjoyment an outdoor cat receives outweighs any of the dangers. Unfortunately free-roaming cats are hit by cars; purposely or accidentally poisoned; become lost or stolen; are killed and wounded by predators; become victims of animal cruelty; and suffer from exposure, diseases, and parasites. And most of the same pleasures an outdoor cat experiences can easily be provided in the great indoors.

NERO officially launched the HSUS Safe Cats campaign in New England at a press conference in April to educate pet owners about the threats cats face when allowed outdoors unsupervised, shatter the myth that indoor cats are unhappy, and spread the word that shelter professionals and veterinarians recommend against allowing cats to roam. The governors of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire all proclaimed the last week of April Safe Cats Week.

NERO is also partnering with animal care and control agencies throughout the region to spread the message that a safe cat is a happy cat. Our partners received free campaign materials to distribute in their communities that include information about how to provide basic health care, behavioral enrichment, and identification for feline companions. The materials also explain how to help the “uninvited” cat who might wander into your backyard.

A region-wide publicity campaign features television, print, and radio public service announcements delineating the dangers of leaving cats outdoors. We kicked off the campaign with 100 “car cards” placed in Boston subways and buses during April and May. We will also be partnering with private businesses that sell indoor-cat-friendly items, including Especially for Pets, InsideOut4Pets, and Pet Carts of Maine. The Ice Cats hockey team of Worcester, Massachusetts, will feature the campaign throughout their upcoming season.

“Cats are surrendered to shelters in greater numbers than any other animal here in our region and across the country,” explains NERO Director Joanne Bourbeau. “The untold number of strays who will never be reunited with their owners is truly heartbreaking and preventable. We hope the continued on page 2
A Long Journey Home

Max's family was facing troubled times. Out of work and evicted from their Dallas-area apartment, they were forced to return to their home state of Maine. The financial crunch forced them to take a bus for much of their trip. There was only one problem. One of their family members—the little five-year-old, neutered Max—wasn't allowed on the bus. Frustrated, yet hopeful, Max's family left him with a neighbor along with a health certificate and $200 to cover the airfare to fly Max to Boston. The understanding was that the neighbor would ship Max within a few days. His family had arranged to borrow a vehicle to drive down from Maine to pick Max up at the Boston airport. With the travel arrangements completed, the family left Texas without their beloved Max, but with confidence that they would soon be reunited. When the family arrived at the airport to pick up Max as scheduled, they weren't there. Upon investigation, initial reports indicated Max had been taken to a local shelter. The panicked family called the HSUS Southwest Regional Office in Dallas, Texas, relaying their story and asking for help, and quickly called NERO to ask for the same. Max was finally found at the home of the apartment complex's maintenance man who took Max home when he learned that the little dog was homeless. Max's health certificate, crate, and the money for his trip were gone. Max's family was ecstatic when they heard he had been found. However, one rather large problem remained. How could they transport Max to New England without a health certificate or airfare? NERO director Joanne Bourbeau worked with the HSUS Southwest Regional Office to issue a plea among area shelter volunteers and rescue groups in both regions. The HSUS's Spay Neuter Clinic in Dallas provided Max with a new health certificate. And a family named Forrester not only paid for Max's airfare, but Dad, Jeff Forrester, carried Max on the plane and delivered him safely to a volunteer of the New England Regional Office who had arranged Max's final leg of transport.

Max became animated and excited upon his reunion with his family in Maine, and his family reports that he is finally getting back to his old self. "We were elated to be able to help this family reunite with their beloved Max," says Bourbeau. "This happy ending was a testament to the strength of the human-animal bond and the presence of true human kindness.

Max says goodbye to his Texas foster family before his long trip to Maine.

Scholarship Funds Training for NH Shelter Manager

Signs such as this one appeared on Boston trains and buses to promote Safe Cats.

S
Signs such as this one appeared on Boston trains and buses to promote Safe Cats. tarting can be a busy season for those in the animal care and control community. It's also a time when shelter professionals gear up for the largest educational conference and trade show for people in their field. The 2004 HSUS Animal Care Expo, held from March 10-13 in Dallas, Texas, featured more than 50 professional development workshops on topics ranging from adoption strategies and behavioral evaluations to animal hoarding and community outreach.

Through the generosity of Expo sponsor Hills Science Diet, The HSUS is able to offer conference scholarships to animal care and control professionals throughout the country. NERO selected Sally Cady, shelter manager for the Conway Area Humane Society in New Hampshire, as our scholarship recipient. "The Expo changed me in many ways. I feel more confident in what I am doing, and I know that I can take what I learned there and better help the shelter and the animals in it," said Cady. NERO is committed to increasing the access of the animal care and control community to continuing education, and we look forward to welcoming shelter professionals to Atlanta, Georgia, host of next year's Animal Care Expo.

2004 Shaw-Worth scholarship recipient Elisabeth Barthelmow accepts her award from NERO's Hilary Twining.

Star Shelter Volunteer Earns Honor

What are you going to teach me today, Miss Huebner?" That was Dr. Donald Griffin's standard greeting when I first met him at Estabrook Woods in Concord, Massachusetts, back in 1998 to assist with his bear communication research project. It was a daunting question from the author of several books and a retired professor who had taught at Cornell, Harvard, and Rockefeller universities after discovering echolocation in bats. What could I possibly teach him? I quickly realized, however, that at 83 years old, Dr. Griffin was so smart precisely because he learned something from everyone he met. Sadly, Dr. Griffin died on November 7, 2003, at 88 years of age. In a fitting tribute to his memory, The HSUS contributed enough money to help fund a water flow project so that turtles can move from one pond to another without going over land. At the downstream culvert, a pond leveler and spillway protective fence control the water level in the pond and prevent flooding on another walking trail. These devices maintain acceptable water levels in the wetland complex so that bears, other wildlife, and humans can all co-exist and important ecological research can continue.

Both locations are heavily used by the public, so NERO is appealing to the Conservation Commission to allow us to install permanent educational signage to explain the devices to passers-by. Dr. Griffin would be pleased.

Celebrate the Season and The HSUS's 50th Anniversary

The HSUS is proud to have May Company department stores and Christopher Radko as sponsors of our 50th anniversary. As part of the celebration, May Company is offering three exclusive HSUS 50th anniversary products for sale this fall: a Radko ornament (shown at right) of a dog and cat plush toy by Gund (left). Order these special items online at www.hsus.org/marketplace or look for them in selected May Company stores, including Famous-Barr, Filene's, Foley's, Hecht's, The Jones Store, Kaufmann's, Lord and Taylor, L. S. Ayres, Meier and Frank, Robinsons-May, and Strawbridge's.
Go to www.hsus.org for more details about state legislation affecting animals. If you want to assist us, join one of NERO's state Action Alert Teams and the Humane Activist Network. Contact us at nero@hsus.org or 802-368-2790 to sign up.

Connecticut
- People will now be able to sue for economic and punitive damages if their animal companions are intentionally injured or killed.
- The Department of Agriculture will be able to recover some of its expenses when state animal control officers seize large animals in cruelty cases.

Maine
- Critical funds for a statewide spay/neuter program will now be available through an income tax check-off.
- Pet owners will be able to plan for the future needs of their companion animals by establishing a trust in their will for their animals' ongoing care.

Massachusetts
- The spay/neuter license plate is now available through the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, and proceeds will fund spay/neuter surgeries for homeless animals.
- Students with religious or ethical objections to dissection came very close to lawfully being allowed to choose alternatives.

New Hampshire
- The standards that apply to the retail sale of animals will now apply to commercial dog breeders, and an increase in licensing fees will help fund the inspection process.
- Bills to establish a spring bear baiting season and to better define outdoor shelter requirements for dogs both failed.

Rhode Island
- A new dangerous dog law will include mandatory sterilization for dogs who have been declared vicious and greater flexibility in the range of sanctions that can be ordered by vicious dog panels.
- A bill that would have increased the penalties for animal cruelty and require mandatory psychological evaluations for defendants died in committee.

Vermont
- An all-encompassing animal cruelty bill, signed by the governor, will expand felony provisions; define minimum living space requirements for permanently confined cats; double the minimum tether size for dogs; and better define adequate food, water, exercise, and shelter for animals.
- A state-wide spay/neuter subsidy program will enable low-income households to sterilize their pets.
- A new law limits landowners' authorization to shoot bears to those damaging certain types of property; prohibits landowners from shooting bears if bait or food for wildlife has been intentionally placed on the property; and authorizes the commissioner of fish and wildlife to order the removal of bait if it is luring animals who may damage property.

NERO Director Joanne Bourbeau thanks Vermont animal cruelty bill sponsor Sen. John Campbell for his help in winning the bill's passage.

Bears Need Your Vote!
For black bears in Maine, the stakes can’t get much higher. On Election Day voters will be asked to decide whether bears should be hunted with bait, dogs, and traps.

NERO will be working hard to get out the vote in the days and weeks leading up to the November 2nd election, but we need your help. Whether or not you live in Maine, please consider making a donation to Maine Citizens for Fair Bear Hunting and volunteering your time to build support for this necessary and commonsense measure. And if you are a registered Maine voter, please vote “yes” to ban the baiting, hounding, and trapping of bears and encourage family members and friends to do the same.
Visit www.fairbearhunting.org for more information or contact Maine Citizens for Fair Bear Hunting at 207-781-5155.
The Humane Society of the United States

By HSUS President and Chief Executive Officer 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 1954, now employing experts in companion animals, wildlife, farm animals, and animal research and attracting more than 8 million members and supporters. The HSUS has developed the most sophisticated government affairs, investigations, and humane education 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.

As we look ahead, 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. But we must redouble our efforts to protect long-neglected classes of creatures, specifically animals raised 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 needless and duplicative testing on animals when alternatives exist; to shutter “puppy mills” that mass-produce dogs for the pet trade when most of healthy and adoptable animals face abandonment or euthanasia for lack of suitable homes; to halt the fur trade; and to safeguard animals’ habitats so they too, have space and shelter.

The professional staff of The HSUS can do a great deal to achieve these goals. But we cannot accomplish them alone. Only when HSUS members in communities are active—in financially supporting our work, writing letters to newspapers 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.

Wayne Pacelle took over as The HSUS 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.

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
- In case of emergency
- Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS

Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.

Promoting the protection of all animals

Directory’s Report

By Joanne Bourbeau
Director of the New England Regional Office

Help May Be Just a Phone Call Away

I got the frantic call in February. An emaciated horse “in terrible shape” was down at a local horse farm, another “only skin and bones,” and three more “not quite as bad.” I wish I could say that receiving animal cruelty complaints is a rare event at our office. But this case was different. This farm is just a few miles down the road from our office. By the end of this particular workday, I had witnessed the tragic result of suspected animal abuse and neglect—one dead horse and another well on her way.

I’m glad to say that the ending for the surviving horses was a happy one. The two geldings, Chester and Smitty, and two mares, Montana and Ginger, were all signed over to the Windham County Humane Society in Brattleboro, Vermont, and eventually found new homes. Ginger’s recovery was long and expensive, and her battle to survive was won out of sheer will and determination. The HSUS donated $1,500 toward her costly veterinary expenses. Complications from her weakness and inability to stand on her own resulted in cellulitis, nerve damage, and even temporary paralysis. But Ginger was a fighter. The owner of the horses and their hired caretaker are both facing five counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty.

I’ve seen my share of animal cruelty cases, but this one was personal. Personal because I live and work in this town. Personal because I drive by this horse farm (although not visible from the road) nearly every day. Personal because neighbors here help neighbors, yet no one ever bothered to ask for help.

Sue Caviedes, cruelty investigator for the shelter, told me that people “came out of the woodwork” to comment about this case, to say it was about time something was done. The sad truth is that if people hadn’t taken the time to call sooner, we might have saved the horse who didn’t make it. For weeks, this case was all people were talking about, and they’re still talking about it. In response to the tragedy, our local select board passed a civil animal cruelty ordinance, commissioned by the Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force, which NERO leads, that will allow our constable to write tickets for animal cruelty infractions, and hopefully allow him to intervene sooner in cases like this one.

Violence has a strange way of connecting a community. I hope that we all learned a lesson from this tragedy. It’s not “un-neighboring” to report a suspicion of abuse or neglect to authorities. Violence towards animals and humans is everyone’s business, and putting an end to it is everyone’s responsibility.

Contacting HSUS

Write: HSUS New England Regional Office P.O. Box 619 Jacksonville, VT 03342-0619 Call: 802-368-2790 Web Page: www.hsus.org/nero

Promoting the protection of all animals

Fun at Dog Days

S edona was the grand prize champi-

on in the annual Dog Days of Whit-

ingham, Vermont, pet dog show (pic-

tured here with her mom’s grandchildren, Charlotte (l) and Isabelle (r) Horowitz). NERO helps the town maintain money privetly for the town’s animal control program and provide spay/neuter assist-

ance to low-income families.

This was what Ginger (left) looked like when NERO helped rescue her from a farm in Vermont. Above right, Ginger looks like a different animal after weeks of care.