Regional Workshop in Cherry Hill

For two days in April, humane movement workers were virtually “pounded with ideas,” as HSUS Vice President Phyllis Wright put it, at a regional workshop co-sponsored by HSUS’s Mid Atlantic Regional Office and the Animal Welfare Association, Inc.

The workshop, “Solving Animal Problems in Your Community,” held April 15-16 at the Holiday Inn in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, gave 48 hours of intensely focused attention to, and immersion in, the problems and issues of most concern to humane society leaders, animal control agents, municipal officers, shelter workers, educators, and humane workers in general.

The workshop enjoyed the highest attendance of any HSUS regional meeting in recent years.

Highlights of the conference included a keynote speech by HSUS President John Hoyt and a talk Friday evening by Dr. Michael Fox, director of HSUS’s Institute for the Study of Animal Problems and well-known author and speaker on animal issues.

Fox took the everyday concerns of the humane movement and raised them to a spiritual level, reflecting on the delicate balance between man and animals in the ecosystem. He emphasized our mutual interdependence and man’s responsibility to animals for their welfare, as well as the need to enlighten those who do not yet recognize this special relationship and responsibility.

In a speech opening the two-day workshop, Hoyt addressed the political fortunes of the humane movement and the critical crossroads at which the movement has arrived.

The clubbing of baby harp seals, confinement rearing of food animals, excess of unwanted cats and dogs, indiscriminate breeding and sale of domestic pets, and the disregard of animal welfare by the U.S. Department of the Interior were issues confronting the movement that Hoyt pinpointed and discussed.

Among them, he said, “no single issue has so thoroughly dominated the animal welfare scene in recent history as has the laboratory animal issue this past year.” That issue, Hoyt said, has also provided an opportunity for “a coming together of animal welfare groups.” Calling this unity “a bit tentative,” Hoyt stated: “For though we may espouse the same ultimate goals, our strategies and tactics for achieving those goals often vary widely and yet, in spite of this natural and healthy caution, a new awakening is taking place within the animal welfare movement and new ventures are being dared.”

“What is needed,” Hoyt said, “and what will ultimately succeed, is a momentous outpouring of personal conviction in such numbers that animal welfare people, and not just their organizations, will constitute a major political and social force....The ultimate success of the crusade on behalf of animals is finally dependent upon you...believing in the rightness of our cause and bearing witness to that belief in our personal

(Continued on next page)
New Jersey Begins Two Spay/Neuter Programs

On May 3, 1983, Governor Thomas Kean signed into law a bill to allow spay/neuter clinics to be set up in New Jersey. Under the bill (A1917, sponsored by Assemblyman Dean Gallo), the pet of an economically disadvantaged owner will be altered for $10 or approximately $15. The money from this program will be paid for, in part, by charging the people who contribute to the pet overpopulation problem—those with unaltered animals—an additional $3 when purchasing or renewing their dog licenses.

This program, the first of its kind in the United States, will use the existing facilities of 135 veterinarians through the state, thus offering local service to participants. Fees were set at 80% to accommodate those people eligible for the program (about 15% of the state population). At optimum level, more than 21,000 animals will be spayed or neutered annually under the program. A1917 has been supported by most of the major animal welfare groups in New Jersey, including The HSUS. Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Nina Austenberg was on the committee that developed this bill simply to help people get spay/neuter services. Also included in law recently was S1101, which provides for a pilot spay/neuter clinic. Details are being worked out by the State Department of Health.

Federal issues breaking on Capitol Hill—real, endangered species—and state issues at the state level trap, pets in housing—are only part of the daily routine at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. Then last week a call came from a woman worried about live lobsters on the local supermarket. We share from our files on October 14, 1982 New York Times article entitled "Lobster’s Luck":

"Lobster’s Luck"

**What guest is more welcome and worse treated, at dinner, than the lowly lobster, whose armor conceals such delectable flesh? The creature is boiled alive and crudely dismembered, its remains forming a sad junk¬pail.**

Marine biologists at Woods Hole, Mass., have begun poking into lobsters only to find that lobsters can live to 40, mate lovingly, take care of their kids and like to stroll about to stay in touch with each other, a marveling researcher speculated.

Each and every lobster has millions of tiny hairlike sensors (that send intricate messages to some strange nervous system in nearby pail. That’s why the sensitive, gregarious lobsters so often wind up in primitive traps; they fall too easily for the bait.

Ponder that the next time you spear a boiled red claw. As creatures finny or feathered become more en¬dearing, they become less edible; we dine on strang¬ers, not acquaintances.

Back in 1975 in Westport, Conn., a fish market sold a venerable lobster weighing 26 pounds; some clues to finding the "lobster’s life". We have a newspaper story followed by a collection, and a luck poster was solemnly returned to the sea.

There is no area too great for us to strive to change, and never a concern too small. "He liveth best who loveth all things great and small."—Coleridge

Legislative News in New York

- A1051 has been signed into law allowing a nursing home to have a resident dog or cat.
- Thanks to heavy lobbying pressure from animal welfare groups, the bill to allow mourning doves to be hunted has been defeated.
- The “hunter harassment” bill, if passed, will prohibit human workers from using various methods to scare deer away from hunters. The bill is being held in committee presently.
- S2888 and A3626 prohibit animal fighting and fine anyone guilty of staging such fighting up to $25,000 and/or up to one year in prison. Both bills are being held in Committee and need your support!

Reflect for a moment...

- how can I help animals even when I no longer share their world...
- By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States. You can provide for animals after you’re gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and helps us do this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material which will assist in planning a will.

Please send: postcard information
Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City ____________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Mail this card to: [Redacted]

Statewide Standards for ACOs

The first animal control officers’ (ACO) training course ever offered in New Jersey was held recently at Kean Col¬lege in Union.

The two-week course was developed from a study by a committee of animal control workers (including Mid¬Atlantic Regional Director Nina Austenberg) responding to the increasing awareness of the high hidden cost of animal control in New Jersey.

The animal control officers are often injured and livestock damage are but a few of the problems associated with poor animal control. The capture, holding and euthanization of stray dogs and cats and the disposal of those animals’ carcasses and like to stroll about to stay in touch with each other, a marveling researcher speculated.

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A Decade of Death at the Great Swamp

December 1983 will mark the tenth year that the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Gillette, New Jersey will be open for public sports hunting.

As in the past, the Mid-Atlantic Region will participate with other animal welfare groups as observers of the hunt and in an organized protest.

The purpose of our continued presence at the Swamp hunt is threefold:

FIRST, HSUS observers represent that portion of the general public who object to sports hunting on a refuge.

SECOND, Continually publicizing opposition to the hunt will help reverse official approval of refuge sports hunting.

THIRD, It will provide first-hand information for the public on the conduct of the hunt.

We will continue to make the public aware of the outrageous conduct of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the N.J. Division of Fish and Game (which aids the hunt) through litigation, protest, and a constant hunt vigil. With your help, we will prevail.

More information will follow shortly. Please send your tax-deductible contribution NOW to The Humane Society of the United States, marked “Great Swamp.” Thank you for your continued support.

New York State Workshop to Be Held in September

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting of the New York State Humane Association to be held September 23 and 24 at the Tapaneze Townhouse in Nyack, New York. Dr. Michael Fox and Phyllis Wright will be among the guest speakers. Topics will include humane law enforcement, public relations strategy, humane education and legislation. Interested members should contact Barbara LaBuda, Director, New York State Humane Association, R.D. #1, Box 234, Stone Ridge, New York 12484 or call (914) 687-9996 or (914) 687-0797.