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New Yorker Wins National Award

Members and friends of The HSUS Mid-Atlantic regional office were proud as one of their own, Max Schnapp, received the Society's highest national honor, the Joseph Wood Krutch Medal, at the 1985 annual conference in Schaumburg, Ill.

As president of the Pet Owners Protective Association, Max Schnapp has battled persistently to ensure that apartment dwellers in New York City, its boroughs, and elsewhere in the nation are guaranteed the right to own pets. "Many groups work for the benefit of domestic and wild animals but neglect the needs of people wishing to care for animals in apartments," he has declared. The New York Times credited him as the main reason New York City adopted the dwellers' ordinance in September 1983.

Another milestone in Schnapp's career was the successful movement in New York state to ban the sale of animals from shelters to research laboratories.

Max Schnapp is a longtime member of The HSUS who takes pride in never having missed an annual conference. He credits his love of animals to his Hebraic upbringing which stresses that animals must be spared needless cruelty.

Three tables of Mid-Atlantic members and friends rose to their feet applauding as HSUS President John A. Hoyt presented the award. Mrs. Austenberg, also a Brooklyn native, said she was thrilled that Max has been so honored. "I met Max at the first Great Swamp protest and since then have admired his strong commitment to animal welfare," Austenberg said.

Accompanied by family and friends, Max Schnapp (center) shows off his award.

HSUS Attacks Dog Racing in Penn.

The HSUS continues to oppose dog-racing legislation and has attacked H.B. 1079, a bill to legalize pari-mutuel dog racing in Pennsylvania.

Testifying before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Committee on Business and Commerce, HSUS investigator Robert Baker described many of the cruelties in dog racing. Baker, a former racehorse owner who has spent over five years investigating both horse and dog racing, said that "if dog racing is legalized, thousands of dogs will be exploited and abused. In addition, thousands of other animals will be maimed and brutally killed in training practices common in the industry."

Baker described one such training method known as "coursing" in which live jackrabbits are chased down, mutilated by young greyhounds, and left to die. In another called the "whirl-a-gig," a small animal is dangled from a pole while the dogs are encouraged to chase it. The animals used may be domestic rabbits, guinea pigs, or even kittens.

Greyhounds themselves are often the victims of the racing business, noted Baker. "The HSUS estimates that more than 30,000 greyhounds are destroyed each year simply because they don't run fast enough or are injured while racing. In fact, about ninety percent of these dogs that are bred to race are instead killed by the time they are four years old."
HSUS Fights to Keep Ban on Lethal Traps

Pennsylvania — In September, the University of Pennsylvania indefinitely suspended all research using primates in the head-injury clinical research laboratories at its medical school and reprimanded the researchers responsible for supervising the experiments.

The University of Pennsylvania has agreed to pay a $4,000 fine to settle charges by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that it violated the Animal Welfare Act during head-injury experiments on baboons.

In a separate review, the Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler decided to continue indefinitely the suspension of funding to the head-injury lab. Congressional action to deny funding to the lab was discontinued after members received personal assurances from the university that the laboratory was — and would remain — closed.

NEW JERSEY — Newark police, alerted by sympathetic neighbors, broke up an illegal cockfight in an abandoned factory building on February 9, 1986, arresting 120 people from four states and confiscating 57 gamecocks.

Court Bars Dealer From Commerce in Pet Animals

The Morris County Office of Consumer Affairs filed suit in the Superior Court of New Jersey Chancery Division seeking to bar a pet dealer, previously convicted of animal neglect and cruelty charges, forfeit his right to do business in New Jersey because of fraudulent business practices.

The suit charged that Marc Stern, operator of Pet Gallery in the Mall at Short Hills, willfully refused to comply with provisions of several state statutes governing the sale of animals and regulations requiring pet dealers to notify consumers of various rights.

Besides seeking to have Stern banned from doing business in the state, the suit was intended to bar him from owning or managing any corporation or business enterprise, or holding more than ten percent ownership interest in the Pet Gallery at the Short Hills Mall, and any other business that sells or gives away a dog, cat, or other animal.

Included in the suit’s charges were allegations that Stern “systematically” provided consumers with incomplete and unsatisfactory pedigrees and health records, and animal-histories documents required under the law.

Stern, who also owns the Skamperdale Kennels in Harriman, N.Y., was found guilty of animal cruelty and neglect charges and in Roxbury, N.J., in matters that are under appeal. In New York, Stern was fined $5,000 and put on probation for three years after admitting 100 counts of animal cruelty at his Harris- man Kennels in Harris, N.Y.

HSUS investigator Paul Miller and regional director Nina Austenberg worked with Carol Glade, Morris County Consumer Affairs, in documenting the case.

In the case brought by the Morris County (NJ) Office of Consumer Affairs, Judge Arnold Stein ruled on December 29, 1985, that Marc Stern is permanently enjoined from directly or indirectly owning, managing or being engaged in any business involved, for commercial purposes, in the sale or giving away of any animal within the state of New Jersey or in any contiguous state where the defendant would have ready access to New Jersey consumers.

Judge Stein also ordered Stern to divest himself, or on or before March 14, 1986, of any interest in the Pet Gallery at the Short Hills Mall, and any other business that comes within the scope of the court’s jurisdiction. The court also assessed a civil penalty of $15,000 against Stern and ordered him to pay an additional sum of $10,000 to Morris County for legal and investigative costs.

Region Holds Open House

Over 50 guests ventured out on a snowy, wintry December 13, 1985, to join the Mid-Atlantic regional office (MARO) staff in their Open House celebration. The festive occasion was to honor our new office building on February 9, 1986, arresting 120 people from four states and confiscating 57 gamecocks.

For information and fact sheet, write:
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
P.O. Box 147
Convent Station, NJ 07961

Urgent
New York Members
Keep New York’s Bird Bill Intact

Please write your assemblymen and senators today.

For information and fact sheet, write:
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
P.O. Box 147
Convent Station, NJ 07961

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Over 50 guests ventured out on a snowy, wintry December 13, 1985, to join the Mid-Atlantic regional office (MARO) staff in their Open House celebration. The festive occasion was to honor our new office facility in Madison, N.J.

Sipping traditional holiday-mulled apple cider and nibbling cookies and other delights prepared by MARO staff and friends, guests mingled and viewed videotapes on animal-welfare issues, including the Governor’s historic signing of the New Jersey ban on steel-jaw, lethal traps.

Special guests included HSUS Director of Higher Education Dr. Randall Loobood and New Jersey Secretary of State Jane Burgo, both of whom spoke to the assembled guests praising the dedicated work of the regional office.

President Ed Sayres, Jr., Sr. Hubert’s Giraldal Animal Welfare and Education Center, opened Center’s Gallery to the guests for a private showing of the exhibit, “Era of the Pets,” on loan from the Dog Museum of New York.

Ready and Able

Last November, the Mid-Atlantic regional office (MARO) staff by adding Richard (Rick) L. Abel as Program Coordinator.

A native New Yorker, Rick comes to The HSUS by way of Florida where he was community relations director with the Half- Miles Humane Society in Daytona Beach. In Daytona, Rick was responsible for membership development, public relations campaign, membership, and special projects.

A recipient of a master of science in speech from Emerson College in Boston, Rick has also done freelance writing, worked and holds a business management certificate from Fairfield University, Conn.

Currently living in Bernardsville, N.J., with wife Audrey and their two dogs, Sugar and Spike, Rick will be extending Mid-Atlantic outreach to all four states within the region.

One of the most frustrating jobs we face in the regional office is "mobilizing the force" when an important issue surfaces. And time and the essence. You can help significantly by joining our Action Alert Team today.

Our Action Alert program goes into action when critical animal issues arise. An alert is sent immediately from our Washington office to constituents with the ability to influence that particular issue's outcome. Sometimes we mail to an entire state, other times to a specific locality or congressional district. The alert contains all the information constituents need to react effectively to the particular situation. Often, alerts are sent because of an upcoming vote. They are also used, however, to create enthusiasm, interest, and support among legislators and thus move an issue into the pipeline of the legislative process.
HSUS Continues to Seek End to Great Swamp Hunt

Deer hunting season at Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge opened on December 12, 1985, and several dozen protesters were on hand to demonstrate their opposition.

"This protest is to bring into focus the plight of animals," said Nina Austenberg, Mid-Atlantic regional director. With signs reading "Stop the Hunt" and "This is Their World, Too," about 50 members of animal-protection groups gathered at the New Jersey refuge to protest sport hunting on federal wildlife refuges.

John Grandy, HSUS vice president for wildlife and environment, said that wildlife refuges were intended as "inviolate sanctuaries" for birds and animals. "This action is symbolic of our continuing opposition to public hunting on refuges across the nation that, this year alone, has killed 600,000 wild animals," Grandy said.

The national Fish and Wildlife Service allows hunting and trapping on more than half of its 430 refuges as part of what it calls "wildlife management" programs. The annual deer hunt at Great Swamp, which originally lasted ten days, but now spans six days, was begun in 1974 to control the herd population and avoid herd starvation. The event has provoked a protest demonstration by humanitarians every year.

A big argument used previously to justify the hunt was that the physical condition of many deer was poor and dead deer were being found on searches. Further, the poor condition of the animals indicated the refuge could not sustain enough vegetation for food for so many, a condition compounded by the needs of other wildlife.

In response, Grandy pointed out that every year some animals have to die but "God decides when." He noted that the deer brought in by hunters appeared to be robust. "What makes them not healthy," Grandy said, "is being shot...."

The Needs of Animals Will Continue Long After You Are Gone

Unfortunately, man's cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end during your lifetime. Nevertheless, a bequest through your will is a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

The HSUS will send you a booklet, without obligation, about how to make the best use of your animal-welfare bequest. It contains helpful information on selecting recipients and describes how to proceed once you decide to write or change your will.

Write in complete confidence to Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

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The office serves the states of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a 24-hour answering service.

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