The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy
Animal Studies Repository

Spring 1991

MARO Spring 1991

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

Recommended Citation
http://animalstudiesrepository.org/midatlrn/7

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.
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.

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 2
action and made known his intention to introduce legislation in the state to help end the misery of puppy-mill animals. 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, Gender Shaw, Ann Irwin, Dotsie Keith, Gerder Shaw, Ann Irwin, Dotsie Keith, Edwin Sayres, Jr., Ginny Keary, Richard Penola, Peggy Ryback, Pam Golden, and the staff at St. Hubert’s Grrrls. Last, but far from least, our thanks for invaluable advice and time go to Darrel Young of State Assemblyman Sam Farr’s office in California and Bob Berry and his staff at Berry Associates, Inc., in Morristown, N.J.

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 representatives in support of this ordinance change.

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-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.

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

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 citizen’s housing. State Senator Chris Jackman, who for more than two decades has championed the cause of tenants to keep pets, singled out Isabella Tropiansky, 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 importance 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.

Law enforcement is ever more interested in the new bill’s ramifications. Ornamental grasses in the kennel yard? “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. “How can I 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?”

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.

One 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 continued from page 1
Magazu stated, “The majority of the dogs at this facility suffer from patchy alopecia (fur loss), upper respiratory disease and diarrhea, and the condition of the dogs was present throughout...”

“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. “How can I 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?...”

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

1966–1991: Twenty-five Years of Animal Welfare
In 1966, Mildred Wien, Jindra DuFla, 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.
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 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, call the Regional Office at (201) 927-5611.