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# News of the New Jersey Branch

## HSUS Zoologist Urges Trenton Zoo Changes

HSUS zoologist Sue Pressman visited the Cadwalader Park Zoo in Trenton earlier this year and recommended that the city immediately begin a search for a professional zoo director.

A well-qualified director will be able to design a "purpose for being" for the zoo and make it a "functioning part of the community," Mrs. Pressman told Mayor Arthur Holland, who accompanied her on her tour of the zoo.

The visiting public will no longer be satisfied with a zoo that does not perform an educational, conservation program," she said.

Mrs. Pressman also recommended that the city phase out the monkey house and the bear den because of their inadequacies. She suggested that the animals could be traded to a zoo animal dealer for other animals or birds that Cadwalader Park could more successfully house.

*(Continued on next page)*



**EASTER AFTERMATH**—This duck was found with its bill dislocated and smashed, probably by rocks thrown by children. It was unable to eat and was in poor physical condition resulting from lack of nourishment. Humane officials had to euthanize it.

## Sales Ban Urged On Easter Pets

An estimated 5 million baby chickens and ducks and several million baby rabbits are sold annually in the United States as Easter presents for children.

Many of these animals die within a few days, and many more are later abandoned, injured, or killed by people who don't know what to do with them.

### Impetuous Buying

The average buyer of an Easter pet buys on impulse, not realizing the care that these baby animals will need, said New Jersey Branch Executive Director William J. O'Hara.

"These appealing creatures are not meant to be house pets, and few adults know how to care for them," he said. "It is common for many Easter pets to die of malnutrition or of mishandling by children within a few days after Easter."

As the novelty of the pet wears off, the family tires of cleaning up the messes, according to O'Hara. The result is the abandonment of these young animals in parks and along roadways, where they die of thirst, starvation, or injury, or are killed by cats and dogs.

### Injured by Children

"Worse yet, many are used as targets and mutilated or killed by children," he said. "Each year in New Jersey alone many thousands are thus exposed to extreme suffering."

The New Jersey Branch believes two approaches are necessary to prevent this cruelty: (1) a public education program to make the public aware of the consequences of buying Easter pets, and (2) legislation to prohibit the sale of these animals as pets.

State Assembly Bill A-1056 would provide adequate legal restrictions to the sale of chicks, ducklings, and



*Mary G. Coin, Trenton Evening Times*

**MAYOR, HSUS VISIT ZOO**—Trenton Mayor Arthur Holland (in black coat) accompanied HSUS zoologist Sue Pressman (right) and HSUS New Jersey Branch Executive William J. O'Hara (second from left) on a tour of the Cadwalader Park Zoo earlier this year. Mrs. Pressman urged the mayor to hire a professional zoo director and to eliminate the bear den and the

## Legislation Needed On Euthanasia

The New Jersey Assembly is considering a bill that would provide stiff penalties for any agency that destroys an animal by any method of euthanasia not acceptable to the veterinary medical profession.

Assembly bill 1317 would require the use of a method capable of producing immediate loss of consciousness and a rapid and painless death.

HSUS's specialist on euthanasia, Phyllis Wright, based in the Washington, D. C., headquarters, says that proper euthanasia will kill an animal within two minutes.

"If you can't kill an animal in two minutes, then don't call it euthanasia," she said. "Call it anything you want, but don't call it euthanasia."

When originally introduced, the bill did not specify that it would apply to pounds operated by county or regional governments, or to private animal control firms under contract to governmental agencies. The bill has now been amended to include this provision.

"One would think that a bill such as 1317 would be unnecessary in today's society," said HSUS New Jersey Branch Executive Director William J. O'Hara. "Yet when we attempted to prosecute one of the state's largest commercial warden firms recently, a District Court judge told us such a law is needed."

The Branch board of directors has endorsed provisions of the bill, believing they will prevent many painful deaths to surplus animals.

The bill is before the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.

### EASTER PETS *Continued*

rabbits. Only 4-H club members and other persons or organizations with a constructive use for such animals would be permitted to acquire them.

The bill is now being considered by the Assembly Conference Committee, Assemblyman David J. Friedland, chairman. The New Jersey Branch urges humanitarians to express to Friedland and their own state legislators their interest in seeing protective legislation approved.



**PET CARE INFO**—The New Jersey Branch has an illustrated flyer, *I Need a Friend, on pet care, recommended especially for urban classrooms, available at 2¢ each.*

### Area Shelter Planned With Branch Direction

For the past year Branch Executive Director William J. O'Hara has been working with the governing bodies and a citizen's group from 10 communities in southern Ocean County to plan a regional animal shelter.

The Branch has given its support to this effort by providing a model ordinance that can be made uniform for all participating communities, helping with shelter site selection, and furnishing suggestions and preliminary drawings of various shelter models.

The Branch has also counseled the groups on fund raising, construction and operating budgets, and fair share assessment plans for the participating municipalities.

### ZOO *Continued*

She said the open deer area had the most possibilities of any exhibit at the zoo. "Once protected and designed, this could be one of the most beautiful animal areas ever," she told Holland.

The zoo came to the attention of the HSUS New Jersey Branch after dogs burrowed under the fence of the deer area last December and killed six Virginia whitetail deer, two sheep, and some ducks, chickens, and rabbits.

The problem of preventing other attacks was solved when city officials agreed to drive sheeting into the ground and anchor the fencing to it to prevent dogs tunneling beneath it. Park police and the animal control warden have increased their patrols in the vicinity, and pet owners have been warned to not let their animals run at large.

New Jersey Branch Executive William J. O'Hara accompanied Holland and Mrs. Pressman on the tour of the zoo. Joseph Tuccillo, director of public works, and W. N. Reed, D.V.M., city veterinarian, also participated in the tour.

### Annual Meeting

**The HSUS New Jersey Branch will hold its annual membership meeting on Saturday, May 19, at the Town and Campus restaurant, 1040 Morris Ave., Union, N. J., beginning at 9 a.m.**

**Members of the Branch will receive more detailed information soon.**

HSUS New Jersey Branch  
1140 E. Jersey Street  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201

- I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support continuing programs to combat cruelty in New Jersey.
- I enclose \$10 to become a member of the New Jersey Branch.
- Please send more information about Branch activities.

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