Project to Develop Education Materials

HSUS has undertaken a major three-year project to develop humane education methods and materials for use in the classroom.

The project is being conducted at the University of Tulsa under the direction of Stuart R. Westerlund, Ph.D., former chairman of the Department of Graduate Studies in Education. Dr. Westerlund resigned from the department chairmanship and the HSUS board of directors to direct the project.

Involves Students

A key aspect of the project is the involvement of 30 students, now college sophomores, for the next three years. Participating teachers will be trained in the skills needed to teach respect for animal life and will field test materials developed during the project.

The project will also experiment with the use of live animals in teaching sessions, including taking students into the field to see animals in their natural habitat.

Outgrowth of Survey

The project, labeled the Tulsa Project, is an outgrowth of an HSUS survey conducted by Dr. Westerlund in 1965 to determine the interest among school administrators, teachers, and students for incorporating humane education into the public school curriculum. The results convinced HSUS that there was both a need and an interest for professionally produced humane education teaching units.

An early stage of the project will be the formation of a National Humane Education Assn. of elementary and secondary school teachers interested in identifying with HSUS's aim of teaching humaneness in the classroom. A humane education journal will be published to provide information to association members.

Owl Takes Prize

James S. Messina of Bloomington, Ind., won first place in the black and white, wild, category of the 1972 HSUS Animal Photography Contest with this photo of a great horned owl. Messina also won first place in the black and white, domestic division (see p. 8.)

HSUS Blocks Supply of Seals to Dealer

HSUS has succeeded in blocking the supply of California sea lions to a wholesale water mammal dealer in the Florida keys after finding sea lions housed in unsatisfactory conditions.

HSUS zoologist Sue Pressman visited Jerry Mitchell's dealership several months ago and found sea lions housed in small cages where they were given access to swimming water (which was filthy), only for short intervals. She also found an inadequate, untrained staff and evidence that the sea lions are sometimes housed in small wood cages with no swimming water available.

Sheepmen Push To Use Poison

The nation's sheep ranchers have mounted an intensive lobbying campaign to persuade the federal government to rescind its bans on the shipment and use of poisons to kill coyotes and other predators.

HSUS Worked for Ban

Last spring President Nixon banned the use of poisons of all public lands, which comprise some 70% of western states, and a few weeks later the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned the shipment of all poisons used in predator control. The Humane Society of the United States and other groups had worked vigorously to convince the government that coyotes were being killed needlessly and inhumanely and that poisons were producing damaging side effects to the environment.

The National Wool Growers Assn. contends that coyotes are now killing so many sheep, as a result of the bans, that ranchers will be forced out of business and wool prices will skyrocket.

Fails to Prove Losses

But the industry has failed to produce proof of the rising losses. HSUS President John A. Hoyt pointed out in testimony before the Senate last year that the federal government relies on the sheep industry for statistics of losses to predators. And the sheep industry will not release to the public the figures it receives from individual ranchers, he said.

Furthermore, Hoyt pointed out that the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that Wyoming, a state with a large coyote population, had no higher percentage of lamb losses in 1970 (11.6%) than Ohio, a state with few predators.

What the sheep industry has not pointed out is that manufacturers of...
HSUS Opens Office For New England

The Humane Society of the United States has opened its fifth regional office, to provide better and quicker assistance to state and local humane groups in the New England states.

The New England Regional Office, which opened in mid-November, is located at East Haddam, Conn. Rear Adm. James C. Shaw, USN (ret.), who has been executive director of the HSUS Connecticut Branch for nine years, is the director of the new region.

Most of the functions of the former Connecticut Branch are being continued under auspices of the regional office.

HSUS began establishing regional offices in mid-1971 in order to provide more direct assistance to state and local animal welfare groups and to better promote national programs of HSUS. (See “President’s Perspective,” p. 4.)

The New England Region has a capability that no other region does in the person of a director of education. Education writer John L. Hoyt moved into the regional position after serving as education director of the Connecticut Branch for several months.

Hoyt has an extensive background in environmental education, which he obtained while teaching in the Connecticut public schools. He has also become nationally known as the author and photographer of a full-color four-book series on the environment, printed and distributed by Xerox Education Publications.

Hoyt is already implementing programs about animals and the environment in the school systems of New England.

HSUS Opens New Regional Office

HSUS New England Regional Office
Box 98, East Haddam, Conn. 06423
(203) 879-0271

The region will be located in the new HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center, in East Haddam, Conn., scheduled for completion early in 1973. The center will be the third of a series of four regional educational and nature centers, the first being a project office in New York City.

Hoyt urged HSUS members and supporters to write to the President, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to commend them for their actions of last year and to ask them to continue in their efforts to protect the environment.

continued,

SHEEP Continued

synthetic fibers are rapidly cutting into the fabric market. HSUS is convinced that sheep ranchers’ problems are caused by increasing competition from these competitors, not from the coyote, which has become an easy scapegoat.

Yet few sheep ranchers will discuss this point when they come to Washington to pressure Congressmen and Administration officials into rescinding the two poison bans.

The government’s actions last spring were an important step forward,” declared Hoyt. “It is vitally important that the government continue moving forward in this area by designing controlled animal control programs, rather than give in to one industry’s demands to roll back this progress.”

Hoyt urged all HSUS members and supporters to write to the President, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to commend them for their actions of last year and to ask them to stand fast in the face of pressure to rescind these actions. (See box above.)

Kennel Operator Convicted

HSUS Chief Investigator Frank J. McMahon inspects the Von Echo Kennels in Reading, Pa., which he visited with officials of the Animal Rescue League of Berks County. McMahon found samoyeds, pekingese, bearded spaniels, collies, chihuahuas and other expensive dogs, as well as cats, living in tiny, dirty cages in back of a house and in a garage. The Animal Rescue League charged the owner, Mrs. Agnes Von Neida, with cruelty, of which she was convicted.

HSUS Units Spay 2,000 in 1972

HSUS in 1972 made it possible for almost 2,000 pet owners who couldn’t afford standard veterinarian fees to have their cats or dogs spayed or neutered.

The operations were performed at the Spay and Neuter Clinic of HSUS’ National Humane Education Center in Waterford, Va., or in the offices of veterinarians cooperating with the HSUS New York Information Office.

Here is a breakdown for the National Humane Education Center’s clinic: 294 dogs spayed, 67 dogs neutered, 711 cats spayed, 218 cats neutered. In the six months that the New York Office has been in operation, it has been responsible for 257 cats spayed, 69 cats neutered, 53 dogs spayed, and 3 dogs neutered.

The Center has now performed almost 3,000 spay and neuter operations since it was opened in mid-1969. Based on the conservative assumption that female dogs give birth to litters with an average of four puppies, with two being female, and further assuming that one-fourth of all females will give birth during a year, the center has prevented more than 71,000 dog births over the next 10 years.

Assuming that cats reproduce at the rate of two litters a year, with a conservative average of three kittens per litter, with one or two females per litter, the Center has prevented the birth of more than 790,000 cats in a 10-year period.

These multiplication projections do not take into account the number of females that would have been immunized by the males that were neutered in the Center’s clinic.

Persons living in the New York City area who are unable to afford standard veterinary fees for sterilization operations may inquire about reduced cost arrangements at the New York Information Office (212-689-2672).

HSUS Needs Information

If there is a low-cost spay program of any kind in your community, please tell HSUS about it. Include description, name and address of sponsoring group, and cost. Send to Spay Program Survey, HSUS, 1604 K St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.
At the beginning of a new year, I think it is appropriate to reflect on the progress of the past year and to assess the nature of the work still before us.

1972 was a year of expansion for The HSUS. Implementing a decision made by your Board of Directors more than a year ago, we established five regional offices throughout the nation. They are: Great Lakes, located in Fort Wayne, Ind., covering Ohio, Indiana, Illinois; Southern Area, at Pinehurst, N. C., serving North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia; Rocky Mountain, in Salt Lake City, serving Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho; Gulf States, in Corpus Christi, Texas; covering Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas; New England, in East Haddam, Conn., covering Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine.

A sixth regional office, yet unnamed, will be established in 1973 to cover California and Nevada. Each of these offices, except for the Southern Area Office, is staffed by two persons. Through this network, The HSUS will be able to provide direct assistance to 22 of our 50 states.

The principal activity of these offices will be to assist and cooperate with local and state societies in promoting cruelty and abuse to animals, as well as to develop better methods and procedures for handling the many problems faced by states and cities, such as the overpopulation of pets, animal control, and wildlife protection. Each office represents an extension of our national programs and concerns throughout the country.

As a consequence, many persons not heretofore involved in our efforts have become informed and, in many cases, participants. Further, our communication with local societies has been significantly strengthened, resulting in greater cooperation on their part with our many national efforts.

In addition, we are now operating a New York City Information Office, focusing on the referral of persons desiring to have their pets spayed or altered to veterinarians who have agreed to perform this service at a reduced fee. Several hundred such referrals have been made to date.

The most personally satisfying development to take place this year was the addition of Mel Morse, a former president of The HSUS, to The HSUS staff in a full-time capacity. I need not tell you of this man’s great stature and the respect in which he is held throughout the entire country. Mel is currently directing a newly created HSUS office on the West Coast, located in San Rafael, Calif. From this base, he will direct The HSUS program in the western part of the United States, assisting your president in advancing The HSUS program and activities nationwide.

Joining Mel in this office is Robert C. Bay, D.V.M. Ever since becoming your president, I have looked forward to the day when The HSUS could add to its staff a full-time veterinarian. In the person of Dr. Bay, I feel that we now have on our staff one of the ablest and most humanely oriented veterinarians in the United States.

Dr. Bay is currently giving leadership to our efforts to oppose the many cruel practices in rodeos, especially calf roping and steer roping, as well as directing our efforts to develop a more humane method for euthanizing homeless and unsalvageable dogs and cats. Dr. Bay is also heading The HSUS effort to provide for more effective controls and enforcement relative to the use of animals in biomedical research, including efforts to encourage the use of alternative methods for research activities instead of live animals, when and where possible.

For the past two years The HSUS has been working with the Council for Livestock Protection, under the direction of John Macfarlane, toward developing a more humane method for slaughter handling of animals. A study funded by that Council is currently being made by the University of Connecticut to develop a small animal holding pen. Cooperating in this effort are several major humane organizations, as well as a number of persons of the Jewish faith. Formal conversations with representatives of various Jewish organizations are planned for the immediate future in the hope that the federal humane slaughter law might be amended with support from both the Jewish and non-Jewish citizenry, to include Kosher slaughter.

Of special significance this past year was the launching of The HSUS Humane Education Development and Evaluation Project in cooperation with Tulia University in Oklahoma (See p. 1.) This project, under the direction of Dr. Stuart Westerlund, is designed to review and evaluate current elementary and secondary humane instructional materials and to develop new materials to supplement those currently being used. Teacher training seminars and field testing of materials is also a part of this project objective.

The HSUS KIND youth membership program is being coordinated with the humane education program. It is certainly worth noting that some of the most notable responses from youth to KIND materials and projects have been in centers for crippled children. The HSUS, who are to be applauded for those achievements and gains that have been realized during the past 12 months.

As you can see, it has been a very busy year. We have experienced both success and failure. Though we are grateful for the accomplishments, we are ever mindful that the task before us is as great as ever.

The HSUS, like so many truly humanitarian causes, is principally a volunteer effort. Those of us who represent the staff and officers of this organization are but a small part of our overall effort. It is each of you, and thousands more like you, who work daily at the local level while at the same time supporting those larger efforts and concerns embraced by The HSUS, who are to be applauded for those achievements and gains that have been realized during the past 12 months.

You and I are engaged in a great conflict, and the battle we wage is far from won. Yet, I am firmly convinced that there exists deep within the spirit of man both the capacity and the will to realize the high purpose for which he was created, and for his own welfare and to preserve, but for the benefit of all that shares his existence.
Children and Pet Abuse

by Karen Peterson

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following syndicated article was reprinted by permission of the author from: The Dec., 1972, San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle

Phyllis Wright, internationally known animal welfare expert, has come up with a new approach to the problem of child abuse: Help the child who is abusing animals, before he grows up to abuse other children. "I am 100% sure there is a connection between children who abuse animals and their growing up into adults who abuse their parents. The pattern is logical and basically sound, like 2 and 2 are 4. But you don’t know why the high-powered mental health people don’t get off their duffs and start discussing it!" exclaims Miss Wright, "director of the National Humane Education Center at Waterford, Va. (a division of HSUS)."

Miss Wright and other animal welfare people see abused children striking at stray or neglected dogs and cats as "all the time." She comments: "I have seen one case of a teen-aged boy pouring boiling water on the back of a cat. As a child this boy had been made to sit on a hot stove when he broke toilet training, and had been beaten often. Now you see him sit and look at the pattern and some day abuse his own children. We’ve already been told that battered children grow up into battering parents... a horrible cycle of violence.

Fiery Miss Wright gets angry when animal welfare workers are criticized for being more concerned about animals than about children. "From conversations with other animal welfare experts, with police officials, and with authorities on the ‘battered child syndrome’ it would seem that this theory may be true, but very little is being done about it. And not only may animal abusers grow up into child abusers, if they’re emotionally deprived, they may be prone to other acts of violence, including murder and rape."

Anthropologist Dr. Margaret Mead has said that one of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill an animal. She and animal aficionados are often killed and get away with it. He then never learns to cope with his aggressions and understand that he cannot kill.

Dr. Nathan Blackman agrees. The senior consultant at the Social Maladjustment Unit in the Malcolm Bliss Mental Health Center, St. Louis, he has just completed a study showing that childhood cruelty to animals in the form of torturing or murder was a positive factor in forecasting adult criminal violence. If this factor is combined with either continual fire setting or involuntary bed wetting the odds a child will have teenage years, the odds for a violent adult soar.

He reports, "Over 80% of our criminal patients show evidence of the three symptoms during childhood..."

His study did not specifically investigate the “battered child syndrome.” But, he added, we do see many of these patients had been exposed to violence, anger, cruelty during their own childhood... and we know of no other criminals who show a pattern of emotional neglect. When a person is distressed in his inner relationships, and feels that his environment pays him no respect, he vents his anger on others."

Miss Wright found that to know neither the first nor the second. She was not yet familiar with Dr. Blackman’s very recent work. Like most of the other humane experts I’ve met, she simply can’t find the time to find out. She doesn’t value the animal’s life; she doesn’t see that many of these kids are never to be treated as animal abusers grow up into child abusers."

"Such a study would be helpful," he said. "But the funding should go to the humane societies. Right now we are more interested in the live child than the dead animal he may have killed in frustration. The battered child syndrome is just starting, and we know that attention it has been mostly pet abuse may be an interesting side-light..."

Miss Wright’s comments illustrate some of the problems in getting such a study to go on... the time-honored ones of priorities, manpower, and money. But the humane societies have the same ones, and can rarely do more than remove an injured animal from a home.

Spay Posters

"A Trip to the Spay Clinic Changed My Life" is the heading for new full-color posters printed by HSUS to promote spaying of pets. The posters are appropriate for schools, posters, public buildings, shelters, or homes. Special: Cat or dog $1 each, post-paid.

CRUELTY continued

Dr. Helen Ploehot, a clinical psychologist at Washington D.C.’s Catholic University elaborates on just what constitutes “pet abuse.” She says you have to consider a child’s age level, and his behavior pattern. "When the child is younger than 2, say, he is curious to find out how things work," she points out. Both his bike and his cat move but don’t kill, and he might try to take either one apart.

Dr. Reginald Lourie, director of Hillcrest Children’s Center, a psychiatric facility affiliated with Children’s Hospital of Washington, D.C., would only flirt with Miss Wright’s suggestion. He sees 100 battered children a year.

"Such a study would be helpful," he said. "But the funding should go to the humane societies. Right now we are more interested in the live child than the dead animal he may have killed in frustration. The battered child syndrome is just starting, and we know that attention it has been mostly pet abuse may be an interesting side-light..."

Lourie’s comments illustrate some of the problems in getting such a study to go on... the time-honored ones of priorities, manpower, and money. But the humane societies have the same ones, and can rarely do more than remove an injured animal from a home.

RABBIES IN ANIMALS & MAN, Geoffrey P. West (Arco Publishing, $6.95)

The word “rabies” is one of the most terrifying in the English language. It is a synonym for violence, danger, and death—the worst kind of suffering and the worst kind of death, slow and inexcusable. Man can be attacked by this disease, of course, as can any mammal as a matter of course. Quite naturally any word that is laden with terror attracts to itself an aura of the fantastic. There is a great deal more misinformation about rabies in circulation than fact. It is good to see the record put straight.

Dr. West is a retired veterinarian whose technical writings are well known and respected. He has thoroughly researched his subject, put it into perspective and made it readable. Anyone working with animals, or caring about them, should have this book on their reference shelf. Fear and ignorance solve no problems.

Roger Caras

FLORIDA FIRST STATE TO BAN STEEL TRAP

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish and Wildlife Commission on October 26 banned the use of steel jaw (leghold) traps throughout the state. Florida, thus becomes the second state to presently outlaw the traps. The other state to consider cruel and inhumane. (Hawaiians outlawed the trap by legislation.)

On Oct. 26, Guy R. Hodge said HSUS has found it very difficult to prosecute cruelty cases because of the antiquated trapping laws in most states.

"The only way to eliminate cruelty in trapping is to work for the adoption of laws specifically banning steel jaw traps," he said. "Such laws, ..a man who sets out traps as a hobby has been convicted of cruelty to animals as a result of the severe injuries caused to the animals."

There have been many books about the environment—more, perhaps, in the past 100 years than in all previous history. My own library contains a couple hundred at least. Not all are good; some are bad. The one discussed here is among the best good book because it puts the fight for a better environment into the context of an operating social machinery. We must not lose sight of the fact that that machinery is as much a part of reality as pollution is. We have both to understand them and to make them work.

Guy R. Hodge the tracker, who hoped to get muskrats, was convicted of murdering a leg of two of his steel jaw traps. Hobo, a 65 lb. German Shepherd, had been trapped for two to three days in Reston, Va., when he was found last summer. As a result, a leg and the paw of another leg had to be amputated.

Roger Caras

THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, James L. McCamy (The Free Press/Collier-Macmillan, $6.95)

There have been many books about the environment—more, perhaps, in the past 100 years than in all previous history. My own library contains a couple hundred at least. Not all are good; some are bad. The one discussed here is among the best good book because it puts the fight for a better environment into the context of an operating social machinery. We must not lose sight of the fact that that machinery is as much a part of reality as pollution is. We have both to deal with. Mr. McCamy is a social scientist and his view is valid and important for us to have. You can’t buy or even read every book on the environment. Make this one that you do read.
Prize Photos

James S. Messina of Bloomington, Ind., walked off with top honors in the first HSUS Animal Photography Contest by receiving first prize in two contest categories.

Messina won both the domestic and wild categories for black and white photos, receiving $50 for each category. Second place winners received $25 each. The photographs, plus many that did not receive prizes, will be used in various HSUS educational and promotional projects.

The Eastman Kodak Company has informed HSUS that it is including a report of the HSUS contest in a new booklet promoting the values of organizations conducting such contests.


Other winners were:

Black & White Domestic: second place, Marsha Hemby, Greenville, N.C.

Color Domestic: Miss Eleanor I. Vernon, Upper Montclair, N.J.; second place, Sharon and Jerry Holmberg, Hacienda Heights, Calif.

Black & White Wild: second place, Lowber Tiers, Vero Beach, Fla.

Color Wild: Mrs. Helen Brennan, Riverdale, Ill.; second place, Edith M. Stoney, Montclair, N.J.

INADEQUATE SEA LION QUARTERS — A staff member of Jerry Mitchell's wholesale water mammal dealership in Florida feeds one of several sea lions housed in small cages with only occasional access to swimming water. The rags on the first and third cages from the left were apparently hung to provide shade. An HSUS photographer took this photo surreptitiously before he and HSUS's Sue Pressman were escorted off the grounds.

SEA LIONS Continued

When Mrs. Pressman attempted to discuss the conditions with Mitchell, she was escorted off the grounds.

Because neither federal nor state laws cover wholesale animal dealers, HSUS turned to Mitchell's source of supply. The California firm that supplies the seal lions to Mitchell responded positively to HSUS by agreeing to stop all sales to him until they see proof that he has improved his operation to the satisfaction of HSUS.

"This operation is a good example of omission in the federal animal welfare law," Mrs. Pressman said. "It is a loophole that badly needs plugging."

Mrs. Pressman had received reports of high mortalities at the dealership, but she was not permitted to examine Mitchell's records to ascertain the facts. Mitchell sells sea lions and Florida porpoises to commercial exhibits and shows.