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HSUS Continues to Fight Puppy-Mill Abuse

Over the past ten years, The HSUS has worked to improve conditions in commercial breeding establishments known as “puppy mills.” Our efforts accelerated when the Midwest and West Coast regional offices teamed up to investigate midwest puppy mills that have been exporting sick and diseased puppies to California. This investigation also would provide valuable information to help support legislation in California aimed at limiting the age of puppies shipped into the state.

Under current law, puppies can be taken from their mothers when they are between six and eight weeks old. Many animal protectionists, veterinarians, and even pet-shop owners agree that this is too early an age for them to be taken from their mothers. As one pet-shop employee put it, “These puppies leave their mothers before they are socialized, and their lack of socialization creates abnormal personalities and behavior.”

Thus, A.B. 4500, introduced in the California legislature by Assemblyman Sam Farr, is right on target. Farr’s bill will stop the shipment of puppies under twelve weeks of age into and out of California.

Age is not the only factor that has so many buyers of pet animals upset. Because of crowded, filthy conditions and poor breeding practices, puppy mills are producing puppies with diseases and deformities. Most consumers are unaware that the irresistible “puppy in the window” they purchased was taken from its mother before it was ready to be socialized.

Maddox Speaks in Four States

When humane societies in the Midwest need an expert in animal welfare to speak to their groups, they often turn to The HSUS’s Midwest Regional Office. Recently, groups in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska called on your regional director, Wendell Maddox, to conduct workshops or speak at their meetings. These talks reached more than 250 professionals and volunteers dedicated to helping animals. What follows is an overview of each talk.

Springfield, Mo.—“The Role of Today’s Humane Society” was the topic when Maddox addressed the annual membership dinner of the Southwest Missouri Humane Society, held April 14 in Springfield.

Traditionally, humane groups concentrate their efforts on aiding stray dogs and cats, he noted. “But a humane society of today has to broaden its programs to fight many forms of animal exploitation: dog and horse racing, animal fighting, trapping, exotic-animal actions, and many more.” In calling on the Southwest Missouri Humane Society members to meet this new challenge, Maddox used a popular quote continued on page 2
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- NEBRASKA—The Nebraska Coalition of Humane Societies has targeted laws to ban the use of steel and steel-jaw traps. The coalition will also work toward passage of a law to license commercial breeding facilities.
- MISSOURI—Over the past three years, The HSUS has conducted a vigorous campaign to defeat legislation to legalize dog racing in Missouri. We will be aggressively working with other groups during the coming legislative session to assure another defeat.
- We also plan to enlist the support of humane groups to encourage enactment of a law to ban use of decompression chambers for euthanizing animals.
- During the legislative session, a bill to require state licensing and inspections of puppy mills and another bill to require felony convictions for those involved in cockfighting were held up in committee. We will work to have these bills moved out of committee and voted into law.
- KANSAS—Currently, under Kansas law, cockfighters can be charged for cruelty to animals as a misdemeanor. We will seek passage of a felony law, with much stiffer penalties, to stop this cruel activity.
- IOWA—The Iowa Federation of Humane Societies has tentatively set its legislative priorities for the coming session. The group will work with the state for a law to ban the use of the steel-jaw trap.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

NUISANCE-WILDLIFE CONFERENCE
The Humane Society of the United States
Midwest Regional Office
American Hotel
Kansas City, Missouri
May 8-9, 1989

For additional information, write
The Humane Society of the United States,
200 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037;
or The HSUS/Midwest Regional Office,
306 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

A cooperative effort by local citizens, public officials, and The HSUS made possible the building of this new shelter in Olathe, Kansas.

Giving Shelter in Olathe—
HSUS Lends a Helping Hand

At long last, after three years of planning and many debates, the Olathe Animal Shelter was scheduled to open in August 1988.

The City of Olathe owns the shelter and runs animal control. In early 1987, long-time HSUS member and Olathe resident Kathy McKee approached Midwest Regional Director Wendell Maddox for assistance after a change in city council members brought drastic changes in priorities for the coming session. The group will work with the state for a law to ban the use of the steel-jaw trap.

The shelter, at 6200 square feet, was estimated to cost about a half-million dollars.

“The shelter, at 6200 square feet, was estimated to cost about a half-million dollars.”

“The new council went into shock and started suggesting cuts, such as downsizing the shelter by 50 percent and eliminating air conditioning for the animals. Even though I didn’t know Wendell very well at the time, he picked up the phone while I was still in his office and made an appointment to visit then continued on page 4

DIRECTOR’S COMMENT

by Wendell Maddox

With the election coming up, every special-interest group is clamoring for attention. All except one: the animals. Like other groups, they need to reassure their rights protected. The right, for example, to live without human-induced pain or torment.

But, unlike other groups, animals are not able to speak up in their own behalf. They can’t donate money to political action committees. They can’t canvas neighborhoods.

And, most significantly, they can’t vote. You and I can, though. We can ask state and national candidates to take a stand against such cruelties as trapping or unjustified biomedical research. We can find out whether they would vote in favor of protecting the great whales, baby seals, elephants, eagles, and other endangered species.

A careful screening of local candidates is just as important. Ask candidates if they support stronger, more humane animal-control ordinances. Would they vote for an incentive system of lower licensing fees for neutered pets?

Consider each candidate’s record on protecting animals and the environment and on other issues of importance. Then, on November 8, by all means, vote! The animals’ “special interests” depend on you.

Please keep in mind, however, that, while individual citizens are free to participate in the electoral process, organizations that are exempt from federal income tax and section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code may not directly or indirectly support or oppose any candidate for public office in an election campaign without endangering their tax-exempt status.
Olathe Shelter
continued from page 3

Assistant City Manager Bill Zeladnys the very next day.” Armed with HSUS drawings and model shelter operation documents, Maddox’s work with city officials was a smashing success. While the city did indeed cut the shelter’s size to about 4900 square feet, the cost was cut to approximately $315,000. This version was adequate for proponents and modest enough for opponents. Most importantly, the shelter was constructed to meet HSUS standards—including air conditioning throughout the building, separate puppy and kitten rooms, observation/isolation area, examination/euthanasia room, adoption room, reception area, thirty-six-run kennel area, kitchen, utility area, and separate animal-control office. Two other bonuses came out of Maddox’s involvement with McKee and the shelter issue—McKee’s founding of the Humane Society of Olathe and the subsequent rewriting of the city’s animal-control ordinance to meet HSUS guidelines. Concluded Maddox, “This much success for animals in a period of about fifteen months was very gratifying.”

You Can Make a Difference
Join the Action Alert Team

Lawmakers want to hear from their voters when it’s time to vote on important legislation. So fill out the form below and join the Action Alert Team. Today! We are planning to create Legislative Alert Teams in special geographic areas in Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri. These teams will have quick telephone access to our members to alert them to pending legislation. We will need team leaders in cities of each state. This is how it will work:

1. You and other members will sign up to be Alert Team leaders or members.
2. Team leaders will be sent a list of team members.
3. Team leaders will receive calls from this office with detailed information on pending bills.
4. Team leaders will, in turn, call team members with the information.
5. Team members will be asked to call or write legislators and at least five friends, who will be asked to do the same.

Action Alert Team Information Form

☐ Yes, I want to be a team leader.
☐ Yes, I want to be a team member.

Complete and mail to The HSUS, Midwest Regional Office, Argyle Bldg., 306 East 12th St., Ste. 625, Kansas City, MO 64106.

Name ___________________________ 
Address ___________________________
City ___________________________ Zip ________
State ___________________________ 
Phone: Day ___________ Evening ________

FUR CAMPAIGN

Look for the HSUS anti-fur campaign in the fall and write us for additional information. Inquiries should be addressed to Fur Campaign The HSUS 2100 L St., NW Washington, DC 20037.

The Regional Report is a publication of
The Humane Society of the United States
Midwest Regional Office
Argyle Building
306 East 12th Street, Suite 625
Kansas City, MO 64106
(816) 474-0888
Wendell Maddox, Director

All contributions made to The HSUS Midwest Regional Office are tax-deductible.

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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, your will can provide for animals after you’re gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name ___________________________ 
Address ___________________________
City ___________________________ State ___________ 
Zip code ________

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.