A Tribute to Alice Morgan Wright, 1882-1975

By John A. Hoyt

On April 8, 1975, Alice Morgan Wright, an extraordinary woman, a great humanitarian, and a benefactor of HSUS programs, died. Her life was international in scope, and the range of her activities and interests encompassed both human and animal concerns. She was an aggressive and articulate advocate of women's rights and a crusader for humane population control in an era when few persons were aware of the impending consequences of this menace.

Yet it was her dedication to animal welfare and her vision of a truly humane civilization that marks her greatness as a person of compassion. Her legacy to life and her challenge to those who strive for the rights of animals in a world that continues to misuse and abuse them was profoundly expressed in the following personal objectives she wrote in January, 1963. They are as relevant today as they were then.

To oppose cruelty in all its forms.
To strive for an end to all cruel sports wherever performed and wherever represented as art or as entertainment.
To abhor all cruel sports.
To protect and conserve wildlife.
To advance programs for the humane sterilization of cats and dogs.

The words are a contradiction in terms. The only box-trap should be tolerated.
To discourage hunting, especially as a sport.
To oppose all poisoning of wildlife.
To protect and conserve wildlife for its own sake and not as a resource for man's exploitation.
To aid or initiate programs for slaughter reform.
To teach humane handling and care of farm and food animals.
To cooperate in efforts to find more humane methods of catching and killing the fauna of the sea, especially whales and seals.
To advance programs for the humane sterilization of cats and dogs in order to reduce their overpopulation.
To provide for the rescue, housing, and feeding of lost, stray, or abandoned animals, until suitable homes are found.
To urge that when it is necessary to put any tame animal to death, unless some better method of euthanasia is available, it be so arranged that the animal be held in the arms of some human friend while it is being given a painless preliminary anaesthetic, to be stroked and comforted with reassuring words until it losses consciousness, after which the lethal agent should be quickly administered.

To recognize in animals their capacity for friendship and their need of friends. To befriend all earth's creatures, of the land, the sea, and the air; to defend them against ravages by mankind, and to inspire in human beings compassion for all.

By John A. Hoyt

President's Perspective

Ford Considers Lifting Predator Control Poison Ban

HSUS has learned that Interior Secretary Stanley K. Hathaway and other Administration officials are trying to persuade President Ford to rescind the Executive Order that banned the use of poisons to kill predators on public lands. The order, issued by President Nixon in 1972, stopped the federal government's massive poisoning of coyotes to protect sheep grazing on leased public lands. HSUS and environmental organizations have demonstrated that (a) there was little justification for the program, (b) the poisons were causing agonizing suffering to the victims, and (c) other wildlife, humans, and the land were being detrimentally affected. HSUS believes a lifting of the ban would represent a major step backward in U.S. wildlife policies and a further bending of wildlife interests to economic ones. Make your views known to President Ford, c/o The White House, Washington, D.C.

At Press Time...

HSUS Asks Court to Ban Rabbits in Dog Racing

HSUS has petitioned the Florida Supreme Court to permit it to participate in an attempt to reverse a lower court ruling that the use of live rabbits is not banned by state anti-cruelty statutes on the grounds that they are necessary in the training of racing dogs. The lower court ruled last March that the state's anti-cruelty law does not apply to the situation because it only prohibits activities that are "unnecessarily" cruel. HSUS General Counsel Murdagh Stuart Madden has urged the Florida Attorney General to appeal the ruling on the grounds that it strikes at the integrity and effectiveness of all state anti-cruelty statutes.
An HSUS investigator found several violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act while inspecting the Maryland laboratory where the Army conducts chemical tests on beagles and other animals. Phyllis Wright, HSUS director of animal sheltering and control, observed "deplorable" conditions for housing animals during a June 25 inspection tour of the Army's chemical warfare research facility at Edgewood, Md. Miss Wright, a former inspector of animal research facilities for the District of Columbia, noted several violations of the standards for housing research animals required by the 1970 federal law. Among the violations were:

- Approximately 50 beagles housed in an unventilated metal building with an interior temperature exceeding 100 degrees.
- Beagles kept in cages with wire grid floors that allowed the dogs' toe pads to slip between the wire, causing obvious discomfort. No resting boards were provided.
- Approximately 50 rhesus monkeys acquired from the wild being held in quarantine for 6 weeks in cages 15 x 22 x 22 inches, without any exercise area.
- A room full of adult rats packed 5 each in containers little larger than shoe boxes.
- Wire grid floors at the Army's animal research facility cause obvious discomfort to the beagles

Miss Wright and Warren Brodrick, executive director of the Humane Society of Harford County, Md., were given permission to inspect the research facility after learning of the Army's purchase of 350 beagles for laboratory use. The Army is using the dogs to test toxic levels of insecticides, detergents, adhesives, and aerosols (including vinyl chloride), as well as to discover methods of disposing of obsolete chemical warfare agents.

While touring the facility, Miss Wright observed beagles that appeared to be psychotic. "Some of the beagles trembled in terror as we approached. Others defecated and climbed walls," she said.

"The conditions constitute a substandard condition to the Army's failure to adhere to federal regulations for animal research facilities set forth by the Animal Welfare Act and enforceable by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). Col. Kenneth B. Murphy, commander of the Edgewood command, said the post was required to follow federal standards but was not inspected because of the classified nature of the experiments. An Army spokesman reported that 81% of the experiments at Edgewood are classified while the remaining 19% are performed under contract for other government agencies that do not engage in classified business. When Miss Wright asked the chief veterinarian why the facilities of the unclassified experiments were not inspected, he replied that Edgewood had been exempted from normal USDA inspection procedures.

"If other laboratories must be inspected, then why isn't Edgewood?" Miss Wright exclaimed later.

Miss Wright and Brodrick were only permitted to view animal holding areas during the tour. They were prohibited from reviewing records kept on experiments. No laboratories or other sites of actual experimentation were included in the tour because Army officials feared "a danger of throwing back the progress of the research."

Public protests over government use of beagles for experimental purposes has intensified in recent years. Beagles are chosen for research studies on substances being tested for human use because they are remarkably similar to man in many physiological characteristics. In 1973 HSUS received thousands of complaints concerning the U.S. Air Force's use of 200 debarked beagle puppies for pollution studies. HSUS protested these and other Army experiments using beagles. The Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, Deputy Staff Assistant Phillip A. Farris replied by stating that there is no ethical or scientifically prudent way to test substances for human use without prior evaluation in living creatures.

In a letter to Schlesinger protesting the recent Edgewood experiments, HSUS President John A. Hoyt said military officials have enjoyed the luxury of conducting their experiments behind closed doors and under the guise of national security for too long. "Neither their objectives nor their techniques have had to stand the test of public scrutiny. Consequently, military officials are rarely required to apply ethical and moral standards other than their own to their work," he said.

HSUS General Counsel Murdough is preparing to initiate legal proceedings under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act to force the Army to release facts concerning experiments at Edgewood. If unsuccessful in obtaining these facts, HSUS will review the information to determine if the experiments are justified and being conducted in a humane manner. HSUS has received assurances of support in obtaining this information from four federal legislators.

Several measures aimed at limiting the use of live animals in federally funded research projects are being considered by Congress. HR 8042 (Helskog, D-N.J.), HR 7981 (Mayo, D-N.J.), and HR 3900 (St. Germain, D-R.I.) would ban the military from using dogs in any biological or chemical warfare research. A House resolution (HCR 42) introduced by Rep. William Whorton (R-Va.) would require the federal government to develop new research methods to help reduce or eliminate experiments involving live animals.

Army Ignores Federal Law
At Animal Research Facility

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Cruelty Rampant at America’s Horse Riding Stables

Frank McMahon Loses Fight for Life
Chief Investigator Dies At Age 48

Frank J. McMahon, 48, chief investigator for The Humane Society of the United States, died on July 1 after suffering a series of strokes over the past 6 months.

Mr. McMahon had been a driving force in HSUS investigative activities from 1961 until last December. He was best known for his investigations of dog dealers, research laboratories, and inhumane transportation of animals. His work took him to rodeo arenas, slaughterhouses, stockyards, cockfights, dog fights, animal auctions, and the Pribilof Islands seal clubbing.

Rodeo promoters, dog fight enthusiasts, and other persons surrounding such living by exploiting animals could spot his face in a crowd and had their followers constantly on the alert for his presence. He had been shot at, threatened with personal harm, and his home in Washington’s Foggy Bottom section had been bugged.

One of the many headlines describing McMahon’s activities in Harris County was: “He was tough. And he was tough. Once, when the Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) would not allow a cargo of Maryland horses destined for American zoos to dock in New York, he told USDA officials that he would see to it that the horses were humanely destroyed unless they were unloaded. The officials relented, and the ship was cleared to enter the harbor. When it arrived alongside the dock, there was Frank McMahon standing on the bridge. He had convinced the captain of a small boat to take him alongside the ship at 3 a.m. when the ship was still outside the 3-mile limit. But McMahon was no tough guy in dealing with fellow humanitarians. Humanists leaders throughout the nation remember him as the man from Washington who came to help them put an end to local cruelties.

One of McMahon’s best known accomplishments was a 1966 raid on a Maryland dog dealer, in which he was heralded as a hero by the people of Harris County.

McMahon followed Frank McMahon’s raid of a Maryland dog dealer in a 1966 article entitled “Conviction Camp for Dogs.” In the photo at left, McMahon testified before Pinellas County, Fla., commissioners in support of a county spay and neuter clinic in 1973.

Hoyt after learning of McMahon’s death. “There is no doubt that he helped make this nation more humane. He was courageous beyond the point of caution when fighting for the cause of animals. All of us who knew and worked with him will miss his indomitable spirit and his unceasing compassion toward his fellow creatures.”

Mr. McMahon is survived by his mother, Mrs. Victoria Middleton of Lynn, Mass., and a sister, Mrs. Maryan Rudzinsky of Winthrop, Mass. The family requests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the Frank J. McMahon Memorial Fund established by HSUS to support prevention of cruelty to animals.

“Horses for Rent.” Drive down almost any rural highway and you’ll see a large metropolitan area and you’ll see signs beckoning city slickers to exchange a few greenbacks for a horseback ride in the country. More often than not a person renting a horse from one of the thousands of commercial horse riding stables in the U.S. will be given an animal that is overworked, underfed, and virtually worthless.

HSUS receives scores of complaints annually from distraught citizens who are shocked by the neglectful and inhumane manner in which rental horses are treated. Except in the most blatant cases of cruelty, weak anti-cruelty laws in many state and local jurisdictions often make it difficult for HSUS to force stable owners to improve treatment of their horses. HSUS has discovered that the owners of the stables it has investigated are more concerned with making money than with caring for the animals’ needs. A stable boy at a Pennsylvania, Texas, riding stable that HSUS recently investigated told Bernard M. Weller, field representative for the HSUS Gulf States Region, that “there are times when the horses go 3 days without food because they are not fed if they are not rented.” The stable owner was charged with cruelty by Weller and later convicted.

Last March Weller was asked to investigate the Westheimer Stable near Houston by Peter Haag, president of the Citizen’s Association of Greater Houston. Weller found 19 horses in an advanced state of emaciation. He reported that the animals’ spines, hips, ribs, and chest bones were overly exposed, and that most of the animals’ coals were matted and dirty. One horse had an open, raw sore on its right flank. A customer told Weller she had observed one of the horses eating its own excrement.

Weller described the stable as dirty, drafty, and pitted high with manure. He found no water containers in the stalls and no signs that hay had been fed to the horses. Many of the stalls had been chewed, some were kicked in and broken, pushing boards loose and exposing nails that were dangerous to the horses. Water from a nearby road drained into the stalls, and a pasture provided for the horses was almost barren of grass.

In a letter to the owner of the stable, Mrs. Avis Hadston, Weller urged that a veterinarian be called immediately to examine the horses, as well as to prescribe a high nutritional diet. Weller warned Mrs. Hadston that she was in violation of Texas State Penal Code 42:11 which states that a person commits a crime if he intentionally or knowingly fails to provide food, care, or shelter for an animal in his custody or confines the animal in a cruel manner.

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Weller returned to the stable on several occasions offering numerous recommendations to improve the health and living conditions for the horses. Mrs. Hadston refused to follow Weller’s recommendations and threatened to sue HSUS for interference and harassment.

In a hearing before a local court Dr. R. D. Ward, chief of veterinary public health at the University of Pennsylvania Health Dept., confirmed Weller’s findings. He said he had investigated the stable 2 years ago and made recommendations for its improvement (identical to Weller’s) but that they had not been acted upon in that time.

At the request of a local court Dr. Ward examined the horses and found some of them to be only 50% of their normal weight. He also discovered numerous violations of the Texas health code at the stable.

Mrs. Hadston was evicted from the stable, but she subsequently set up another stable operation using the Westheimer horses. She is now awaiting trial on charges of cruelty to animals.

In another animal auction, Mrs. Hadston told, “I believe that fat, healthy horses are too dangerous for children to ride. My older horses are safer for little children.”

HSUS is convinced that the inhuman condition that we now face in this nation which horse stables exist in scores of stables throughout the nation. Few states have laws that specify safety requirements for horse riding stables. In some states, including Maryland, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, laws regulate stable owners by requiring specific conditions under which they must maintain their horses. They also require a certain number of horses to insure the regulations are upheld.

Humanitarians who want riding stables in their state to be regulated are urged to write HSUS for guidelines on the sale and rental of horses.
In a recent issue of Gun World magazine, in an article entitled “They’re After Your Guns and Game,” several animal welfare organizations were examined. HSUS and KIND received special attention.

“But this one (HSUS) poses a more subtle threat. Through a program called KIND (Kindness in Nature’s Defense), this group is supplying professionally done hunting propaganda! These kits are to enlist about the dangers of wildlife killing.”

In the past year, the membership of KIND has more than doubled. A number of local humane societies have adopted the KIND periodical for use with their youth groups instead of going to the expense of producing their own newsletters. Children from all 50 states belong to KIND. And they’ve all adopted the BE KIND pledge as their standard mode of behavior.

Schoolteachers are turning to the KIND magazine in preference to some of the commercially prepared school newspapers and magazines. They find that the KIND Teaching Tips helps them use KIND for meaningful discussions of values and ethics. Some teachers are employing the KIND magazine as a recreational reading vehicle while others are using the magazine for formal reading instruction and social studies programs.

The many KIND pamphlets and the new careers manual are finding their way into the classroom and the public library. In a recent issue of Seventeen magazine HSUS’s Roger Caras gave brief mention to the Careers: Working with Animals manual, and, as a result, we’ve been flooded with requests for the book.

In May of this year, KIND abandoned its three newsletters and its teacher’s guide and launched a new magazine. The name is still the same and our colloquial “talk talk” writing approach remains. Without exception, every letter we’ve received about the new magazine has been complimentary.

The new KIND incorporates some of the successful elements of the former newsletters and teacher’s guide, as well as bright new ideas. There are still plenty of short easy-to-read pieces for the younger readers, as well as in-depth articles for the older readers. But it’s all under one cover. There are projects, puzzles, a mini pull-out poster in the center, editorsials, book reviews, fiction stories, and letters to the editor—all with the humane flavor!

In recognition of our nation’s bicentennial celebration, KIND has launched America’s Bicentennial Animal Election. The youth of America are being asked to vote for the one animal they think contributed most to the development of our nation. Fourteen animal candidates were presented to the young people. They include whales, buffalo, beaver, salmon, wild turkeys, horses, beef and dairy cattle, and other animals that have played a significant role in the saga of America. Other children’s magazines, local humane societies, and some adult publications are helping KIND publicize the election. And the ballots are beginning to come in by the boxful. In some schools all the students are voting. We even had a vote from an 80-year-old admirer of animals. The write-in votes are very interesting. We have received ballots for fleas, chickens, and the white dove of peace, among others.

This election was designed to focus attention on the contributions of animals and to help young people recognize that we “couldn’t have done it without them.”

In addition, our raccoon mascot (Arakum) appears throughout the magazine as a vehicle to introduce articles, projects, and puzzles. KIND is also more visual now. We’ve borrowed the “picture is worth a thousand words” concept from the old Life magazine to make about 50% of the magazine strictly visual. It’s our opinion that the TV generation needs visual support for the written word. And, of course, the photos and drawings make the articles more interesting.

This year, KIND initiated The KIND Awards Program that allows KIND members to nominate children or adults to receive a award for acts of kindness to people or animals. So far, more than 40 children and adults have received KIND Awards from KIND members in many different parts of the country. It’s this kind of recognition that we believe will help young and old alike recognize the need to respect all living things.

The emphasis that the KIND program places on animal behavior is costly. A large portion of the HSUS budget is being allocated toward KIND and other humane education activities.

The directors of HSUS have long recognized that our primary emphasis must be directed to the younger generation. So we know that the expense has been justified. But KIND has a long way to go before it pays for itself. We’ve purposely scaled our membership dues and prices for materials below the break-even point in order to compete with other future-focused houses and other special interest groups that don’t recognize the need to protect animals.

KIND is making an impact. But we need your help. We need the “word of mouth” kind of support that can spread the message about KIND. We’d like to see local humane societies purchase subscriptions to the KIND magazine to place in public and school libraries. We’d like every member of The Humane Society of the United States and other animal welfare groups to enroll their children and grandchildren in the KIND club. We’d like to receive information about acts of kindness, especially those performed by children, in order that we might report them to the members of KIND. We’ve had several examples of kindness that help others “see the light.” And as importantly, we need your contributions. The many KIND publications and activities are expensive. For example, the individual membership in KIND is $3.00 a year, but our actual costs are closer to $5.00 a year for each member.

Our primary objective is to get the humane message into the hands of as many young people as possible. In the present and the future, KIND will reach a membership level that will allow the program to pay for itself. But until we reach that level, we need your support.

Won’t you take a moment to consider helping KIND become a success? It’s not only an investment in the younger generation, it’s an investment in a future generation of humanitarians!

We write to KIND, c/o HSUS head­quarters, for a sample copy of the KIND magazine.

We Need Your Help

I am more and more convinced that any hope we have of achieving a humane nation is dependent on our chil­dren and youth. To take advantage of this opportunity, HSUS has put a top priority on educational programs for young people. One of the most important programs we are con­ducting is KIND, for children 6 through 18. I urge you to read the latest developments in KIND on these pages. I know you will want to help us ensure the continuation and expansion of this program by sending a personal con­tribution in the attached envelope. Please let us know that you share our belief in the young people of this nation.

John A. Hoyt
Humane Progress Halts at Largest Science Fair

Infliction of Pain Common, HSUS Observer Reports

The International Science and Engineering Fair, the final stage of competition for about 90% of the state and local science fairs in the nation, appears to have ended its attempts to improve the treatment of animals in projects it funds, according to Dr. F. Orlans, a scientist with the humane group, HSUS.

At the 1975 fair, held last May in Oklahoma City, there were 27 projects that involved inflicting pain on vertebrate animals, according to Mrs. Melinda Goemaat, an HSUS member from Oklahoma City who attended the fair as HSUS's representative. This is almost the identical number of such projects that were exhibited in the 1974 fair.

The 27 projects included implantation of tumors in rats, exposing mice to very high decibel noise levels, performing skin grafts on mice, and injecting chicken eggs with an aspirin substitute to study malformation of the chicks. One particularly cruel project was based on attempts to graft skin onto mice. The 16-year-old student who conducted the experiment reported that some of the mice broke the stitches and that he had used suture material of improper size. He also admitted that some of the mice died, possibly as a result of being too cold.

"I'm telling to me about his project, this boy had the attitude that his project had been fun," Mrs. Goemaat reported. "He admitted in response to my question that he wasn't furthering science because the results of his project were already known by the scientific community.

In another project, a 15-year-old youth used a cat with what appeared to be badly injured dog bite wounds to determine whether or not the cat's licking of the wounds would enhance healing. (There was no information available as to where the student obtained the cat.) Although the animal was reported to have recovered from the wounds, HSUS cannot condone withholding proper medical treatment from an animal.

In another experiment a 17-year-old girl used cardiac punctures to remove blood from eight rats in a study of the effects of tumors on blood serum proteins. "Many highly trained professional scientists can't perform cardiac punctures properly," commented Dr. F. Barbora Orions, who has spearheaded the HSUS campaign to make science fairs humane. "I can't imagine that a high school student could perform this highly technical procedure accurately and humanely."

HSUS was encouraged at the 1974 fair because there were no projects involving experiments on monkeys, a popular subject at previous fairs, and there was a reduction in the number of projects involving home surgery on animals. But no further progress was noted this year.

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The treatment of animals in projects it funds, according to Dr. F. Orlans, a scientist with the humane group, HSUS. HSUS and Consumers Union contend that it is impossible to produce salamella-fortified commercial food.

HSUS and Consumers Union had filed petitions with FDA and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at March, 1974, in support of a ban on all pet turtle sales. HSUS's primary goal in submitting the petitions was to advise the agencies that the method the pet industry was proposing to lessen the risk of disease, namely keeping the turtles out of water for most of their lives, was "grossly inadequate."

If this is true, we are forced to the fact significantly decrease the chances that all turtles that have to be destroyed under FDA order are destroyed in the most humane manner possible. Unfortunately, FDA left the door open for the pet industry to create a disease-free turtle breeding and distribution scheme, saying that if such a scheme could be developed, FDA would reconsider the whole matter.

The ban applies to all turtles with a shell length of less than 4 inches and the eggs of such turtles.
Southern Area Office Help Solve Problems

Southern Area Representative Burton M. Parks traveled extensively through Florida and Georgia over the past year meeting with the boards of directors of local humane societies and other leading humanitarians.

Parks, whose office is in Pinehurst, N. C., evaluated local animal control programs and other aspects of animal protection and made recommendations for improvement. In every community he visited, he brought together representatives of the local society and the city or county animal control officer, often for the first time. A focal point of discussion in these meetings was the expert help HSUS offers in solving animal control problems through its Maryland Pet-Animal Regulations, (available at $5.00 each from HSUS headquarters).

In his efforts to help the communities, Parks found specific suggestions on improving the humane treatment of animals and increased adoptions and referred officials to the HSUS publication Recommended Standards and Procedures for the Operation of an Animal Shelter (available from HSUS headquarters for $5 each).

“Most societies operating shelters in Florida and Georgia complained that lack of funds and public apathy have caused the shelters to reduce the number of animals they take in and to euthanize most sick and unadoptable animals,” he reported. “However, the community animal shelters are being run by people who are dedicated to the welfare and promotion of humane treatment of animals. These shelters need help in the way of financial contributions, public guidance, and increased publicity.”

In one community, the shelter was able to reduce the number of animals euthanized and increase the number of animals adopted as a result of the efforts of the HSUS and the local society. The shelter now takes in sick and unadoptable animals, and the animal control officers help in the care of the animals. The shelter has also increased its adoption programs and has been able to reduce the number of animals euthanized.

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In other communities, the shelter was able to reduce the number of animals euthanized and increase the number of animals adopted as a result of the efforts of the HSUS and the local society. The shelter now takes in sick and unadoptable animals, and the animal control officers help in the care of the animals. The shelter has also increased its adoption programs and has been able to reduce the number of animals euthanized.

Burton Parks

Parks found conditions at the shelter “disgusting.” He was particularly appalled by the use of hot gas from a truck to help euthanize animals. He immediately informed the shelter manager that he could not bring his own animals to the shelter because of the use of hot gas. He informed the manager that he would not return to the shelter to bring his animals if he were allowed to use hot gas.

Parks’ assessment of the shelter was reported in a front page article in the Pensacola Journal the following morning and in several radio and television interviews. “The city has a right to be fed up,” the Journal quoted Parks as saying. “The shelter has been operated in a disgraceful manner in the past. Now there is new leadership, and conditions, hopefully, will be improved.”

Parks repeated his findings and recommendations at a city council hearing. Even before the testimony, Parks was congratulated by Mayor Noel, who appeared in a front page article for the statements reported in the Journal article. “I’ve wanted for months to see someone write this up and say it all,” Brown told him.

Parks recommended that the city renew its contract with the society, stating that he was optimistic that the new officers of the society would make dramatic improvements. The council followed his recommendation, and the contract was renewed. Parks has already taken several major steps to improve the shelter, including the reduction of the shelter’s population and major repairs to the building.

HSUS Tells Pittsburgh its Zoo is Stagnating

HSUS zoo expert Sue Pressman blasted the Pittsburgh Zoo as a “limping zoological society” during a meeting with the city’s zoo officials.

Mrs. Pressman charged that living conditions for the animals had improved since her initial inspection in 1972. “But the conditions are still bad, and I’m sorry to say that this place is stagnating,” she declared.

She warned that HSUS would consider taking legal action against the zoo unless city administrators take immediate steps to improve conditions. She was unimpressed by plans for a $23.5 million building program promoted by the city’s Director of Parks, whose office is in Pinehurst, N.C.

“Conditions at the Pittsburgh Zoo are deplorable,” Mrs. Pressman said. “The animals are being kept in squalid conditions, and the facility is totally out of date.”

Mrs. Pressman urged the city to utilize the services of a professional zoo architectural consultant to draft a master plan for the facility.

Public concern about the zoo mounted after the Pittsburgh Zoological Society announced it was turning over its control of the zoo to the city because of “senseless, irrational interference” by city administrators.

Mrs. Pressman spoke to city officials about the zoo society’s plan to leave, said Mrs. Pressman. “The city cannot run the zoo alone, nor should it be left as a government agency.”

She said both sides—the city and the zoo society—were right regarding disagreement over zoo policy. “If the zoological society does not change its ways,” she said, “it will be taken over by the city.”

She said that the city’s zoo is not a healthy place for animals, and the zoo staff should be replaced. She also praised the city’s zoo administration for its work in improving the zoo’s facilities.

Word of Mrs. Pressman’s plans to visit the zoo prompted a cleanup program. One veteran zoo employee told the Pittsburgh Journal that he had never seen the zoo so clean. “I haven’t seen the zoo workmen here in 2 years,” he said.

Game Managers Have “Respect for Life” Ethic

It is wrong for animals to be reduced to targets, with no meaningful purpose in their deaths, said one of Pennsylvania’s most prominent game managers. HSUS education director John Dommer will open the 1975 HSUS Annual Conference on Oct. 16 in Pensacola, Florida, which is open to all members and friends of HSUS, will be held at the Pensacola Beach Conference Center, Pensacola, Florida, from Thursday, Oct. 16, until Sunday, Oct. 19. It will feature speeches by leaders in various aspects of wildlife management, field冷冷 conceive themselves to the conference theme “Animal Conservation: Trends of the Future.” A series of workshops has been planned to provide expertise and up-to-the-min­ute information that will help humanity understand the interrelationships among human beings, plants, animals, and the environment.

For the second year, a special tour on humane education will be held during the conference to bring humanitarians and educators up to date on the latest information in the field. The conference theme is “Respect for Life.” By the time the conference ends, it will be conducted from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the 16th, with registration limited to the first 100 persons who register. (See registration coupon on page 15.) Dom­mers and John Ripley Forbes, president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, will present a slide show and lecture presentation on “The Nature Conservationist’s Role in Humane Educa­tion” at 7:30 p.m. the same day.

Featured conference speakers will be:
- Naturalist Roger Caras, a regular member of the ABC TV “AM America” show and an HSUS vice president, who will deliver the keynote address Friday morning.
- Mr. Ruth Harrison, international authority on the cruelties of factory farming animals and director of the HSUS Factory Farming: Ecological Plunder Committee.
- Mr. Larry Smart, chairman of the Nebraska Humane Society.
- Dr. Lloyd C. Faulkner, chairman of the Wildlife Biology Program at the University of Arizona.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ruth Ann Wakefield, authors of “The Pet Population Problem” Friday morning.

For the fourth year, a special feature of the 1975 conference will be a dance following the Saturday banquet. Persons who are unable to attend all 3 days of the confer­ence will need to have a reservation for the banquet. (See registration coupon for details.)

Registration for the entire conference is $20 for registrations received by Sept. 1. After that date, the registration fee will be $25. The fee includes admission to the Annual Awards Banquet. Lunches during the conference will not be provided for confer­ence participants because a variety of restaurants are located in the immediate vicinity of the hotel.

The Houston Oasis is located in the Galleria, a beautiful shopping mall complete with many specialty shops and several prestigious department stores, including Neiman-Marcus, Tiffany, and Lord and Taylor.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel. Upon receipt of a confirmation, registrants will receive a registration package and the hotel confirm­ation, which should be used to register for the conference. Room rates are $30 for singles and $37 for doubles, with a charge of $8 for each additional person in a room. (See registration coupon for details.)

All hotel reservations must be made by Oct. 1 or the room rate will be raised.

The complete conference agenda is printed on page 15.
News Briefs

Pound Seizure Challenged By Spokane Humanitarians

HSUS West Coast Regional Director Franz L. Dantzler met with a group of Spokane, Wash., citizens last May to discuss a city council decision to sell unclaimed dogs and cats at the city’s animal shelter to universities for research purposes. Mrs. Joyce Sutherlin, spokeswoman for a citizens committee formed to fight the council’s decision, asked for HSUS’s help in opposing the measure. In interviews on several local TV newscasts, Dantzler supported the committee’s goals and said HSUS is opposed to selling any surplus animals to research facilities because of the inhumane treatment to which many laboratory animals are subjected. He said such a practice also destroys the public confidence in animal control programs.

The shelter manager was arrested recently on charges he had falsifying records to show that animals had been destroyed when, in fact, he had sold them to laboratory animal dealers. As a result, the city council decided to sell the animals directly to the universities. Dantzler said in view of the problems at the shelter he was amazed by the council’s action. The citizens committee is now circulating petitions calling for an initiative to overturn the council’s decision.

HSUS Advises Community On Animal Control Plans

Phyllis Wright, HSUS director of animal shelters and control, met with a municipal task force in Buffalo, N. Y., in the spring to advise them on procedures for establishing a county animal control ordinance and spay-neuter program.

“Miss Wright met with the group, appointed by the Erie County government, at the request of Dr. Marian Carroll, an HSUS member from Tonawanda, N. Y. She outlined the elements of a progressive animal control program and emphasized the need for preventative measures, including education and sterilization.”

States Ban Dogfighting

Illinois and Florida recently passed bills banning dogfighting in those states. The Illinois bill makes it a misdemeanor to possess, breed, own, promote, or sell any animals for fighting. HSUS, at the invitation of the legislator, testified in support of the measure.

1975 HSUS Annual Conference Agenda

Thursday, October 16
8:30 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Educational Tour of Houston Zoo
Sue Pressman, HSUS Director of Wildlife Protection, and Zoo Staff
7:30-9:30 p.m. “The Nature Center’s Key Role in Humane Education”
John Dommers, Director, HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education Center; John Ripley Forbes, President, Natural Science for Youth Foundation
9:30-11:00 p.m. Get Acquainted Reception
Friday, October 17
9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks
Amy Freeman Lee, Litt. D., Program Chairman
Coleman Burke, HSUS Board Chairman
John A. Hoyt, HSUS President
9:30 a.m. Keynote Address: “Cruelty—So What?”
Roger Caras, HSUS Vice President
10:45 a.m. “Factory Farming: Ecological Plunder”
Ruth Harrison, author of “Animal Machines”
2:00 p.m. “The Pet Population Problem”
Lloyd Faulkner, D.V.M., Chairman, Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics, Colorado State University
3:45 p.m. Workshops
(1) A Closer Look at Factory Farming
Ruth Harrison
(2) Animal Control Problems and Solutions
Phyllis Wright, HSUS Director of Animal Sheltering and Control
(3) Publicizing Your Society
Charles Herrmann, HSUS Director of Education
(4) The Future of Your Community’s Zoo
Sue Pressman, HSUS Director of Wildlife Protection
8:30 p.m. East African Wildlife Photographic Safari (Slide Presentations)
Roger Caras, HSUS Vice President

Saturday, October 18
9:00 a.m. Annual Membership Meeting
Report of Elections Committee
Amy Freeman Lee, Litt. D., HSUS Secretary
Election of Nominating Committee
Treasurer’s Report
Oliver Evans
President’s Report
John A. Hoyt
11:00 a.m. “The Future of Wildlife Management”
Victor B. Schefter, International Authority on Marine Mammals
2:00-5:00 p.m. Humane Education Forum: “Programs and Materials for Your Community”
HSUS Education Staff
2:00-3:15 p.m. Workshops
(1) Achieving Wildlife Protection
Guy R. Hodge, HSUS Director of Research & Data Services
(2) Recommended Methods of Euthanasia
Phyllis Wright, HSUS Director of Animal Sheltering and Control
10:00 p.m. Social Hour and Dance

Sunday, October 19
9:00 a.m. Resolutions Committee Report
Noon Adjournment of Annual Conference

Registration for 1975 HSUS Annual Conference
Mail to: HSUS, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037

Cost per Person

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Registration Fee for 3 days (including Saturday banquet)
*After Sept. 1, $25
1-day Registration Fee $5
Banquet only $12
Zoo Tour (10 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 16) $2

Make checks payable to HSUS

NOTE: Hotel Reservation Form will be mailed to you upon receipt of this coupon.

| Name | Address | City | State | Zip |

HSUS Investigators Find Gary Pound a “Hell Hole”

Two HSUS staff members investigated the Gary, Ind., pound in May for the third time in 2 years and found that it continues to be a “hell hole.”

HSUS animal control expert Phyllis Wright and Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman Jr. were appalled and frustrated at the seriousness of discrepancies. Discrepancies included:

• No outside exercise area.
• No adoption program—100% of the animals turned in are euthanized.
• Use of Succinylcholine (succinylcholine chloride) injections for euthanasia, a drug not intended for euthanasia that causes the animal to suffocate.
• Use of rusty coffee cans for food containers.

Miss Wright and Inman met with Dr. James T. Hedrick Jr., Gary commissioner, to discuss the necessity of improving the pound operation to meet humane standards.

Inman said in view of the HSUS’s efforts to improve pound conditions, “It makes it a misdemeanor to sell the county money in the long run.”

The Needs of Animals Will Continue Long After You Are Gone

Man’s cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end in our lifetime. Long after today’s humanitarians are gone, animals will need defenders and protectors.

The Humane Society of the United States will be happy to send you a booklet on how to make the best use of your animal welfare bequest.

Write in complete confidence to: Murdah Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.
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