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REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • SPRING 1991

HSUS Calls for Consumer Boycott of Puppy Mills

In December, the HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office asked consumers to boycott puppies that have been bred in Pennsylvania puppy mills.

At an HSUS press conference in Philadelphia, Dr. Stephen Kritsick, HSUS staff veterinarian, said, "The plague of puppy mills has infected the state of Pennsylvania, and this chronic problem shows no signs of improving. Consumers are being sold sick dogs from Pennsylvania." Kritsick added, "The pet industry has treated these dogs like commodities that can be assembled, warranted, shipped, packaged, and marketed like so

many refrigerators or toasters. This is inexcusable, and we are urging consumers to tell the legislators in Pennsylvania that there is a difference when your 'product' is a living, breathing creature."

Kritsick was joined by HSUS Investigators Bob Baker and Bob Reder, who have had personal experience through observations of more than 600 of these mass commercial breeding kennels raising dogs under inhumane conditions in the Midwest and Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania State Senator Stuart Greenleaf pledged his support of the HSUS *continued on page 2*

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New Jersey Kennel Loses License Bid

Misty Meadow Kennels, owned by William Roberts, was denied an application for a kennel license by the Mantua, N.J., Township Health Department in December 1990, ending more than four years of operation without license approval, according to township attorney David Morgan.

MARO Investigator Bob Reder had visited this facility in November and observed conditions commonly found in puppy mills, inhumane mass commercial dog-breeding establishments. At that time there were approximately 75 adult dogs and 50 puppies at the facility. The majority were overcrowded in elevated, wire-floor kennels, under which was a heavy accumulation of fecal material. Reder had brought the situation to the attention of government agencies and urged them to take appropriate action.

The decision to deny the license application was based on several reports submitted to the township. That of Dr. Mark *continued on page 3*



HSUS/REDER

Puppy-mill breeding animals are doomed to live in often overcrowded, unsanitary wire-mesh cages, exposed to extremes of weather, and bred repeatedly until they no longer produce enough puppies to be profitable for their owners.



MARO Director Nina Austenberg discusses puppy-mill abuses with Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden and State Senator Carmen Orechio of New Jersey at an HSUS press conference held in Madison in December.

Puppy-Mill Boycott

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action and made known his intention to introduce legislation in the state to help end the misery of puppy-mill animals.

New Jersey State Senator Carmen Orechio and Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden spoke in support of The HSUS at a Madison, N.J., conference, advising the many members of news media in attendance that they would introduce stronger sale-of-animals legislation in that state.

The combined media coverage reached millions of viewers, listeners, and readers in the nation's most expensive advertising markets. Portions were aired on the "CBS Evening News" the following week. Releases given to Associated Press and United Press International brought the Mid-Atlantic story to locations as distant as Oklahoma City, Okla.

The success of these press conferences was due in no small part to the contributions of dedicated HSUS staff members, volunteers, and others. In Philadelphia, thanks go to Sue Clark, Debbie Great, Gerder Shaw, Ann Irwin, Dotsie Keith, Dr. Susan Yatsky, and Dr. Charles Malinuskas; in Madison, to Dr. Arthur Baeder, Edwin Sayres, Jr., Ginny Keary, Richard Penola, Peggy Rybasack, Pam Golden, and the staff at St. Hubert's Giralda. Last,

but far from least, our thanks for invaluable advice and time go to Darryl Young of State Assemblyman Sam Farr's office in California and Bob Berry and his staff at Berry Associates, Inc., in Morristown, N.J.



HSUS investigator Bob Baker fields a reporter's question during a press conference on puppy mills.

TV Presents "Shameful Harvest"

A three-part investigative report, "Shameful Harvest," was aired November 12-14 on WGAL-TV in Lancaster, Pa. Producer Dan Weiser, reporter Susan Shapiro, and cameraman Dave Rupp went undercover with MARO Investigator Bob Reder to bring to the show's viewers the story of overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and repeated breeding of breeding stock at a Lancaster puppy mill. News director Ed Wickenheiser developed a brochure that contained information from the HSUS puppy-mill fact sheet, and it was made available to interested viewers. WGAL-TV reported that more than 95 percent of the hundreds of viewers who called in or wrote to the station approved of the treatment the story gave the issue.

Other agencies contributing to this story were the Humane League of Lancaster County, the Chester County SPCA, and the York County SPCA.

Law Change for Wayne?

The Wayne, N.J., Township Council is considering an amendment to its pet-shop ordinance that would allow the review or revocation of a license for consumer fraud or deception. Currently the law allows for review under health department regulations only. This amendment could be a valuable resource in the efforts to eliminate unscrupulous pet-shop operators. The MARO supports the efforts of the Wayne Township Council and has asked HSUS members and concerned Wayne Township citizens to contact their township representative in support of this ordinance change.

Anti-Poaching Hotline Numbers

New Jersey 1-800-222-0456
 New York 1-800-332-8477
 Delaware 1-800-292-3030
 Pennsylvania (717) 787-5743



Nina Austenberg joins Governor Jim Florio (center) and Senator Christopher J. Jackman after the signing of the pets-in-housing bill.

Pets in Housing Get a Break through New Jersey Law

In 1990, New Jersey Governor Jim Florio signed a bill to allow senior citizens to own pets in senior citizens' housing. State Senator Chris Jackman, who for more than two decades has championed the cause of tenants to keep pets, singled out Isabella Troupiansky, the MARO's Nina Austenberg, and Animals Need You's Nancy Van Oossanen and Ann Koenig for their efforts in support of this bill. Florio talked about the dog he had owned as a young boy and the impor-

tance of the values represented by the bill. He praised Jackman for his courage, his commitment to his work, and his courageous battle against cancer.

Austenberg, present for this important signing, said that Jackman had met with the group even on Saturdays and Sundays and was never too busy to work on the bill. This comes as no surprise, since Christy (as he is affectionately called) considers his "animal bills" to be those of which he is most proud.

1966-1991: Twenty-five Years of Animal Welfare

In 1966, Mildred Wien, Jindra Duchon, and Madeline Holden attended a luncheon sponsored by the (then) HSUS New Jersey branch (now the MARO). The topic was the need for organized humane work in the state. Although each woman was helping animals independently, all were so moved by this talk that they organized the Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association, Inc. For years, all business was conducted from members' homes; then, in 1978, their goal for a shelter was realized.

One by one, fund-raising, animal rescue, humane legislation, humane education, spay/neuter referral service and hotline, gift and thrift shops, and special projects were all added as important shelter activities.

An HSUS certificate of appreciation will be awarded to founder Mildred Wien, trustee emeritus, at the MARO's April conference (see the Director's Comment).

We offer our congratulations to this fine organization on passing an important milestone.

HSUS Animal Care Expo '92 Scheduled

Plan now to travel to Las Vegas, Nev., February 2-5, 1992, to attend a one-of-a-kind exposition for animal-sheltering, -care, and -control professionals. Sponsored by The HSUS, Animal Care Expo '92 will feature seminars, demonstrations, and the latest in practical, contemporary, and humane equipment and services. Special emphasis will be given to environmentally friendly and energy-efficient products and supplies. Contact the MARO for more details.

Kennel Loses Bid

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Magazu stated, "The majority of the dogs at this facility suffer from patchy alopecia (fur loss); upper respiratory disease and evidence of diarrhea was present throughout. . . ."

"How can Mr. Roberts guarantee a pet is free of contagious disease when the majority exhibit signs of disease already? How can he free this kennel of disease with no evident idea of animal-health management, i.e., syringes for vaccines are located in a bucket under the sink? The current building and kennel environment does not support proper disease control and health management to function as a commercial kennel."

Also submitted was a letter from Paul Firling of the American Kennel Club (AKC) stating that, during a recent inspection by an AKC executive field agent, "very poor sanitary and/or health conditions" had been observed at Misty Meadow.

A December 1990 inspection by the Gloucester County Health Department had noted "signs of rodents near kennel area, primary enclosures [that are] unsafe, hair and dirt encrusted on wire kennel doors, [and] noncompliance of disease-control program. . . ."

Although Misty Meadow remains in operation, investigators from the MARO and other humane organizations will continue to monitor conditions there.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

by *Nina Austenberg*

Friends and members in the Mid-Atlantic region will have a wonderful opportunity April 25, 26, and 27 to meet and learn from national leaders in animal protection. A conference has been planned to be of interest to members, shelter workers, health officers, and activists. Animal-control officers will receive continuing education credit from Kean College of New Jersey.

HSUS President John A. Hoyt will offer the keynote address. Also attending will be HSUS vice presidents Jan A. Hartke, Martin



Nina Austenberg

Stephens, Patty A. Finch, Randall Lockwood, Phyllis Wright, and John W. Grandy; HSUS staff members Bob Baker, Hurt "Bill" Smith, Guy Hodge, Richard Clugston, Arnold Baer, Frank Ribaudo, and Marc Paulhus; an authority on large-animal birth control, Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick; Rev. Kenneth Austenberg, Sr.; Investigator, New England Area REAC, Jim Finn; the New York State Humane Association's Samantha Mullen; *New Jersey Star-Ledger* columnist Lois Stevenson; TV personality Marc Rosenberg; an authority on oral rabies

vaccine, Charles Rupprecht, VMD; health officer Albert Greco; the New Jersey State Department of Health's Annette Hirsch; New Jersey Assemblyman D. Bennett Mazur; Leonard J. Soucy, Jr., president of the Raptor Society; and Bill Fiore, Esq., and Kathryn Schatz Koles, Esq., of Meyner and Landis, who fought for the steel-jaw trap ban.

A preconference training session, "The Basics of Oiled Bird Rehabilitation," and side trips to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Raptor Trust, and Boehm Porcelain have been scheduled.

Saturday events planned to delight animal lovers include demonstrations by the Morris County sheriff's K-9 unit, The Body Shop, and local groups.

A star-studded group will be honored at the Saturday evening banquet: Rep. Bill Green of New York; Pennsylvania State Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf; Scott McVay of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; Jo Irwin, president emeritus of the Bucks County (Pennsylvania) SPCA; Mildred Wien, founder and trustee emeritus of the Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association, Inc. (New Jersey); and Dean Irwin, producer of ABC-TV's "20/20."

For further information or to receive a brochure, call (201) 927-5611. ■

Volunteer Honored

Charles Clausing, former HSUS branch president and present president of the Animal Welfare Association in Camden County, N.J., was honored recently by Gov. Jim Florio. Clausing was one of ten people receiving the Governor's Volunteer Award. It was the first time a person who works for animals had received such recognition. "These people represent the very best of our communities across the state. They add to the quality of life for a greater number of people and ultimately for themselves," said Florio. ■

MARO Office Expands

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office has expanded its office space to include an additional office and a meeting/conference room. Nina Austenberg noted that the MARO serves densely populated states that generate a high volume of inquiries, complaints, and legislative attention. The MARO has a number of dedicated volunteers who help fill a vital role in the animal-protection movement. We now have facilities in which our volunteers can meet and plan their activities and our staff can conduct humane education classes, saving time and expense. ■

Kennel Owner Charged

Puppy Love Kennels of Peach Bottom, Pa., has been suspended indefinitely by the American Kennel Club from all AKC privileges for failing to comply with recording and identification requirements, according to the November 1990 *AKC Gazette*. The owner also faces charges by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to the prosecuting attorney, for licensing procedures irregularities. ■

Reflect for a moment. . .

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you're gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist you in planning a will. **Please send will information to:**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.