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# News of the Gulf States Region

## HSUS Aids Local Animal Control



*Rob Meckel, Corsicana Daily Sun*

**WELLER INSPECTS POUND**—HSUS regional investigator Bernard Weller (left) talked with Corsicana, Texas, animal control warden George Burch during his first visit to the Corsicana pound, where he found conditions unsatisfactory. Accompanying Weller were Mrs. B. R. Hammonds (second from left) and Mrs. Melville Samuels of the Navarro County Humane Society, which invited Weller to Corsicana.

The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office and the Navarro County (Texas) Humane Society have persuaded city officials of Corsicana, Texas, to make drastic improvements in their animal control program.

Corsicana Chief of Police Don Massey announced in February that the city would build a new addition to its dog pound, improve pound operations, and begin strict enforcement of the city leash law.

His announcement followed two meetings with members of the HSUS Gulf States Regional staff.

On his first trip to the Corsicana pound, last November, HSUS Regional Field Representative Bernard M. Weller found dirty, overcrowded pens, unsanitary water bowls, lack of a balanced diet, and the absence of efficient shelter procedures.

The problems were later compounded by the resignations of two

successive animal wardens within the space of a few days. The second warden to quit lasted only 2½ days, citing too much work for the amount of pay as his reason for leaving.

"It's hard to keep someone in this job," the police chief said. "We get more animal complaints than any other kind of complaints."

HSUS Regional Director Douglas M. Scott said it is precisely for that reason that he and Weller will continue to work with the city and the local humane society to ensure that an adequate animal control program is established and implemented.

### Region Expanded

The HSUS Gulf States Region has been expanded to include Oklahoma. The office will gladly work with humanitarians anywhere in Oklahoma.

## Professors Hear HSUS Educator

Six college professors and an author of children's books were among the persons who heard the director of HSUS's project to develop humane education techniques and materials speak in Nacogdoches, Texas, earlier this year.

Stuart R. Westerlund, Ph.D., spoke at the annual meeting of the Humane Society of Nacogdoches County. His audience included six professors from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches and Charlotte Baker Montgomery, whose latest book, *Cockleburr Quarters*, won a National Book Award for 1972.

Dr. Westerlund is conducting the HSUS three-year project at the University of Tulsa, where he was formerly chairman of the Department of Graduate Studies in Education.

"Our goal is to make the next generation a little more sensitive to life and non-life than this one," he told the local humane society.

He said poster contests and Be Kind to Animals Weeks hardly answer the need for instruction about the value of all forms of life. "What would happen if we taught math in such a hit-or-miss way?" he asked.

Dr. Westerlund said the project concept had gained considerable support from other fields.

## Texas Pays \$31,000 in Bounties

Texas counties paid a total of \$31,000 in bounties for wild animals in 1971, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

The money went for the killing of 5,303 coyotes, 272 bobcats, and 50,794 rattlesnakes.

Sheep ranchers and goat raisers also offer bounties but will not release statistics on them.

HSUS is totally opposed to all bounties and urges humanitarians to work for the legislative withdrawal of bounties in all 23 states that still permit them.

# HSUS Helps Plan New Shelter



The Gulf States Regional Office is assisting municipal officials of Sinton, Texas, in improving all aspects of their animal control program.

When Regional Field Representative Bernard M. Weller first visited Sinton last October he found a dog pound so inadequate that he recommended it be torn down.

"The building was air tight, dark,

and dingy," he said. "It is used merely as a place to keep dogs until someone comes around to shoot them."

Weller also reported no sign of disease control and lack of water in all of the 20 cages.

In subsequent visits to the city, John Hague, Sinton's director of

parks and recreation, who is in charge of the animal shelter, asked Weller to help him draft a proposal for a new shelter and a revised animal control program. Aided by technical advice and counseling from HSUS, Hague went before the Sinton City Council and obtained authorization to proceed with his plans.

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