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Guadalupe County Fair

Cruel 'Coon Games Called Off

After more than a year of investigation and state-wide publicity, officials of the Guadalupe County Fair did not hold the usual round of raccoon games this past fall at the annual exposition.

In the past these games have included treeing of raccoons, "coon in a hole," "coon in a log," and "coon in a barrel." In a statement filed with Guadalupe County Attorney Elizabeth Jandt in October, 1976 Bernie Weller, field representative for the Gulf States Office, HSUS, said these games were inhumane and cruel. Saying she did not believe there was enough evidence to justify it Jandt refused to act on the complaint. She maintained that the Texas State Law prohibiting cruelty to a "wild, living creature previously captured," had not been violated.

HSUS Gulf States Director Scott and HSUS Board Member Dr. Amy Freeman Lee brought the cruel "coon games" to the attention of U.S. Attorney John Pinckney. The matter was placed in the hands of the Justice Department's Civil Right Division.

Scott called the 'coon dog trials flagrant violations of the Texas statutes (section 42.11 of the penal code) which outlaws animal cruelty and makes violation of the statute a Class A misdemeanor.

Many of Field Representative Weller's accusations were verified by a former judge of the 'coon dog trials. He told how that in 'coon sacking contests 'coons fall as far as 40 feet after being shaken from treetops.

In the treeing portion of the 'coon trials a dog barks, snaps and bites at a raccoon that is placed in a small, wire cage, causing the raccoon to huddle fearfully in the corner. Then the cage is raised 6 to 8 feet in a tree and the dog is timed as he runs to the tree, jumps and barks at the raccoon.

In her statement refusing the complaint, County Atty. Jandt said "I have no intention of taking a complaint against the fair association. If I accept this complaint then I'd have to file on the rodeo, the Lions Club for their turtle races, and who knows what else."

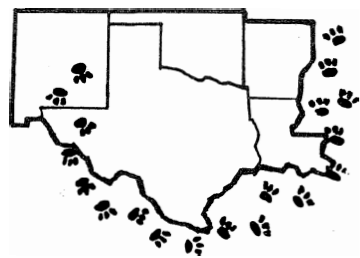
The Board of Directors of the Guadalupe County Fair were reluctant to call off the events. However,

(Continued on back page)



A raccoon is used as a live lure in a small, wire cage (above) and then is hoisted swiftly up in the tree as the 'coon dog snarls and barks angrily trying to reach him (below).





Regional Round-up

EDITOR'S NOTE: This special column is devoted to the many local animal welfare organizations and humane societies within the five state area of the Gulf States Region. It will feature news about new shelters, fund raising events, city ordinances, awards and many other vital activities carried out by local organizations. By sharing ideas in this publication HSUS hopes to be of further service to humane groups within the region. Send items you feel will be of interest to others to the Gulf States Regional Office.

THE HUMANE EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS has marked the opening of its new shelter at 2050 Spindletop Road in Beaumont, Texas. The air conditioned 7,135 square-foot facility contains an auditorium, cat and kitten room, puppy room and kennel room with 32 large runs which will hold up to 128 dogs. It also has a kitchen, several storerooms, an euthanasia room, a clinic area with \$5000 in equipment and a temporary holding room containing a bathtub and dryer.

According to Lois Hicks, council president, operating funds will be raised through the sale of plots in the pet cemetery, kennel boarding fees, pet supplies and adoption fees. The facility serves a three-county area.

THE TEXAS HUMANE INFORMATION NETWORK, held its organizational meeting in Dallas in January. This is an informal organization of concerned individuals who want to communicate with one another about humane legislation and education. They will work together in promoting these



Douglas Scott (right), HSUS Gulf States Regional Office director, presents a trophy to James Prince, the winner in his section at the Emmeline Carpenter School, in the Humane Society of Nacogdoches County's "Caring" Essay Contest held in November of last year.

causes. Humanitarians who gathered from around the state for this meeting elected the following officers: Martha Cox-Dallas, president; Dorothy Parham-San Antonio, vice president; Patt Davis-Garland, acting secretary; and Nancy Hickman-Lubbock, treasurer.

THIN will be holding quarterly meetings in the future. The next one is scheduled for April 22-23 in San Antonio. At that time an approach will be formulated for introducing animal welfare legislation into the next session of the Texas legislature. For more information about those eligible to join contact Martha Cox, 4200 Abbott, Dallas, Tx 75205, (214) 528-4935.

THE GARLAND HUMANE SOCIETY has received \$55,000 of federal revenue sharing funds from the city of Garland. These funds are to be used toward the construction and operation of their humane shelter, office and education center. In October 1976 the society received \$20,000 and again in October of this past year was awarded an additional \$35,000.

PAAL Workshop Held



The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE) held one in a series of workshops entitled People, Animals, Attitudes and Life (PAAL) recently in San Antonio.

The three-day program was designed for teachers, school administrators, church leaders, members of humane groups and other interested persons. Its purpose was to help these persons in assisting students develop a greater respect for life through animal-related classroom and outdoor activities.

Workshop topics were comprised of nature investigation activities which included a lecture about the story of animals in the growth of America. John Dommers, director of NAAHE, and Charles Herrmann, director of educational media for HSUS were on hand to conduct the workshop. It was co-sponsored by the Gulf States Regional Office of HSUS and Man and Beast, Inc. of San Antonio.

Groups interested in co-sponsoring a PAAL workshop in their community should contact the Gulf States Regional Office.

Director's Desk

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sible. I usually do so by suggesting that such people consult two neutral organizations whose business it is to evaluate charitable and philanthropic groups. They are the National Information Bureau, Inc. and the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc. Both provide informative and probing brochures about what one should look for in an organization to which he or she may give funds.



Both outline strict standards that must be followed in order for organizations to receive their approval. These include that such organizations should disclose current information about activities, issue on request an externally audited financial statement, maintain reasonable management efficiency, cooperate with other related agencies, practice ethical and truthful methods of promotion and publicity and maintain an active and responsible governing body.

HSUS is the only humane organization accredited by both the National Information Bureau and the Council of Better Business Bureaus as meeting all their standards. Seeking accreditation from either of these strict organizations is, to some extent, indication of an institution's seriousness of purpose, but to be fully endorsed by both is indeed a sign of dedication to purpose and outstanding accomplishment.

In a day when much information is needed to make wise decisions about how one should make charitable gifts, I can only suggest that concerned givers obtain copies of these organizations' brochures and judge for themselves. If you are interested, write to the National Information Bureau, Inc., 419 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10016, and the Philanthropic Advisory Service, Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc., 1150 Seventeenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. After all, informed giving is wise giving.

Douglas M. Scott

Remember Animals In Your Will

There's only one way to make sure you can help animals after you're gone...make a Will and provide for them in it. HSUS will send you an informative booklet without obligation about how to make the best of your animal welfare bequest. It outlines procedures on how to write your Will.

Write in complete confidence to:
Douglas M. Scott, Director, HSUS, Gulf States Regional Office, P.O. Box 6375, Corpus Christi, Texas 78411.

PAWS Formed

After a three-part series on the pet overpopulation tragedy in Corpus Christi concern rose to a new level in this South Texas city, which is the home of the Gulf States Regional Office of HSUS. The story was written by investigative reporter Roy Appleton of the CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER.

Cissi Sweeney, one citizen who helped expose the conditions detailed in the newspaper, contacted a number of friends, and they began to formulate a plan of action to improve conditions in their city.

PAWS (Peoples Animal Welfare Society) was formed to serve as a "watchdog" group, merging with the already existing Gulf Coast Humane Society. Mrs. Sweeney serves as president of the merged group. As one society they presented a proposal to city officials, and were instrumental in getting a \$275,000 bond issue passed that is devoted to remodeling the existing shelter and improving operations.

Doug Scott, director of the HSUS office, and Bernard Weller, field representative, were instrumental in advising the group about needed improvements and now serve as advisors to the board of directors of the merged societies.

'Coon Games (continued)



A live raccoon is tied in the back of the "hole" and a panel is removed briefly allowing the dog to get a glimpse of the 'coon as he tries violently to reach the wild animal. On some occasions dogs have reached and injured the animals before owners could restrain them.

informed sources cited the adverse publicity from San Antonio television stations and newspapers in the area as influential in their decision not to hold the trials at last year's fair.

The board allegedly admitted they do not want Amy Freeman Lee, Bernie Weller and HSUS in general back to "harass" them again.

Efforts to keep this event from being reinstated at the fair are still being pursued by HSUS.

e state for this meeting elected the following of rs: Martha Cox-Dallas, president; Dorothy Parm-San Antonio, vice president; Patt Davis-Gard, acting secretary; and Nancy Hickman-Lubbock asurer.

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**1978 HSUS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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Make plans now to attend.**

A Humane Gift

Don't forget that memberships in HSUS for adults and KIND for children make excellent gifts. Not only will members receive magazines and special reports, but you may be opening the door to new attitudes and values for your friends and associates. Of course your gift as a donation helps stop animal suffering and promote humane education, also.

If you want to remember a friend, relative, animal control officer, your veterinarian, newspaper editor or others, remember HSUS. Send your gift memberships to the Gulf States Regional Office.

Voting Member	\$10	Sustaining Member . . .	\$100
Family Membership	18	Sponsor	500
Donor	25	Patron	1000
Supporting Member	50	Kind Youth Member	3
			(through age 18)

Gifts to HSUS are fully tax deductible.

The Report is published by the Gulf States Regional Office of HSUS, 5333 Everhart Rd., Bldg. A, Suite 209, or P. O. Box 6375 Corpus Christi, TX. 78411 (512) 854-3142.

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