(No. 14) -- Disunity in the Humane Movement

Humane Information Services, Inc.

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

from
Fred, Sally and
Don Noller
all our
great
friends and co-workers in the humane movement here, and to you and your pets for whom we wish to be thankful on Thanksgiv- ing Day. We did. And may your Christmas be an enjoyable Christmas and successful New Year.

Tell your pets that Teddy wishes them Happy Holidays. Aren't they lucky not to be among the millions of animals who know only mis- ery and fear of starvation in the days ahead of work even harder for the less fortunate. What we can do is to make the days ahead of us their Christmas, and do it in a way that will bring peace on earth, good will toward men, a discussion of this subject of greatest importance, and for us. Even for any of our members who may not be affected by the Christmas spirit it is partic- ularly important that it will be discussed.

Discouragement Over Disunity

One of the most frequently recurring themes in the many welcome letters we receive is the great need for some kind of coordination to prevent the undesirable effects of such freezing of the movement as has occurred in the past. The symptoms of which are hundreds of humane organizations, some constituting a humane society, and many clubs, groups, etc., working in isolation, and which are very likely to become even more pronounced if we fail to coordinate policies and procedures.

We have received numerous reports indicating that failure of coordination policies and procedures is one of the most frequently recurring themes in the many welcome letters we receive. It is a sobering fact that this joyous season should include such undertones of uncertainty.

People in the Humane Movement

The ever-continuing surplus of dogs and cats, the symptoms of which are hundreds of humane organizations, some constituting a humane society, and many clubs, groups, etc., working in isolation, and which are very likely to become even more pronounced if we fail to coordinate policies and procedures.

What this really amounts to is: (1) putting the welfare of the animal in the apparent welfare of individual organization and the prestige of individual humane leadership; (2) avoiding personalities, bitterness and violent opposition to others who are sincere- ly trying to do their best, even if we di- sperse with them; (3) attempting to work to- gether, even if we disagree on some points; (4) basing our actions on an objec- tive analysis of our problems as is possi- ble in order to find common ground for united action, even though we may choose to take different paths in pursuing other goals; (5) basing our actions on an objec- tive analysis of our problems as is possi- ble in order to find common ground for united action, even though we may choose to take different paths in pursuing other goals; (6) basing our actions on an objec- tive analysis of our problems as is possi- ble in order to find common ground for united action, even though we may choose to take different paths in pursuing other goals; (7) basing our actions on an objec- tive analysis of our problems as is possi- ble in order to find common ground for united action, even though we may choose to take different paths in pursuing other goals.

We hope that the following analysis as a beginning in the direction of better understanding of the problems where coordination is advantageous, and without losing the advantages of inter-society communication and joint action in activi- ties where coordination is not.

Unity, Yes! Unification, No!

In our continuing review of accomplish- ments and lack of accomplishments in the hu- mane movement, which began with our report to Humanitarians No. 11 (March, 1970), it already has been written that there are so many humane organizations, and the need for a more coordinated approach to the solution of many other humane prob- lems has been obvious for nearly all.

But it is one thing to recognize the need for some form of coordination, or at least a very much reduced number of humane societies. Is that what we need -- drastic consolidation of the existing societies? For example, we might other people and human institutions, are far from the only ones that can be affected by constituting a humane society tends to attract others with similar backgrounds, views, ideas, etc., because it is regarded as an exclusive federation of local soci- eties and one national society such as the Humane Society, and a most unfortunate, sect, and even a more uncoordinated operation which is the existence of too many societies. What they really would like, one may suspect, is to have only one society having the particular goals and area of operation that they believe to be best!

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DISUNITY — from page 1
Robert Burns said, to see ourselves as others see us. In the following two sections we try to look in the mirror.

Sources of Disunity
In discussions of disunity in the humane movement there seems to be a failure to distinguish between the means of attaining objectives.

When there are the differences of opinion which result from differences in knowledge of conditions afflicting animals and of the practical value available in reaching those conditions, this, which we believe to be the most important source of disunity, can only be overcome by humanitarian education. When humanitarians use the latter term they mean to work for a better public understanding of the many humanitarian problems. It is the principal purpose of these Reports to Humanitarians. The more we know about humane problems and alternative means of dealing with them, the less likely we are to be divided in our ideas and actions.

Secondly, there are some much more basic reasons for our differences of opinion. Some of these are based upon religious and other factors which are unlikely to be fully resolved. For example, a Christian Scientist who believes that all life is God's and that therefore no harm is done by killing a chicken or using a dog to run down a rabbit does not share the same views concerning the treatment of animals as do those who believe in the sovereignty of man over all living things. And there is no likely solution to the fundamental question of whether animals or any other part of nature have a right to exist and continue to live.

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But we try to look in the mirror!
DISUNITY — from page 2 — not to mention dogs and cats, suffer more
curing "euthanasia" in many humane society
shelters. Moreover, there is not a great
demand for making progress in eliminating the suf-fering of these seals. If the slaughter of the Canadian
tiny seals is eliminated, they will only be taken off the scene for a short
stage, with much more potential suffering. If Alaskan sea
seals, which, among other species of animals, have been
want them to do. And these contributor
with much greater suffering, under condi-
tional reasons for the ineffec-tiveness of the efforts of humane
organizations? Why have they permitted this
away — resources

The obsta-cles
and public-rela-
tions involved. To the
individuals, divisive words and acti-
ons. The individual
among humane societies and humane leaders is
that their members and followers support the dis-
cussion which would allow animal lovers who make up the hum-
mane movement could soon put a stop to disunity if
and contributions, those organizations which
indulge in name calling and other divisive
tactics, and the groups which stimulate con-
sider to disunity.

FLORIDA BULLFIGHTS
The First so-called bloodless bullfights
held in Florida under the new law were at
Okeechobee in March. The move into place
and, with representatives of local and other
societies, took the necessary steps to see that these "bullfights" was conducted without
violations of law.

There was no physical cruelty in the
first attempts at bloodless bullfights, but the
apparent absence of cruelty led to a feeling that some of those who remained the peace. Obviously, the promoters lost thousands of dollars. But the NAfIL renewed its attempt to obtain use of public facilities in the same place this past summer. The attempt

The "spectacle" was a draf, boring af-

considerably fewer than a thousand people attended. But the promoters, aware of the value of those who remained the peace. Obviously, the promoters lost thousands of dollars. But the NAfIL renewed its attempt to obtain use of public facilities in the same place this past summer. The attempt

What can you do about disunity?
First, do not be taken in by societies and humane leaders who
attack the motives of other societies or humanitarians. Distingui-
sh between constructive criticism, which is very
needed, and personal attacks.
Secondly, think objectively, not subjectively,
and, rationaIly, not emotionally. Remem-
ber, you are not the only one who has had disunity.
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that their members and followers support the dis-
cussion which would allow animal lovers who make up the hum-
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About Neutering Teddy
In response to the request contained in
our last Report, Emily received many more
letters than expected, telling about the
writers' experiences with neutered male
dogs and cats. (To several who inquired, Teddy
is a black and white toy Collie.) These
letters are so well written, and offer such
excellent evidence of the effects of neuter-
ing, that they are almost as con-
pelling as the experiences of other societies and humanitarians. This subject
was rather thoroughly examined in Report to Humanitarians No. 15 — December, 1970.

One reason that most humanitarians have
difficulty in comprehending the practical
problems of humane organizations is that our
programs is the fact that they have no politi-
cal or business experience, or any factual
knowledge of the economic, social, and public relations involved. To them, the
maneuvering of humane societies in trying to
afford them the kind of leadership which they
may appear labored and ineffective. They
visualize the problem as a simple matter of
direct action. Yesterday, for example, we received a
very nice letter from a well-meaning member, who urged us to keep up the pressure on Mrs. Nixon and get him to set up an administrative agency to
force the scientists to replace animals with tissue cultures and computers. "I
would tell him about this myself," she said,
"except that I don't have the money for travel.
"But I have written a letter to the White
House"!

Please understand. We are not making fun of
members' good intentions. We do so simply be-
cause something which to her seems the simple act of
calling something obviously desirable to the
attention of a public official is not as easy as
attending a hearing or writing letters. Many of the
innocuous proposals about "how to do it" which are made by plenty of
other people in the humane movement who
should know better are hardly less imprac-
ically. Even the most experienced member with more experience does not
immediately access to these suggestions,
to be denounced as "dumb plans for animal suffering or a tool of the
establishment."

The only possible solution to this source of
disunity is for the members of the humane
organizations to work together in order to
gather the demands for action for what they can
safeguard their cause. The members of many of the
organize in that they will have access to the newspapers or see on TV, which usually
feature animal problems involving relatively few animals and comparatively little total
animal suffering. To them, individual ani-
imals are more interesting than large catego-
ries. The writer of this weekly column is
encouraged to examine the questions of
what he considers the problem of priorities in all about more problems, but that does
not demand action on the least important
problems.

Members of humane societies tend to base
their demands for action on what they can
safeguard their cause. The writer of this weekly
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what he considers the problem of priorities in all about more problems, but that does
not demand action on the least important
problems.
EXCERPTS FROM A FEW OF THE MANY HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS FROM READERS

I have just finished reading your Report to Humanitarians and am very impressed with you expression of compassion and intelligence."--A humanitarian in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

"Your (Reports to Humanitarians) provide much needed information to people in the humane movement."--Official of an international humane society.

"I want to tell you that the HIS reports are most informative and worthwhile. When an article starts real 'thinking'--and your reports do just that--the time and effort spent in researching and writing is of benefit to both mankind and animals."--A professional writer.

"I have been a constant admirer of your publications, and, whenever I have mentioned this for instance recently in Washington, I have evoked enthusiastic agreement."--Foundation official.

"Almost daily, as I visit people, I continue to hear praise heaped on the Report."--Field representative of a national humane society.

"Your Report is tremendous. Thank you."--A California humanitarian.

"We appreciate the fine work that Humane Information Services is doing in all fields of animal welfare--in keeping us up to date and knowledgeable."--Official of a Canadian humane society.

"I miss you on the board but I feel that the work you are doing with the Humane Information Services, Inc., may well be more valuable to the humane movement."--Member of board of directors of a national humane society.

"Thank you very much for 'Report to Humanitarians'. I read every word and may I congratulate you on an extremely well written and very informative report."--Official of a humane society in India.

"It is gratifying to meet up with an Animal Society willing to tackle the big problems, a wish you success in every field--but it's going to be a battle!"--A South African humanitarian.

"I write you from Australia to say how much we appreciate your lucid reasoning, and the extreme lengths you go to explain your viewpoint and to set out the matter in discussion and the true animal lover--and so would help others. Your long article on the Fur trade is also--President of a humane society in Australia.

"Thank you very much for sending (Reports to Humanitarians). It is a most valuable document. It should be read by everyone."--Official of a British humane society.

"Your (Reports to Humanitarians) are the most refreshing things in humane literature I have seen in years! I thoroughly appreciate your objective and dispassionate treatment of the problems, especially in connection with our generation which pervade the issuance of many humane groups."--A New York State humanitarian.

"Your reports have been of great interest to me, and I congratulate you on your positive work."--Official of a world-wide humane organization.

"Another terrific issue."--A Massachusetts humanitarian.

"Your excellent Report to Humanitarians has just been received. Kindly accept our deep appreciation of the contents as well as the manner of presentation."--GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

"I have the greatest admiration for your work and especially for the Reports to Humanitarians. You provide a unique, highly intelligent and much-needed service."--Widow of a note pioneer in the humane movement.

"Yours is the most thorough, realistic and informative publication on humane information possible approaches to the problems I have come across."--Ohio humanitarian.

"Thank you very much for sending us your most interesting reports! They are put to good use in our society."--A South American humane society officer.

"Sitting in the office yesterday, I was trying to compose something like publicity on the surplus animals and exterminating the humane societies for not telling the truth. After opening home last night, I discovered you had said it all and then some."--Executive director a world-famous humane society.

Why haven't we followed our friend's well-meaned and sound advice? Well, it is because only one of our staff receives any monetary compensation, and that only sufficient to keep her from working very hard, every day. We have not had a day's vacation since we started operation. Our only regular and trained employee, Miss Teddy, will continue to enter your homes as if she were an animal. It was said that when Teddy arrived at the door, the animal would feel that they knew them, and can trust them to let them in.

That kind of confidence makes it possible to say some critical things in our Reports which are necessary to help the animals, but with which we hope your readers will be sympathetic and regard would be bestowed. We "tell it like it is," but receive remarkably few complaints or criticism. Elsewhere on this page are some excerpts from a few of your fine letters which make our days, and pep up when we feel tired or discouraged. We wouldn't give up this feeling of being part of a big family united in a common cause, for any amount of money. So Emily, Doc or Teddy will continue to enter your homes in the past, not wearing any bats or other pretenses.

However, we wish to assure any potential big contributors, and especially potential legators who may wish to remember us in their wills, that we are fully aware of the need for continuity, and for a staff large enough to carry on action programs in addition to our research and analyses covered in these Reports to Humanitarians. We are ab to give positive assurances of continuing fine work, and will do our utmost to further these objectives. We are not going to work at the present level of activity which we consider essential as long as we are in the world, and will continue to keep Humane Information Services honest and devoted only to the anneal of animal welfare.

So, you potential big contributors and legators, let's hear from you! Anything you receive will be used to carry on programs which are extremely urgent and potentially useful. Your money won't be frizzed ad away on inconsequentals, or in paying big salaries and expenses. Every penny will go for really helping the animals.