GLRO Fall 1986

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GLRO Exposes Deficiencies, Zoo Closes

A headline in the May 11 edition of The Cincinnati, Ohio, Enquirer reads, "Goodbye to Zoo, but no Boo Hoo. Panel backs end of poor exhibit."

The zoo referred to is the Glen Miller Park Zoo, located in Richmond, Indiana. It had been the subject of many complaints that prompted the Great Lakes Regional Office (GLRO) to do extensive work in an attempt to improve or, if necessary, close the facility. (continued on page 2)

Betsy the Beaver

School children touring the Ohio State House were delighted by the appearance of a 22-foot high, 36-foot-long beaver called Betsy. In April, the GLRO worked with the Society for Animal Protective Legislation to bring Betsy to Columbus to draw attention to H.R. 1409, a federal bill which, if passed, would outlaw the leghold trap nationally. Rob Russell of Protect Our Earth’s Treasures in Columbus, Ohio, helped with local media arrangements.
How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?

Does $299.99 seem too much for an appealing dog, complete with behavior- al, social, and health attributes? You may be tempted to answer yes, after looking at a pet from a store. While there are, admitted, some very professionally operated pet stores concerned with the welfare of animals, we most often hear about the cases where pets are purchased at high prices, only to become, when taken home, are sometimes found to be ill, or unmanageable due to lack of socialization during the early, crucial weeks of their lives.

That’s why I was surprised at the pet store situation this summer and found conditions bad in many cases for dogs, cats, birds, rodents, and rabbits. Our investigator uncovered cases of un sanitary conditions, poor ventilation, and blatant lack of good animal-husbandry practices.

In addition, our experience in this area of animal protection has included investigations of allegations and cruelty inflicted upon animals in pet stores by uncaring personnel. Unfortunately, in virtually all of these cases cruelty charges could not be filed because the witnesses would not come forward. So, the backside approach to organization like The HSUS that are working hard to stop cruelty.

The only thing worse than no action on a bill that you believe in is the inaction of the legislature. This is exactly what happened to H.B. 296, an Ohio bill that would have ended cruelly caught, outlawed pound seizure. A subcommittee that studied the bill weakened it to where it still would allow pound seizure and even legalize bunching. The committee also removed a provision that would have required a humane society inspector to inspect laboratories where research is done on pound animals. Legislators must be allowed to let their state representatives know in no uncertain terms that they don’t want that to happen.

Ohio humanitarians also need to be aware that efforts to again put a bounty on animals, this time $500 a head, to the humane society and its allies. They can go to (the zoo in) Cincinnati. They’re going to San Diego. They’re going anywhere they want to go. They can go to hell as far as I’m concerned.”

The verbal attacks did not halt The Humane Society of the United States’ (HSUS) push for improvements. Still, it took a couple of years of talking to a Richmond veterinarian and new Mayor Frank Walczak before any result was produced. Then a study was commissioned which revealed it would be best to phase out the zoo.

Finally, in 1986, a seven-member zoo advisory committee consisting of park board and zoo staff members, local vet erinarians, and residents recommended the zoo be dismantled and the animals dispersed into humane situations.

Rowland praised the decision of the advisory committee. “As with all efforts to help animals,” she said, “it was a battle worth fighting. My only regret is that it took four years to achieve success.”

Regional Office Exposes Deficiencies, Zoo Closes

Regional Director Sandy Rowland first visited the zoo in 1982. At that time she observed “those intolerable (a Dickman, who was then Richmond’s mayor, saying, “The zoo has a very run down, poorly kept, and has been neglected by the present municip al government’s inactivity is a low priority and has been ignored all too long.” She went on to cite conditions that included dirty and algae filled water bowls, small cages, flies, and odors as well as inadequate safety measures to protect visitors.

At that time she also alerted the United States Department of Agriculture, the agency responsible for investigating complaints and management of animals in an area of great concern to The HSUS. We really feel the circus was still be helpful and we again urge members who see a zoo in the area it is going and contact us.

Pro Backers

The HSUS is working on a number of ideas that it believes will be helpful and we again urge members who see a zoo in the area it is going and contact us.

Director’s Comment

On July 1, Michigan Representative Curt Hertel introduced the Michigan Impounded Pet Act (H.B. 5713 and H.B. 5714). The Senate version of these bills was introduced last year and hearings were held in October. Despite overwhelming support for these bills the House and Hearings were held October 22-25.

The theme this year is “Kinship With All Creatures.” Speakers will address the care, use, and disposition of primates in captivity. Participation will discuss the use of primates in zoos and research, and expose the tragic primate trade. The remaining three days will be filled with stimulating events designed to help you. Address will be given by Amy Freeman Lee, secretary to HSUS Board of Directors; Roger Fouts, director of Friends of Washoe; and Vernon Scott, Director of the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

A full complement of workshops, including new topics such as animal-care committees, public relations, veterinary care, and technology has so far taken no action.

The HSUS will be covering. GLRO’s program coordinator, has been to Charleston and Savannah, to present the event. Instructors in the region this summer and found conditions bad in many cases for dogs, cats, birds, rodents, and rabbits. Our investigator uncovered cases of un sanitary conditions, poor ventilation, and blatant lack of good animal-husbandry practices. In addition, our experience in this area of animal protection has included investigations of allegations and cruelty inflicted upon animals in pet stores by uncaring personnel. Unfortunately, in virtually all of these cases cruelty charges could not be filed because the witnesses would not come forward. So, the backside approach to organizations like The HSUS that are working hard to stop cruelty.

There is more to a circus than the action and some very professionally operated pet stores, but there is more to the HSUS. We really feel the circus watch will be helpful and we again urge members who see a zoo in the area it is going and contact us.

Legislate R Round Up

Illinois, the zoo after the GLRO complaint, revealed the facility had received a clean bill of health in previous inspections. When USDA inspectors visited the facility, the agency responsible for investigations, they observed the following: parasites, and congenital defects. The Illinois Humane Law Enforcement officers and the Animal Welfare Act, that they were ill, or unmanageable due to lack of socialization during the early, crucial weeks of their lives.

The HSUS has a very run down, poorly operated pet store, a sad looking scene.

The HSUS is working on a number of ideas that it believes will be helpful and we again urge members who see a zoo in the area it is going and contact us.

Cruelty Inflicted Upon Animals in Pet Stores Concerned with the welfare of animals, we most often hear about the cases where pets are purchased at high prices, only to become, when taken home, are sometimes found to be ill, or unmanageable due to lack of socialization during the early, crucial weeks of their lives.

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Pulling Contests Cause Suffering

Back in the days when oxen, mules, and horses were used as work animals on the farm, the owners would never have thought of overloading the animals and driving them to their maximum capability. Yet, organizers of today’s animal-pulling events claim that these contests (often held at county fairs) are reenactments of what the animals did in bygone days.

The GLRO looked into pulling contests this past summer and found much that was appalling. Not only were the animals overloaded and overworked, but also the events were usually held during the hottest time of the day. The competing animals were often worked to the point of breaking, and bits which cut into the mouth so badly they sometimes caused bleeding were a common sight.

Frustratingly, rural communities try to defend these events as part of Americana. It is an invalid defense of an activity that causes considerable animal suffering and HSUS will continue to work for its elimination.

Reflect for a moment...

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States.

Your will can provide for animals after you’re gone.

Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City ___________________ State _____
ZIP code ________________________

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

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The office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed on federal holidays.

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