RMRO 1979 Annual Report

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RMRO Investigates Wyoming Dog Shootings

Over 200 dogs were shot by game wardens in the Rock Springs and Green River area of Wyoming, according to officials of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. HSUS Field Investigator Phil Steward recently visited this area to investigate the matter. He was told by wardens that approximately 206 dogs that were allegedly attacking wildlife had been shot between December and mid-February.

In addition to the wardens, Steward interviewed several owners of dogs that were shot, local humane workers, and concerned citizens. He also observed feeding operations of the wildlife in question. After returning to Denver, Steward interviewed two experts in the care of antelope before completing a report of findings. This report was sent to Governor Ed Herschler.

In his report Steward agreed that severe winter conditions had driven thousands of antelope from their normal winter ranges into inhabited areas throughout the state. Sweetwater County was one of these areas. Despite feed lines set up by Game and Fish personnel, hundreds of antelope died. According to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, many of the deaths were caused by the hunger-weakened antelope being chased by free-roaming dogs. In an effort to protect the antelope, game wardens turned to a permissive state law permitting the shooting of dogs injuring or threatening big game animals.

Steward agreed with game wardens that a large part of the immediate problem was caused by irresponsible pet owners. Steward said, however, that the Game and Fish Department was not without fault for so many dogs being shot. It was not illegal for the dogs to run loose, since no state law had been enacted at that time to permit county governments to institute animal control ordinances. While the Game and Fish Department knew free-roaming dogs were a problem, Steward indicated, it did not encourage the passage of such enabling legislation. Such legislation now has been passed through the efforts of the Humane Federation of Wyoming.

Steward also reported that the Game and Fish Department had failed in its responsibilities to the wildlife by establishing feed lines along well traveled roads near residential areas. This is based on information supplied by the experts he consulted. After relaying his findings to them, they agreed with him that the antelope had become hardcore welfare cases due to the way they had been fed. For three months the antelope had been fed in the same

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RMRO Has New Director

Douglas M. Scott was named the new Director of HSUS's Rocky Mountain Regional Office. He comes to the Rocky Mountain Region from HSUS's Gulf States office where he organized and directed that region's programs for six and one-half years.

While in the Gulf States region, Scott was instrumental in the formation of the Texas Humane Information Network (THIN). The network was developed to keep Texans up-to-date on animal-related legislative activities. Through his efforts the Texas Education Agency requested HSUS's National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education to write a humane curriculum guide for the public schools of Texas. Scott was also instrumental in helping to create a graduate humane education course at Stephen F. Austin University and was on the original planning committee for the annual Animal Control Personnel Development Workshop at Texas A&M.

Scott received a B.A. from Baylor University and a M.Div. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He and his wife, Dolores have three children, Diane, age 22, Cindy, age 17, and Greg, age 12. The Scott family resided in Casper, Wyoming for four years before moving to Texas, so their return to the Rocky Mountains is a homecoming.
Court Order Prevents “Dog Day” Shootings

Sunday, April 22nd, had been declared “Dog Day” in the small Wyoming town of Medicine Bow. The Town Council passed a special ordinance which would have allowed town policemen, firemen, members of the Wyoming Military and other “selected citizens” to conduct a roundup of loose, unconfined dogs. A clause in the ordinance, however, came under fire from the Humane Federation of Wyoming and The HSUS/RMRO. This clause would have permitted the special patrol force to shoot, on the spot, any dog determined to be “vicious or incapable of being captured.”

Several town residents felt the Town Council had overreacted to the loose dog problem and signed the petition for a court order to prevent the roundup. Carbon County District Court Judge Robert Hill issued a temporary restraining order against the town preventing the planned shooting of any dogs.

HSUS/RMRO Investigator Phil Steward, together with Wyoming Federation President Sherman Mast and several Federation members were in Medicine Bow on “Dog Day.” Not one loose dog was sighted anywhere in the town and Steward reported, “It really was a success.” Perhaps one dog problem was really an irresponsible pet owner problem, not one of feral dog packs roaming around. “After talking with numerous citizens and an official of Medicine Bow, a cooperative effort is now underway to establish a responsible and effective animal control program.

Remember Animals In Your Will

There’s only one way to make sure you can help animals after you’re gone—make a Will and provide for them in it. HSUS will send you an informative booklet without obligation about how to make the best of your animal welfare bequest. Write: HSUS, Wills For Animals, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037

Spotlight on Sharing

Communication is essential to all — whether it be individual or group oriented. The Rocky Mountain Regional Office wants to serve as a means of communicating exciting ideas about animal welfare for all in this region to share. Is your organization clinic, animal control ideas, what’s being done by individual animal agencies, and any and all tidbits that might be helpful to animal owners, animal lovers, and animal caretakers. We shall periodically provide the information.

We welcome your newsletters, magazines, fund raising ideas, articles or whatever you think might be beneficial to other groups or persons interested in animal welfare. Then the shelter will be able to provide the information.

ALBUQUERQUE ANIMAL CONTROL (Albuquerque, NM) is using solar heating panels in its brand new shelter. They are attractive and very timely considering the high heating bills all shelters are facing.

CHEYENNE ANIMAL SHELTER (Cheyenne, WY) is starting a fund raising drive for a new shelter to be built on a beautiful piece of property already acquired.

DEVERE DUMB FRIENDS LEAGUE (Denver, CO) has produced a new slide film show for Be Kind to Animals Week, using professional and shelter talent. It is an excellent humane education film and explains the work of the league.

EASTERN VALENCIA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER (Los Lunas, NM) has opened a new full-service shelter complete with veterinary office.

ANIMAL HUMANE ASSOCIATION OF ALBUQUERQUE (NM) runs their shelter on a daily basis using almost all rented persons. This is a source of personnel not yet tapped by many shelters.

WESTMINSTER ANIMAL CONTROL (Westminster, CO) ran an immunization and licensing clinic for their citizens. Many of them deal with adopting animals, immunization clinics, and a variety of other services.

COLORADO HUMANE SOCIETY (Henderson, CO) provides general animal information and promotes animal adoptions on the Blinky Fun Club Show which is televised in 7 states. According to Tony Stone gives information on a variety of topics including various breeds of animals and their care, what type of animal fits individual situations, wildlife information, and the need for proper immunization for pets. The response to this broadcast has been tremendous and every animal shown for adoption on the Blinky Fun Club has found a home.

FEDERAL HEIGHTS ANIMAL CONTROL (Federal Heights, CO) held an immunization and licensing clinic on May 6th for local citizens. Information on spaying/neutering was dispensed and general pet care was discussed with the participants.

Animal Control Agencies Perform Vital Services

Since the opening of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, we have received hundreds of local and long distance inquiries about the help we can deal with escaped animals and giving up animals the caller can no longer care for properly. But when the suggestion is made to contact the local animal control department, one comment outwardly most frequently heard is: “I just don’t know where to turn. I just want to deal with the local ‘pounds’ in their community.”

This attitude is unfortunate since the most prevalent type of animal problem is the result of irresponsibility on the part of the pet owner, not the municipal animal control agency. We are fortunate to have some good humane organization shelters in the area as well. But they cannot be expected to do the work of the municipality. The public, therefore, needs to support local animal control agencies, improving their work when necessary.

Animal control departments perform, or have the potential for performing, many useful and varied functions for animals and the community. These include investigation of cruelty and abuse, animal pickup, emergency medical services for stray animals, immunization clinics, and a variety of other services.

Most animal control officers care about what they are doing and are interested in seeing that animals are cared for humanely. Animal control agencies often deal with practical problems of low budgets, few officers and volunteers, and thousands of stray animals as well as irresponsible pet owners.

There have been problems and these will continue to exist in both municipal facilities and animal welfare organizations. These problems can be corrected if and when responsible citizens will involve themselves in their local animal control departments. INTEREST is needed to spur animal-related agencies to have a competent, caring program which works constantly to improve and maintain this in the Wyoming region.

The HSUS/RMRO is interested and wants to work with municipal animal control agencies toward the betterment of their departments. Is not our collective goal the humane treatment of animals through responsible pet ownership and caring, involved citizenry?

Make Plans Now For Regional Workshops

Plans are being made for two workshops in the Rocky Mountain Region in the coming months. Tentatively they will deal with problems of animal control, sheltering, investigations and organizational matters.

The first one, a mini-workshop, will probably be 1½ days in length. Steward will give the penny edition of the “Spotlight on Sharing” and discuss problems of animal control. Background information will be provided for those interested.

The second will be a regular HSUS workshop and will take place on May 21, 22 and 23, 1980, in Phoenix, Arizona.

More information will appear in future Reports, but we welcome any and all inquiries about these events.

Wyoming Dog Shootings

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place and at the same time each day. They were not forced to follow natural instinct to search for food, but rather were encouraged to stay on the established feed lines waiting for the handouts.

Additionally, Steward emphasized on the part of the Game and Fish officials for not insuring the safe southward migration of the antelope during winter months. Although the Game and Fish Department knew their migration route, it was found that there were no provisions for the antelope to cross Interstate 80. As a result, the antelope were forced into an unnatural commuting with humans and domestic pets. This resulted in the death of many animals, both wild and domestic.

In a follow-up letter to Governor Herschler, Steward emphasized that passage of enabling legislation to allow animal control laws within counties “…alone cannot solve the people/pet/wildlife problems in the future.”

Steward added, “What it is needed is for county officials to establish responsible animal control programs in all parts of the state and to encourage the Game and Fish Department to improve its wildlife management program.

Remember Animals In Your Will

Wyoming before joining the staff of The HSUS and brings to organizations, introducing the Accreditation Program.

Miss Eustace at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Wyoming, after you’re gone ... make a Will and provide for your organization.

The Humane Society of the United States HSUS Accreditation Associate, is based in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. Please enclose $1.00 to help cover postage and duplication costs.

Accreditation — Who Needs It?

The prevention of cruelty to animals is a painstaking, arduous and unending task. When an organization labels itself as a humane society or an agency to promote animal welfare, there may be difficulties in living up to these titles. How can the HSUS help local agencies in their desire to truly humane?

The HSUS has established a program which will use all of its capabilities as a national organization to help local agencies attain the highest degree of humane treatment for animals. The standards and goals of this program are:

1. Quality animal care which concerns both the physical and psychological welfare of animals;

2. A total humane education program;

3. Animal control policies which include humane euthanasia and proper adoption standards;

4. Investigation of cruelty cases;

5. Proper administrative practices which include good recordkeeping, financial reporting and ethical fund raising methods;

6. Communication to the community to elicit public support.

To better serve the western states, Miss Leslie Eustace, HSUS Accreditation Associate, is based in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. Miss Eustace was manager of the Brooklyn and Manhattan ASPCA shelters in New York before joining the staff of The HSUS and brings to this program her firsthand knowledge of shelter operations.

During the month of January, Miss Eustace traveled to New Mexico and met with 12 major animal welfare organizations, introducing the Accreditation Program. She found many of these organizations very excited about the HSUS’s total commitment to working with local societies to establish these standards of competence. They were delighted with the guidance, information, literature and helpful comments she was able to offer. She has also visited other organizations in Wyoming.

Any humane society, animal control agency, or humane educational organization interested in the Accreditation Program can receive further information by contacting Miss Eustace at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver.

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Mile High Reflections

I am delighted to be back in the Rocky Mountains. Undoubtedly, this region is one of the most beautiful parts of our great country. Having lived in the area before, I have come to respect its citizens as among the most intelligent and sensitive people in the land. I am looking forward to working with all of you and hope we shall meet very soon.

The HSUS placed this office in the Rocky Mountains to assist the variety of animal organizations and programs that exist within the region. We are not here to do the work of local organizations, but rather to help them do their work. Naturally, the basic premise for all that we do is to alleviate the suffering of helpless animals.

In order to do the job as efficiently as possible, the following division of labor exists among regional HSUS staff members: as Director of the region, I am concerned with the oversight of all HSUS programs within the region and the day to day work in the regional office. Besides the necessary administrative matters, I shall be devoting my time to various kinds of educational enterprises such as setting up and directing workshops and seminars, meeting with educational institutions and educators, and so on. I shall also fulfill requests that come into the office for speaking engagements by interested groups such as humane, civic, church, government or private organizations. Legislation will also be my concern where requests are made of the office to assist in such matters. I shall act as an interpreter of HSUS activities and programs with the news media and other groups seeking such information, and will engage in one to one meetings where counsel is desired.

The Field Investigator of the region, Mr. Phil Steward, will handle cruelty matters of national import as well as assisting organizations with cruelty cases local in nature. He will be in charge of inspecting the variety of animal facilities that exist within the region, whether they be municipal or private shelters, zoos, cattle barns, or wildlife habitats.

Mrs. Peggy Napper is the secretary for the regional office and we are most fortunate to have her on the staff. She worked as the secretary for our Administrative Vice President, Mr. Pat Parkes, while living in Washington, D.C., and is very knowledgeable about animal welfare. Mrs. Napper is a unique combination of ability when it comes to secretarial skills and humane concerns.

We are happy to have our western states Accreditation Associate, Miss Leslie Eustace, in our office as well. Though she is not on the regional staff, but rather works with several regions, we place a high value on the services she is giving to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. We feel she is one of us. More is written about Miss Eustace’s work on page two of this Report.

If we can ever be of service to you, please feel free to write or call us. Whenever you are in Denver, be sure to stop by and see us.

Peace,

Douglas M. Scott

The Humane Society of the United States
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
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Denver, CO 80222

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN THE HSUS?