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Ohio Group Seeks Trap Ban

Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman Jr. is working with a group of Ohio humanitarians determined to get the steel jaw trap banned in their state.

The group, named the Ohio Committee for Humane Trapping (OCHT), was formed to educate the public about the need to pass Ohio House bill 685, a proposal to ban the steel jaw (or leghold) trap.

The group is co-chaired by Mrs. Dean Rowland of Bowling Green, a representative of Fund for Animals, and Col. Rodney L. Cron of Rockbridge, a member of the Hocking County Humane Society.

Rep. Pete Crossland (D-Akron), who introduced the bill, also met with OCHT to discuss the future of the proposal.

Trapping is big business in Ohio. The Ohio Wildlife Div. estimates that more than 20,000 trappers sold 839,000 pelts during the 1972-73 trapping season, earning $3.3 million, $1 million more than the previous season. Sixty-three percent of the pelts sold by Ohio trappers were muskrat. Another 30% were raccoon, opossum, gray fox, red fox, mink, beaver, skunk, weasel, and badger.

Although profits from trapping are large, most trappers insist that they trap largely for the “sport” of it. Many of Ohio’s trappers are teenage boys who set a dozen or so traps to earn winter spending money.

HSUS is totally opposed to use of the steel jaw trap in any situation. “The steel jaw trap is one of the cruelest devices invented by man,” reads the HSUS Special Report on Trapping, still available from the HSUS regional office.

“When triggered by an animal’s weight, the heavy steel jaws spring shut over a paw or a leg with such force that bones are sometimes broken,” the report states. “Some leghold traps contain sharp steel teeth that pierce all the way through flesh and muscles.”

A year ago, the Ohio Wildlife Council ruled that trappers must check their traps. (Continued on page 4)
From the Director's Desk

Our Work Expands

By John W. Inman, Jr., Director

HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office

The Great Lakes Regional Office has been playing an increasingly important role in the aiding, organizing, and educating of humanitarians in the tri-state area. With the recent addition of Michigan to the region, our task becomes an even more vital one.

It is, therefore, essential that I spend a lot of time on the road, visiting local humane societies, meeting with veterinarians, and maintaining contact with city, county, and state government officials. To be more exact, my records show that in the 2½ years since the region was formed, the regional staff has visited 312 local humane societies, 16 municipal and state government officials, and made presentations before 17 animal welfare organizations.

Although I have attended several meetings of the Michigan Federation of Humane Societies, it is only recently that I have begun to make visits to local organizations in the state. Last December I addressed a meeting of the Saginaw County Humane Society and met with some of the county commissioners. In January I addressed the annual meeting of the Shiawassee County Humane Society at Owosso.

In February I consulted with the Kent County commissioners, the Michigan Veterinary Medical Assn., and the Kent County Humane Society, all of which are located in Grand Rapids. During the March meeting of the Michigan federation, I participated in a panel discussion on animal welfare legislation, along with Dr. Charles H. Cole, chief assistant veterinarian of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and Dr. T. ruomi, of the Illinois Humane Society.

I have also been pleased with the response to our first quadrant meetings. People are finding out that they can learn a lot from fellow humanitarians. While discussing abuses to Tennessee walking horses during the Southeastern Ohio meeting, for instance, it became apparent that many humanitarians know very little about horses. As a result of the discussion, Mike Buckles and Nancy Wildermuth of the Hocking County Humane Society at Logan and Barbara Hunzicker of the Fairfield Humane Society at Cincinnati, Ohio, formed a local humane organization.

At the second meeting, held in Peoria in January, it was suggested to the Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., that a model ordinance be adopted by the Will County Humane Society in Joliet. A nominating committee will be chaired by the organization's president and a member of the board of directors of the Peoria Humane Society.

The new law would also permit local humane societies to nominate investigators who would then be trained, examined, certified, and licensed by the Dept. of Agriculture.

A by-laws committee was appointed, to be chaired by Stuart Kroesch, chairman of the board of directors of the Will County Humane Society in Joliet. A nominating committee will be chaired by the society's president and a member of the board of directors of the Peoria Humane Society.

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For the Director's Desk

Societies in Illinois

Revive Federation

Representatives from Illinois humane societies have taken steps to revive the state Federation of Humane Societies at organizational meetings held since the first of the year.

Humanitarians from throughout the state agreed that a unified approach to animal welfare legislation and humane education programs would be advantageous. At the first meeting, held in Springfield, David A. Bromwell, D.V.M., staff veterinarian for the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, discussed the new Illinois Care for Animals Act, the first effective law state in the nation for licensing pet shops. Under the direction of Dr. Bromwell, the state has cracked down on pet shops that have relied on fraudulent or unsatisfactory methods to sell animals.

The alliance’s first major project is the establishment of a fund to provide financial assistance to owners who cannot afford medical care for their pets. Included in the fund will be money for sterilization services.

Dr. David E. Thoma, D.V.M., immediate past president of the Fort Wayne Veterinary Medical Assn. and executive director of the alliance, estimated that only 25% of the owned pets in Fort Wayne ever see a veterinarian.

Dr. Thoma and Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., were instrumental in the formation of the alliance. Inman is also serving as a contributing editor to the Illinois Federation’s newsletter.

One of the alliance’s goals is to develop an animal welfare education program in cooperation with public schools to make children aware of the problems of the surplus pet population and their responsibilities to animals.

The alliance hopes will not interfere with specific programs of member organizations, but will serve as a coordinating influence for the present operating programs.

The member groups include:

- Allen County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Fort Wayne Cat Fanatics
- Fort Wayne Zoological Society
- Fort Wayne Veterinary Medical Assn.
- Fort Wayne Humane Society
- Fort Wayne Obedience Club
- Northeastern Indiana Kennel Club.

Animal Alliance Works

To Stem Pet Population

A Fort Wayne, Ind., coalition has undertaken a unique approach toward stemming the community’s expanding pet population.

The Alliance for Animals, Inc., was formed by representatives of seven animal-oriented organizations for the sole purpose of reducing the city’s cat and dog population to manageable size.

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The proposed revision of the Hammond, Ind., animal control ordinance has been incorporated into a proposed revision of the animal control ordinance.

The model ordinance has been implemented in several communities throughout the nation. It has been incorporated into a proposed revision of the Hammond, Ind., animal control ordinance.

Under the leadership of Executive Vice President Marie Melsh, the Hammond Animal Control Office has been instrumental in the adoption of the model ordinance. The office has succeeded in the adoption of the model ordinance. The office has signed agreements with local humane societies and government officials interested in improving any aspect of its animal control program.

The office is located at 927 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46802 (219-743-6422).

Two Ohio Societies

Improve Shelters

The Great Lakes regional director has assisted two Ohio humane societies in improving and organizing their animal shelters during the past year.

Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., has been working with the Meigs County Humane Society in Pomeroy to improve the county dog pound, which Inman found badly in need of repair. He urged the society to seek assistance from the county government in order to meet HSUS standards.

Inman met with the county pound, located on the county fairgrounds, “has the potential of becoming a good animal shelter,” Inman said.

Early this year Inman met with the Gallia County Humane Society at Point Pleasant, Ohio, to assist in the reorganization of that society.

Young societies are so ambitious that they tend to take on more than they can handle," he said. "HSUS is eager to help societies set realistic goals and efficient means of obtaining them."

The group, with Inman’s assistance, formed by-laws and nominating committees to improve organizational structure.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS—These officers of the recently organized Ft. Wayne, Ind., Alliance for Animals introduce themselves at one of their meetings. Pictured from left to right are: Daniel D. Rodgers, D.V.M., president, with Chip, a chimpanzee; Earl B. Wells, vice president, director of the Franke Park Children’s Zoo with Julie, an Italian greyhound, and Petunya, a dink; and Dr. E. Thoma, D.V.M., executive director, with Obiatal, a cat.

The Gallia and Meigs county humane societies have taken steps to revive the Meigs County Humane Society at Logan and the Gallia County Humane Society at Lancaster planned a demonstration meet HSUS Animal Control Ordinance

HSUS has developed a Model Animal Control Ordinance to assist municipal governments in implementing the effectiveness of their animal control laws.

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Regional Briefs

After the Storm

Xenia, Ohio, nearly drowned in its sleep when a violent April tornado ripped through that town washing out homes and, more often than not, whatever was in or around them.

Still, the Montgomery County Humane Society, based in Dayton, was able to rescue hundreds of animals from the storm’s debris. Executive Director Fred Stroop dispatched 2 rescue vehicles and 11 personnel to the scene of the disaster. They rescued 155 dogs, 16 cats, 9 rabbits, 16 wild birds, 1 parakeet, 1 monkey, and 3 hamsters.

Twenty of the dogs were taken to veterinarians for medical care and to date 59 others have been returned to their owners. Three loads of dog food were delivered to the storm victims and more was on the way. The Humane Society of the United States salutes the Montgomery County Humane Society for its valiant response to this disaster.

Low-Cost Neutering

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Assn. has announced that low-cost neutering of pets will be available in most Ohio cities within the next 3 months.

David Drenan, D.V.M., president of the association, announced that veterinarians have agreed to provide neutering for a $20 contribution to the Ohio Animal Health Fdn. The money will go toward researching non-surgical birth control methods for dogs and cats.

Local veterinary associations will work with community humane societies and public health facilities in setting up the neutering, Dr. Drenan said. The service will be offered primarily to the poor.

A Fashion First

The government class of Douglas MacArthur High School in Saginaw, Mich., has discovered a unique way of educating the public on the serious problem of the surplus pet population—a fashion show.

At a local shopping mall, the class not only modeled clothes but showed dogs and cats that were available for adoption from the Saginaw County Humane Society’s animal shelter. A narrator explained to the audience the problems that are caused by surplus breeding.

As a result of this effort, many of the animals found homes. HSUS salutes the government class of Douglas MacArthur High School, its teacher, Robert Fitzgerald, and the Saginaw County Humane Society.

Trapping Continued

Traps at least once every 30 hours. Although humanitarians saw this move as a positive one, they point out that 30 hours is still a long time for any creature to endure pain.

“Our goal is to completely ban the steel jaw trap,” Inman said. “Neither HSUS nor the Ohio Committee for Humane Trapping will rest until that goal is realized.”

This is Your Region

The HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office has two primary objectives: (a) to assist individual humanitarians and local animal welfare groups in the four-state region as they work to prevent cruelty to animals and (b) to implement national HSUS programs in the region.

The staff of your regional office is eager to serve you and other Great Lakes Region humanitarians whenever and wherever they can. But this service can continue only if humanitarians in the region provide the financial support necessary to pay salaries, travel expenses, and costs of office support.

I invite you to use the enclosed return envelope to make a contribution to this most important undertaking.

John A. Hoyt, President
The Humane Society of the United States

Workshop Continued

to do something about it, because we love animals. We all love animals very much. We really like them. And we want to see something done about it. The idea of putting animals to sleep in the millions is just sickening to think about. It really is!

Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., served as general chairman of the workshop. Addressing the 80 individuals representing 24 communities and 19 local humane societies from Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio, he cited the recent National Conference on the Ecology of Surplus Dogs and Cats held in Chicago as an example of constructive cooperation between the veterinarians and humane groups. The American Veterinary Medical Assn. and HSUS were among the sponsors of that conference.

The HSUS Great Lakes Region serves Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Requests for assistance or information should be addressed to John W. Inman, Jr., Great Lakes regional director, 927 S. Harrison St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46802 (219-743-6242).