Hurricane Charley hit Florida on Friday, August 13, 2004, as if it carried a grudge. The storm not only defied all expert predictions by rapidly developing into a Category 4 'cane, but it also took an unexpected right turn into the heart of Charlotte County—an area dotted with dozens of trailer parks and populated with thousands of senior citizens who had little time to evacuate. And they weren't the only ones. Animal victims of the storm were in need of assistance too.

Activated earlier by the state of Florida, The HSUS's Disaster Animal Rescue Team (DART), which includes nearly 30 volunteers from around the Sunshine State, set up tents in Carmelita Park to serve as an animal services area. There volunteers cared for animals brought in by the public and by rescue teams. The temporary facility also took in found animals as well as those pets voluntarily surrendered by displaced families.

Disaster training paid off for CSRO's Richard Rice, who responded to Hurricane Charley.

CSRO's new Program Coordinator Richard Rice was put straight to work once he arrived in Illinois from Florida, where he had been the animal care manager for Brevard County's two animal shelters. One of his first assignments was to attend the Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) clinic in Scott County, Tennessee, where more than 85 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered over the course of a weekend by a dedicated RAVS team. Three veterinarians and 28 volunteer veterinary students worked tirelessly to perform surgeries on animals brought to the free clinic. It was a huge step forward in the effort to reduce the severe pet overpopulation problem facing the citizens of Scott County.

Rice assisted in the effort by providing humane education information to everyone who brought an animal to the clinic. He was able to answer many questions about responsible pet ownership, as well as address specific animal care concerns about heartworm prevention, flea and tick treatments, and the importance of preventative measures such as annual exams and vaccinations.

The people of Scott County were very grateful, receptive, and kind. They were amazed at the number of volunteers who gave so much of themselves to make the clinic a tremendous success. This was the fifth RAVS clinic within the region this year. We have several more planned for the remainder of 2004, and have already begun to fill our 2005 calendar. This will include a return visit to Scott County.

The HSUS is proud of the many accomplishments of its RAVS program. Through RAVS we are able to bring free veterinary services to impoverished communities around the globe. With a particular emphasis on assisting native nations and rural communities that offer little, if anything, in the way of veterinary or humane services, RAVS clinics provide for those who need it the most. Veterinary students volunteer their time to work with experienced veterinarians and practice surgery techniques under close supervision. The education component of each clinic is vital in raising public awareness in communities where this information may not be readily available otherwise. Because its work is never done, RAVS is continually looking for two things: more veterinary volunteers and more funds. To learn more about RAVS, or if you are a veterinary student interested in volunteering, visit www.ruralareavet.org. To make a donation, please go to www.hsus.org/ravs.

A volunteer veterinarian supervises a veterinary student as she spays a pet during a RAVS clinic in Tennessee's Scott County.
CONFERENCE-GOERS TAKE PART IN A MOCK EVACUATION EXERCISE DURING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMALS IN DISASTERS.

CSRO Director Speaks at Disaster Conference

C SRO Director Phil Snyder presented a workshop on state animal response team planning at the National Conference on Animals in Disasters, held in Philadelphia earlier this year. He highlighted the North Carolina plan, which was used successfully last year in response to Hurricane Isabel, where Snyder headed animal search and rescue efforts.

Individuals involved with disaster planning and response from across the country attended the session, eager to take information back to their states for planning and implementation.

More than 300 people from 42 states, as well as Costa Rica, Canada, and England, were in attendance. They represented humane societies and animal control, the veterinary community, disaster planning and response groups, state and federal government emergency managers, and agricultural officials. Fifty-eight speakers presented 32 workshops. The keynote speaker was Temple Grandin, associate professor of animal science at Colorado State University.

Attendees described The HSUS's conference as a great success. There was a wide range of communities represented, both geographically and by vocation. They came together, as representatives of communities represented, both geographically and by vocation. They came together, experienced a renewed vision of how they could help the people and animals in their communities.

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owners. Livestock was housed on a series of baseball fields across the street. The goal, of course, was to reunite all lost animals with their families. But until then, they could stay at one of the four temporary animal emergency shelters that The HSUS set up in the devastated towns of Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte.

As part of the HSUS DART, CSRO Program Coordinator Richard Rice was deployed to Florida to assist with relief efforts following Charley. He helped staff the four emergency shelters, one of which alone took in more than 500 dogs and cats in just a few days following the hurricane. Other efforts included receiving and distributing donated pet food and supplies and coordinating rescue efforts with local animal care and control organizations throughout the area. Rice stated that, "The cooperative efforts to help people and animals in need reflect the work and training of The HSUS. It has paid off immeasurably with many locally trained personnel being able to help their neighbors."

I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about:

- Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative
- Providing for my pets in my will and at time of emergency
- Placing my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS

Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS

Donating The HSUS a gift of stock

Promoting the protection of all animals

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES CSRO Regional News Fall 2004

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Legislative Update

Persistence Pays Off in Kentucky

S ometimes, good things really do come to those who wait. A good example of this was the Kentucky bill created to end the use of gunshots as a routine method of euthanasia in animal shelters. Following months of reports in 1996 of numerous county shelter employees shooting homeless dogs, CSRO staff provided assistance, including funding, to counties in an attempt to improve their euthanasia methods. For several years we have urged state legislators to pass a law that not only would end the use of gunshot, but would also implement humane standards of care for shelter animals. We are happy to report that this persistence has paid off.

This year S.B. 133 passed the Senate on the evening of the last day of the session with a vote of 35-1. Shortly thereafter, the governor signed the bill into law.

CSRO wishes to thank Rep. Roger Thomas, who ensured the passage of this bill, and Bucky Reiter, director of Boone County Animal Control and board member of the Kentucky Animal Care and Control Association, whose tireless efforts we supported to finally make this law a reality.

Still Waiting in North Carolina

Animals in North Carolina will benefit from enactment of the Animal Protection Act, which will be formally introduced in early 2005 when the next regular legislative session resumes. As reported in Spring 2004 "CSRO Regional News," our office acted as an advisory member and supported the efforts of the House Interim Committee on the Prevention and Disposition of Unwanted and Abandoned Companion Animals, formed by House Speaker Jim Black. The committee studied issues relating to animals in the state, and was charged with composing legislation to address problems, including inhumane euthanasia methods, poor sheltering conditions for animals in certain counties, and pet overpopulation. Although the legislation was not introduced this year because of a short legislative session, we are interested in the possibility that it will receive sponsorship for a January 2005 introduction.

We urge North Carolina residents to contact their legislators and let them know how important the Animal Protection Act is. Many of the house interim committee members have already heard a tremendous amount of opposition from certain special interest groups, including hunters and breeders who apparently don't agree that animals deserve humane treatment in North Carolina. Legislators need to know that voters care about this issue and that the Animal Protection Act deserves their support. To find out who represents you, call your library, the League of Women Voters, the HSUS government affairs office at 202-955-3668, or visit www.ncleg.net/GIS/Representation and click on "Who Represents Me?"

Felony Animal Cruelty in Tennessee

L egislation that raised aggravated cruelty from a misdemeanor to a felony on the first offense has become law in Tennessee, thanks to the efforts of Sen. Steve Cohen. HSUS provided support of this bill through calls to action of our members, Web page postings, and our online newsletter. Previously, the offense was a felony only upon a second offense.

Two high-profile cruelty cases occurred while the bill was being considered, and, as a result, the bill became known as the General Patton/Gizmo Bill in reference to the animals. These cases helped move the bill through the system more quickly, and convinced lawmakers that animal cruelty is a serious crime. Sen. Cohen considers animal protection issues to be very important, and was quoted as saying, "They're our four-legged friends who need our protection because they can't speak for themselves." You can thank Sen. Cohen for the good work he has done on behalf of animals by calling 615-741-4108, or by sending an e-mail to sen.stephen.cohen@ten.state.us in support of the bill. For more information, please visit the HSUS legislative.state.tn.us.
At the age of 50, any individual or institution pauses to reflect on both the past and the future. That moment has arrived for The HSUS.

Five decades since its inception, The HSUS can look back on its accomplishments with pride. The HSUS has grown and diversified since 1954, now employing experts in companion animals, wildlife, farm animals, and animal research and attracting more than 8 million members and constituents. The HSUS has developed the most sophisticated government affairs, investigations, and humane education programs of any animal protection organization, and, recognizing that animal exploitation extends beyond our borders, now extends its programs across the globe.

Yet while our gains and our growth have made us the largest and most influential organization in the field, the challenges ahead are daunting. Animal abuse—especially in institutional forms, such as factory farming—remains more acute than ever.

As we look ahead, The HSUS will continue to pay attention to the wide range of issues that affect the lives of animals. We will never forget our birthright: the responsible care and protection of companion animals. We will also work to root out persistent forms of animal cruelty such as dogfighting, cockfighting, and other blood sports. But we must redouble our efforts to protect long-neglected classes of creatures, specifically animals reared for food, who are confined and killed by the billions every year.

We must become a powerful and unrelenting force in the public policy domain, working to halt intensive confinement of animals on factory farms; to compel companies to stop needless and duplicative testing on animals when alternatives exist; to shutter “puppy mills” that mass-produce dogs for the pet trade when millions of healthy and adoptable animals face abandonment or euthanasia for lack of suitable homes; to halt the fur trade; and to safeguard animals’ habitats so they, too, have space and shelter.

The professional staff of The HSUS can do a great deal to achieve these goals. But we cannot accomplish them alone. Only when HSUS members in communities are active—financially supporting our work, writing letters to newspapers and lawmakers, making responsible and humane choices in the marketplace, and educating people about animal issues in their communities—can we succeed.

Only with your active engagement will we see, on the distant horizon 50 years from today, a truly humane society that accounts for the basic needs of animals and treats them all with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Wayne Pacelle took over as The HSUS’s president and chief executive officer this summer. He has been with The HSUS for 10 years and served most recently as senior vice president for communications and government affairs.

Celebrate the Season and The HSUS Anniversary

The HSUS is proud to have May Company department stores and Radko as sponsors of our 50th anniversary. As part of the celebration, May Company is offering three exclusive HSUS 50th anniversary products for sale this fall: a Radko ornament (shown here) and a dog and cat plush toy by Gund. For more information visit www.hsus.org/marketplace.

The CSRO Regional News is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Central States Regional Office, 800 W. 5th Ave., Ste. 110, Naperville, IL 60563; 630-357-7015. Phillip R. Snyder, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays. © 2004 by The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved. A COPY OF THE LATEST REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FILED BY THE HSUS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE HSUS, OFFICE OF THE TREASURER, 2100 L ST., NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037, 202-452-1100. IN NORTH CAROLINA, FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT 919-807-2214. REGISTRATION OR LICENSING DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. Printed on recycled paper.