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# GLRO Summer 1973

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# News of the Great Lakes Region

## Pleas for Trap Ban Ignored in Indiana

The Humane Society of the United States recently joined several Indiana organizations in urging an Indiana Senate committee to approve legislation that would ban the steel jaw trap in that state.

The bill was killed by rural legislators sitting on the agriculture subcommittee of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Guy R. Hodge, HSUS's director of legislation, the only representative of a national organization to testify in behalf of the bill, said the steel jaw trap causes intense pain and agony to all animals caught in them.

"As painful as the steel jaw (or leghold) trap is in its clamping and holding action," he said, "its greatest cruelty lies in the fact that the trapped animal is held fast for hours, and perhaps even several days, before being killed or released."

Hodge pointed out that the trap is not selective. It will catch a non-target animal, including dogs and cats, as easily as target animals, he said.

HSUS Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., said he is determined to help concerned legislators revive and pass the bill next year.



These animals are among hundreds that are being neglected at the expense of commercialism at roadside zoos in the Great Lakes Region. HSUS regional investigator Joe Gray, who took these photographs, is warning operators of such exhibits that they are violating federal laws, as a first step toward cracking down on them.

## Roadside Zoos Fail to Educate

While traveling through western Ohio a few weeks ago, HSUS Great Lakes investigator Joe Gray spotted a roadside zoo featuring the buffalo and the fox pictured below. Although the exhibition was closed and padlocked, it was obvious that neither the public nor the animals were benefitting from having wild animals fenced or caged in such small, unnatural quarters.

Roadside zoos such as this one are found in almost every region of the nation. In most cases, the animals are merely gimmicks for luring tourists into souvenir shops or gas stations.

HSUS believes that the primary justification for keeping a wild animal in captivity must be either education of man about the traits and habits of animals or the propagation of species that are failing to reproduce adequately in the wild.

It is obvious that the zoo that Gray observed isn't intended to fulfill the latter purpose, and the lack of anything that simulates the animals' natural habitats precludes the first purpose.

Many roadside zoos have even worse conditions than these. In some cases, the conditions amount to nothing less than torture chambers, where animals are confined to cages too small for exercise, where water bowls are habitually dry, and where animal waste accumulates until it be-

comes a health hazard to animals and men alike.

Until recently, HSUS and local humane groups had only two avenues of action for getting these exhibitions closed or drastically improved: (a) arresting the owner on an anti-cruelty charge, or (b) arousing enough public concern for the animals to pressure the exhibitor into making changes. Neither course has been very satisfactory.

But the standards now in effect for implementing the Animal Welfare Act of 1970 provide a much more direct path toward obtaining change. These standards set forth requirements for all animal exhibits open to the public that few roadside operations can meet.

Among the requirements are these:

- A staff trained in animal husbandry.

- Sufficient space to permit the animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.

- Veterinary consultation on preventive medical care, nutrition, and pest control, from a licensed veterinarian.

## Newspaper Praises HSUS Area Work

HSUS's prosecution of an Indiana man for neglecting 70 to 80 ponies (see page 3 of this issue) prompted the editor of the Fort Wayne (Ind.) *Journal-Gazette* to write an editorial praising the work of the HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office. Excerpts of it are printed below:

**The story of the pony herd in Whitley County was a bizarre tale of animal cruelty and neglect. The story, however, did more than jar people's consciences. It also brought public focus on an organization that has been working steadily, without fanfare, to advance the humane movement in this section of the country for more than a year—The Humane Society of the United States. The Society opened its Great Lakes Regional Office at 92 South Harrison St. in October, 1971.**

Since then Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr. has traveled throughout Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio, giving assistance and advice to local humane societies and investigating cases of major cruelty where no local societies exist. Four black bears were moved from cramped quarters in the Terre Haute municipal park to a drive-through zoo in New Jersey; the East Chicago, Ind., Dog Pound was closed down, and major improvements were initiated; Chicago's McCormick Place Exposition Center agreed to turn off its giant floodlights from midnight to dawn during the bird migration season.

Only last fall society officials were instrumental in eliminating "sored" entries in the Fort Wayne Charity Horse Show. "Soring," prohibited by the Horse Protection Act of 1970, involves the use of blistering agents, chains, tacks, or other inhumane devices to affect a horse's gait.

There was a limit to what a one-man office could accomplish, though, so the arrival of Field Investigator Joe Gray recently marked a turning point in the society's regional work. Gray's presence made examination of the Whitley County case possible, for instance.

The protection and humane treatment of animals has been the mark

## Inman, Illinois Official Discuss State Laws

HSUS Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., met recently with the official in charge of enforcing Illinois animal welfare laws and concluded he is conscientious about his responsibilities.

The official is David Bromwell, D.V.M., staff veterinarian, Div. of Plant and Animal Health Inspection, Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, in Springfield.

"I am convinced Dr. Bromwell will do all in his power to enforce the anti-cruelty laws of Illinois," Inman said following the meeting.

Inman reported that Dr. Bromwell said he was particularly concerned about abuses in "puppy mills," the mass breeding kennels that supply pet shops, and the laxity with which the American Kennel Club registers dogs.

Inman was accompanied by Guy R. Hodge, director of information and legislation for HSUS, based in The Humane Society's Washington, D. C., headquarters.

### Adviser Appointed

Mrs. Clem Henrie, of the Elkhart County (Ind.) Humane Society, has been appointed to the advisory board of the HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office.

The board meets quarterly to advise the regional director on programming and priorities.

**of a civilized society. Making sure this nation measures up has been the constant goal of The Humane Society of the United States. Its presence is welcome in the Great Lakes Region.**

## HSUS Protests Plan For Pigeon Shoot

The HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office has protested the plans by a gun club in McCordsville, Ind., to hold a semi-annual live pigeon shoot with an estimated 2,500 birds.

The Kingen Gun Club has resisted all past attempts by humanitarians to stop the event. Pigeons are not protected by either state or federal law.

HSUS Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., protested in a letter to the gun club that activities such as pigeon shoots cheapen the value of all forms of lifes.

"In this day and age, when violence seems to be the rule rather than the exception, and when law and order is needed more than ever, it is unfortunate that the Kingen Gun Club would sponsor such an activity," Inman said.

Inman urged the gun club to use the paper target recommended by the National Rifle Assn. instead of pigeons.

In a protest from the Indianapolis Humane Society, Executive Director Bernard B. Beck told officials of the club: "We are trying our best to instill in the minds and hearts of our children a deep, abiding respect for all living things. We call it Reverence for Life. Your callous sacrificing of thousands of harmless creatures for amusement negates all our efforts to make our young people sensitive to the Humane Ethic."

Inman learned that the pigeons are trapped in Indianapolis, where they are found in large quantities.

HSUS urges its members and supporters to write their protests to Mr. Dennis Kingen, Kingen Gun Club, Route 1, McCordsville, Ind. 46055.

HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office

927 S. Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support continuing programs to combat cruelty in the Great Lakes Region.

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