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Southeast Regional Office

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

SUMMER 1978

HSUS OPENS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTHEAST



Donald K. Coburn - Regional Director

On the first of March, 1978, The Humane Society of the United States established a regional office located in Orlando, Florida, to further the cause of animal welfare by its presence, influence, and action in the southeast.

Our purpose, with several programs, is to implement the primary and motivating concern of The HSUS: the prevention of suffering and cruelty to all animals.

The regional office will not only initiate programs directed toward the concerns of animals, but will respond to regional concerns from animal welfare organizations, as well as individuals.

The regional office is an extension of our Washington based headquarters. For this region that simply means, the resources and expertise of The HSUS' Staff is available through the regional programs for the benefit of our major concern . . . ANIMALS.

The HSUS is active in virtually every area of animal protection, fostering the humane ethic and philosophy through educational, legislative, investigative, and legal channels.

WORKSHOP

A two day ANIMAL CONTROL WORKSHOP for the Southeast Region will be held in Montgomery, Alabama, November 3 and 4.

Here is an opportunity for all humanitarians, who are actively involved in animal welfare, to receive professional information and to share your concerns with others.

A brochure and registration form will be mailed to your local society soon. OR, pre-register by writing to HSUS-Southeast Regional Office, 3165 McCrory Place, Suite 215, Orlando, Florida 32803.

Entire Workshop \$20. One Day \$10.

Put these important dates on your calendar NOW!!!

NOVEMBER 3 AND 4 . . . MONTGOMERY, AL.

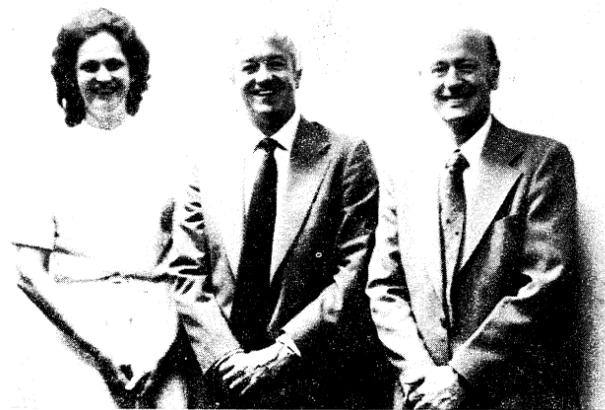
MEET THE STAFF

Ginnie Stripling is the Executive Secretary and manages the daily office affairs. Ginnie will receive your calls and direct your concerns to the proper area for response and answer. Often, as a matter of office policy, she will suggest a letter with pertinent information from you so we may effectively respond to your need. Ginnie's background and concern for the rights of animals has effectively prepared her for this position in The HSUS Regional Office.

Bernie Weller, is our Field Representative/Cruelty Investigator. Bernie has many years of experience in the animal welfare field. His time as a police officer and early association with local humane societies, and later as a California State Cruelty Officer, provided credentials necessary for his present position. The HSUS recently transferred Bernie from our Gulf States' Regional Office, where he served for six years in the same capacity, as he will in this region.

Don Coburn, Regional Director, is responsible for the management of the regional programs. Don's background, as a United Methodist Minister, supplies him with qualifications and skills that enhance his roles of public relations, membership association, group meetings, administration and the varied roles, for which this position is responsible.

The entire staff at the Southeast Regional Office has pledged themselves to the welfare of animals, and promoting the humane ethic and philosophy through our regional programs.



L to R: Ginnie Striplina, Don K. Coburn, Bernie Weller

Animal Rights & Human Ethic

Animal Rights and Human Ethics is the theme of The HSUS Annual Conference, to be held in Dearborn, Michigan, October 12, 13, 14, 15, 1978.

Register: (\$40.00)
HSUS Conference
2100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

HSUS RESPONDS TO PUERTO RICO

In June, a call came to the Southeast Regional Office asking if The HSUS could help the Ponce, Puerto Rico Humane Society. The city of Ponce contracts the animal control program to the humane society. The society's funds were depleted and communications with the city officials had deteriorated to the detriment of the program. Ponce first contacted the founder of the society, Dorothy Rodriguez, who is presently the executive for the Orlando Humane Society. She in turn



L to R: Dorothy Rodriguez — Executive Director of Orlando Humane Society, Bernie Weller — Field Representative HSUS Southeast, Barbara McKenzie — President of Ponce Humane Society, Sra. Tormos — 1st Lady of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

called our office for guidance. The story has a simple plot: a society needed assistance and The HSUS responded with concern and guidance. Bernie Weller, our Regional Field Representative, was requested to fly to the island to work directly with the Ponce Society in some needed training for shelter personnel.

Dorothy Rodriguez agreed to take a working vacation and accompany Mr. Weller to Puerto Rico to share in several meetings with board members, as well as the mayor, to solve the financial difficulties.

The city officials responded to The HSUS' concern and presence, and to Ms. Rodriguez's knowledge of the society's needs, with a positive action, restoring contracted money with an increase.

The response by The HSUS to the Ponce call for help is in keeping with the stated basic concern—TO RELIEVE AND PREVENT SUFFERING AND CRUELTY TO ANIMALS! When this is accomplished there is reward in the knowledge that the efforts expended did indeed bring that goal to realization.

COCKFIGHTING PROPOSAL KILLED

When The HSUS Southeast Regional Office received word, that Hillsborough County was considering an ordinance which would legally permit cockfighting, the regional director, Donald K. Coburn immediately wrote to all five county commissioners. In his letter he said: "... but believe that this is clearly an issue of cruelty that involves and affects sensate creatures. Since this is our view, we can not remain passive or silent; we are obligated by our concern to speak and act..." Following this letter Don Coburn, and Bernie Weller, Field Representative, testified against the cockfighting proposal in the Hillsborough County Courthouse in Tampa, Florida, on August 8th. The commissioners heard members of the El Faisan Dorado Club defend cockfighting as a sport as humane as any other now legal under a county ordinance.

When Director Coburn spoke, following a representative from the poultry industry and a veterinarian, he addressed the commissioners by saying: "Our approach will be different than the poultry representative or the veterinarian. We are primarily concerned with the cruelty perpetrated against the cocks..." "Bernie Weller related, from past experience, the terrible picture of cocks being motivated to fight until gravely or fatally wounded.

Mr. Robert Curry was the only commissioner who voted in favor of the proposal. At the beginning of the commissioners' meeting he presented several thousand names, whom he said favored the proposal.

Joy D. Volkman, of Tampa, Florida, who made the original phone call to our office to inform us of the time and place of the cockfight hearing, sent a letter following the hearing and said: "Thank you so much for your assistance in defeating the proposed cockfighting ordinance." One small victory does not win the war, but it's at least an excursion into enemy territory.

Your Concern Can Continue Through Your Will

Your concern can continue — through your will. Your love and concern can continue by a loving response . . . make a will and provide for animals in it. The HSUS will send you, without obligation, an informative booklet describing the best use of your animal welfare bequest. There is information outlining procedures on how to write your will.

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Recently I completed a class in supervision at a divinity school. This group of ministers at Boston University School of Theology, was interested in my decision to leave the pastorate and become a regional director for The HSUS. We discussed the decision process, the difference in careers, the similarities, and most of all, whether it was "right".

Later that same week a note from a young minister, in that Boston University Class, came to my desk. He began by writing:

"Thanks for sharing with us your decision to move and the feelings and concerns that are involved . . . I share your concern for our animals and think that our attitudes toward them and their environment have a lot to say about our own feelings about ourselves. I doubt that you will find that you have 'left' the service of the Creator."

Making decisions about one's role in life is often a matter of circumstances, or because a young person admires the role of an adult, or a matter of supporting a family, or because the family business is left, etc., etc. But, whatever our roles, we all want to do something that is important, meaningful, real.



What is the meaning of real? The dictionary defines real: "actual; true; not merely seeming, pretended, imagined . . ." Another part of the definition includes the words — essential, absolute, ultimate.

It is essential that our humanitarian efforts embrace the real. Our involvement in the welfare of animals must be authenticated by the understanding of what is real. Much that passes, in many

fields, for the genuine is really quite phoney. How many of us have recently purchased a car, or major appliance and found ourselves attempting to "sort out the real" from the fantasy.

We participate in the real when we care enough to become involved at a significant level. All of us need not believe exactly the same way, nor take the same approach; but when we care enough we will discover that love is the basic ingredient that creates the real.

ARE WE REAL?

One of my favorite stories, a so called children's story, was written by Margery Williams and is entitled, THE VELVETEEN RABBIT. One of the characters is the skin horse. "The Skin Horse had lived longer in the nursery than any of the others. He was so old that his brown coat was bald in patches and showed the seams underneath, and most of the hairs in his tail had been pulled out to string bead necklaces. He was wise, for he had seen a long succession of mechanical toys arrive to boast and swagger, and by-and-by break their mainsprings and pass away, and he knew that they were only toys, and would never turn into anything else. For nursery magic is very strange and wonderful, and only those playthings that are old and wise and experienced like the Skin Horse understand all about it.

'What is REAL?' asked the Rabbit one day . . .

'Real isn't how you are made,' said the Skin Horse. 'It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.'

'Does it hurt?' asked the Rabbit.

'Sometimes,' said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. 'When you are Real you don't mind being hurt.'

'Does it happen all at once, like being wound up,' he asked, 'or bit by bit?'

'It doesn't happen all at once,' said the Skin Horse. 'You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.'"

ONLY THE REAL SHALL SEE. . . AND ONLY LOVE IS REAL.

Donald K. Coburn

Your Gifts Will Work

Activities of The HSUS Regional Office is dependent on your support. With concerned response from the membership of the Southeast Region, The HSUS is enabled to work effectively. Your gifts assist in preventing animal cruelty and suffering and in the promotion of humane education.

WON'T YOU JOIN US?



BERNIE WELLER SAVES FRED TURTLE

Driving South on Route 41, through Bradenton, on our way to a meeting with county commissioners, a voice from the rear seat brought me to a controlled stop — "don't hit him!"

The Field Representative of The HSUS stepped quickly from the car and waved traffic to a halt. Threading his way between cars, Bernie deftly retrieved the street crosser from the congested road and placed him safely on a nearby lawn. Upon Bernie's return to the car, he was asked, "did he say thanks?" "No," responded Bernie, "but his name was Fred".

Fred is a turtle. Apparently Fred was not experienced in the ways of modern traffic patterns. He had not crossed at a light or cross walk, and his meandering style left him vulnerable to the ceaseless, careless machines of man. Even though Fred was well equipped for his own domain, he had almost made the fatal mistake of invading civilization. Had there not been a seeing eye and a sensitive hand, Fred's family would have experienced the loss of husband and father.

Fred's experience is all too often the experience of many of our animal friends. And without the concern and protection of a caring humanity, we can lose these friends, many who are irreplaceable.



The Humane Society of the United States is committed to the goal of ending animal cruelty and suffering. Your membership, and that of tens of thousands of other humanitarians, increases The Society's ability to stamp out cruelty through legal, legislative and educational avenues.

Why not give a membership in The HSUS as a gift to a friend or neighbor? We'll send a card to your friend acknowledging your gift. You can also give a memorial for a family member or dear friend. Write to The Society for a list of suggested memorials.

Much remains to be done in the fight to end cruelty to animals. The animals need your help. Won't you join us?

Send me more information about:

- Remembering The Society in my will HSUS Memorials The HSUS Charitable Gift Annuity

All requests for information are treated in the strictest confidence

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please one box:

- Voting Member—\$10 Sustaining Member—\$100
 Family Membership—\$18 Sponsor—\$500
 Donor—\$25 Patron—\$1000 or more
 Supporting Member—\$50 Contribution \$ _____
 Youth Member—\$4

HSUS members receive a quarterly magazine and special reports. Youth members receive a monthly KIND Club magazine and other benefits.

Mail to:

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Southeast Regional Office
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Orlando, Florida 32803

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