GLRO Spring 1990
Cargo of Missouri Puppies Confiscated

A bizarre string of events delayed a van full of puppies in Dayton, Ohio, long enough to allow the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and the Montgomery County Dog Warden's office time to step into the rescue. What could have been a normal day of routine pet-shop puppy deliveries turned out to be the beginning of a very important case illustrating the hidden cruelties of the pet industry.

The passenger van left central Missouri carrying more than 86 eight-week-old puppies to be delivered to pet shops in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois. Upon entering Dayton, the van had mechanical trouble and was taken to an automobile dealership for repairs. An alert and concerned employee noticed that the puppies were in very crowded and filthy conditions and called the Humane Society of Greater Dayton to report the problem.

The Humane Society of Greater Dayton enlisted the help of the Montgomery County Dog Warden’s office. Before either organization was ready to physically intervene, the van had been repaired and had delivered 15 puppies to the local Docktor Pet Center. But as luck would have it, the van broke down again and was returned to the dealership for more work. The driver then reportedly fell from the van while it was up on the hoist, broke his hip, and was taken to the hospital.

In the meantime, both agencies contacted the GLRO. Program Coordinator Robin Weirauch offered advice on the necessary procedures for rescue, including evidence collection in order to bring criminal charges against the drivers.

The owner of the puppies, a Missouri resident, continued on page 2

These two dachshund siblings, along with the 80 surviving eight-week-old puppies confiscated, were adopted into carefully screened homes.

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HSUS Promotes Sustainable Agriculture

Over the past six months, the GLRO has been addressing the issue of organic farming. At first glance, the connection between organic farming and animal protection may not seem clear. But they are interrelated on many levels.

Agriculture is this nation’s largest industry, and farm animals are a predominant factor in agribusiness. As long as society chooses to consume animals, The Humane Society of the United States is committed to making the conditions under which they are raised as humane as possible.

The GLRO has found farmers in the region who are also committed to the humane treatment of animals, to the use of less intensive systems of rearing livestock and poultry, and to farming without chemicals. These farmers have respect for the land and the crops they produce, for the health of the consumer, for the animals they raise, and for the wildlife that is part of the total ecosystem.

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**Hartz Mountain Pets Found in Dumpster**

Two gerbils, two guinea pigs, and a parakeet were found discarded in a garbage dumpster in Fort Wayne, Ind., and a representative of the Hartz Mountain Corporation has been charged with violating Indiana anti-cruelty law. This law states that any one who abandons or neglects an animal commits cruelty to an animal, a Class B misdemeanor that carries a possible penalty of $1,000 fine and imprisonment for not more than 180 days.

These five animals were returned to the Hartz Mountain representative by one store on his route because they were ill and/or injured. They were found alive inside five Hartz Mountain boxes later that day by a man who was looking for aluminum cans in a dumpster adjacent to the store that was the next stop on the Hartz Mountain route. The animals were taken to a veterinarian, who in turn contacted the Fort Wayne Department of Animal Control (FWAC), and the animals were identified as those that were returned to the Hartz Mountain representative.

One guinea pig died, but the rest of the animals are doing fine after receiving veterinary care, and they are being placed in foster homes. The GLRO provided a $1,000 fine and imprisonment for not more than 180 days.

**Puppies continued from page 1**

avid, was contacted and persuaded to release the puppies into the custody of the Humane Society of Greater Dayton. Within two days, many of the puppies began to exhibit health problems such as infection with parvovirus, distemper, and coccidia. Six were euthanatized after veterinarians tried to save their lives.

Weirbach traveled to Dayton at the request of the Humane Society of Greater Dayton a few days after the puppies arrived at the shelter. She spent the next two days meeting with the investigator from the sheriff's department, the prosecuting attorney, investigators from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and an AKC representative. Weirbach also participated in three television interviews discussing the pet industry as a whole and how the American consumer can help put an end to this type of exploitation of exotic animals.

The puppies originated from several breeders in Missouri. Weirbach obtained information from the Missouri Department of Agriculture indicating that when the van left central Missouri, it carried as many as 109 eight-week-old dogs of different breeds. Four to seven puppies were housed in each of the 15 cages in the van, 11 of which measured only 18” x 18” x 9” high. Ohio law prohibits the transport of animals in a “cruel or inhumane manner,” and this was the foundation of the criminal charge brought against the drivers of the van, Harold and Dorothy Latimer of Newark, Mo. Although there were additional violations regarding the age of the puppies and the lack of complete health records, these minor misdemeanors were dropped shortly before the trial began.

With the testimony of the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and the two deputy wardens from the Montgomery County Dog Wardens’ office who were first at the scene, the prosecutor successfully showed that the puppies were indeed inhumanely transported, and the court ordered the puppies to the custody of the Humane Society of Greater Dayton for immediate adoption. The sentencing of the Latimers is still pending.

Commenting on the case, Weirbach stated, “The Humane Society of Greater Dayton and the Montgomery County Dog Wardens’ Office should be proud of the results that their hard efforts produced. Caring for over 80 young and vulnerable puppies is no easy task, and neither is proving in court the cruel transportation of animals.” She continued, “This case could give others the incentive to take action against similar activities within the pet industry. The defense attorney called this case ‘a lot to do about nothing...simply dogs in cages.’ Fortunately, the judge did not agree.”

**Around the Region**

**INDIANA**—The former Indiana Federation of Humane Societies has disbanded, and the Animal Welfare Network of Indiana has recently been formed to fill the gap. The network has presented a strong, unified voice for humane treatment of animals to anyone who will listen. A few days after the puppies arrived at the shelter, the decision was turned over to the county prosecutor’s office, which in turn contacted the GLRO for more information. Based on the prosecutor’s recommendation, the proposal to release the dogs to the kennel was rejected.

**WEST VIRGINIA**—The Humane Society of Harrison County hosted a one-day seminar on humane society/animal control relations and euthanasia, which was well attended by representatives of six West Virginia counties. The Parkersburg Humane Society also hosted a one-day seminar on improving public relations. Several area counties were represented. The GLRO provided instruction for both seminars.

**Pests are used to encourage livestock to bolt out of the rodeo chute like wild, untamed animals.**

**Dogs from the Brown County animal shelter will not be released to a dog dealer for later sale for research because a concerned citizen contacted the GLRO for help.**

**Directors’ Comment**

by Sandy Rowland

When we think about all the animals that need protection, and all the causes of animal suffering, we can feel overwhelmed. It may seem that the problems are just too big and too many to solve and that we have no control over them. But we can make choices in our own lives that really can advance our progress and help animals.

For example, in this newsletter you’ll read about humane sustainable agriculture. By trying to find products raised by nonintensive livestock systems and organic farmers, you can encourage the humane treatment of farm animals and help save the planet. You can eat less meat and stop eating veal.

You can also contribute directly to solving the pet-overpopulation problem by having your pets spayed or neutered.

And there are other options you can make that help animals, choices that take little effort but can add up to a powerful force for change:

- Don’t buy tuna that is not labeled dolphin-safe. Dolphins are killed in the nets of tuna-fishing boats, but several seafood companies are responding to public demand for fish that is not caught in ways that harm dolphins.
- Buy cruelty-free, cosmetics, personal-care products, and household cleaners.
- Buy pet-care products from pet shops that don’t sell puppies and kittens—don’t support retailers who contribute to pet over-population and puppy mills.
- Don’t buy dogs and cats from pet stores—adopt from a shelter. And don’t buy exotic pets.
- Don’t buy fur, ivory, or exotic animal products.
- Don’t patronize entertainment events that exploit animals or animals in the wild.

The HSUS will be talking more about such choices for change in the coming year. The HSUS will be featured in a special section of New Age Journal’s July/August issue.

Remember, even a small change is better than no change at all.
“Animals...It’s Their World Too.” It will be held at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway in San Francisco. A preconference symposium will be held on October 24, updating animal-population control. Watch for registration information and program details in the summer issue of the HSUS News.

October 25–27—The 1990 Humane Society of the United States Annual Conference is in the final planning stages, but it’s not too early to mark the date on your calendar and start making plans to join us in San Francisco, California.

This year’s conference carries the theme “Be a P.A.L.”—“Prevent A Litter”—campaign marks its third year, the U.S. Congress officially recognized April 1990 as “National Prevent A Litter Month.” In addition, the Michigan State House and Senate both passed resolutions supporting Congressional recognition and commemorating the “Prevent A Litter Month” in Michigan.

State Rep. Jerry C. Bartnik notified Sandy Rowland of the resolutions, saying, “We hope that by passing these resolutions, we have contributed to the efforts of The Humane Society to educate the public about the problems caused by pet overpopulation and the ways in which responsible pet owners can help curb their detrimental effects—namely by spaying and neutering their pets so that unwanted pet pregnancies do not occur.”

Such official recognition is just one more step in extending the “Prevent A Litter” message into every community. This year, The HSUS also focused its message on the theme of individual responsibility and how each of us can help solve the problem by simply preventing a litter and neutering our pets.

Promotional items and campaign kits are available from The HSUS. Write for more information.

The Regional Report is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Great Lakes Regional Office 745 Haskins Street Bowling Green, Ohio 43402-1696 (419) 352-5141 Sandy Rowland, Director

The office is open 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday, and is closed on federal holidays.

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West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of The HSUS’s registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

REWARD, REWARD, REWARD

The HSUS offers the following rewards of

- up to $2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any wholesale dealer in dogs and cats who knowingly buys or otherwise procures any stolen animal;
- up to $2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who organizes dogfights, fights dogs, promotes dogfighting, or officiates at dogfights;
- up to $2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who organizes cockfights, fights cocks, promotes cockfighting, or officiates at cockfights;
- up to $1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who willfully poisons or attempts to poison a dog or cat.

If you have any information regarding any of these atrocities, please feel free to call the GLRO in complete confidence at (419) 352-5141 between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.