Protecting Bison

Treatment of bison—particularly in our national parks—has been in the news for the past few years. NRRO is working on two fronts to ensure the humane care of bison on park and tribal lands. First we followed up with the Montana Governor's Task Force for the Humane Handling of Bison, which was set up to monitor the capture and testing of bison as they leave Yellowstone National Park.

NRRO Director Dave Pauli and veterinarian and bison specialist Don Woerner met with Yellowstone officials and members of the public and inspected bison handling facilities. NRRO submitted a report commending the park for some improvements, but also noting that some previous recommendations have still not been implemented. Pauli met with Yellowstone authorities in late June, and they convened the next week to discuss the report and other staff input for the 2004 bison handling season.

The second bison case involved the Three Affiliated Tribes Bison Ranch in North Dakota and the transfer of bison from Teddy Roosevelt National Park to the tribes. NRRO had received several complaints about the tribal care and continued on page 2

Some of the bison on lands owned by the Three Affiliated Tribes.

NRRO Comes to Aid of Montana Breeding Dogs

The dogs were in a sad state. They were found cold, matted, dehydrated, and suffering from numerous veterinary ailments by veterinarian Doug Anderson and a NRRO team of animal care volunteers. Judith Basin County Sheriff's Office requested NRRO's assistance in executing search and seizure warrants at two dog-breeding operations.

Authorities seized 13 dogs at the first residence in the small town of Hobson. At the second location several miles away in an area known as Benchland, 97 dogs of various breeds and a horse were taken into custody. Six days later, Judith Basin County Sheriff's Office executed a third search and seizure warrant at another residence in Hobson with NRRO assistance. This time seven dogs were taken into custody. The seizure of so many animals brought up a critical question: How can a local government with a population base of just over 2,000 and no animal shelter or animal welfare groups within its boundary house more than 100 animals?

That's where NRRO's expertise paid off. We got permission to set up an emergency animal shelter to temporarily house the dogs at the Fergus County Fairgrounds in neighboring Lewistown. But because of previously scheduled events at the Fairgrounds, the dogs had to be moved on June 17 to the town of Stanford. The new shelter set up in Stanford was dubbed “Cause for Paws,” and was set up using portable buildings purchased by Toole County with money left over from their Camp Collie fund. The buildings will be donated to NRRO after their use in Judith Basin is finished for future emergency and disaster services in the region.

The HSUS team made up of the entire NRRO staff initially managed the emergency shelter. For three months, HSUS paid for a full-time shelter manager for the Cause For Paws shelter as well as provided an HSUS staff member on a daily basis to help coordinate veterinary health assessment, volunteer needs, and numerous other issues. The HSUS kennel panels stored since the breakdown of Camp Collie were used again in this case.

The case then took some negative turns when the two defendants who owned most of the dogs had their charges dropped because of technicalities in the search warrant; their dogs were to be returned. A coalition of animal groups then banded together and did the only thing they could to help these dogs. They purchased 56 of the more than 100 dogs who continued on page 4
By Wayne Pacelle

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 forward to the age of 50, 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 inhumane and deceiving practices 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 long-enough 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 Wayne Pacelle took over as The HSUS’s president and chief executive officer this summer, we have been with The HSUS for 10 years and served most recently as senior vice president for communications and government affairs.

HSUS members in communities are active—in financially supporting our work, writing letters to newspapers and lawmakers, making responsible and humane choices in the marketplace, and educating people about animals and their issues in their communities—we can 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.

Is Your Cat a Safe Cat?

Winter of 2005 may seem a long way off, but this office is planning for its first six-state regional conference and Safe Cats campaign launch. We are planning so far in advance to ensure that this week-long event will be the best it can possibly be.

So what is a safe cat? One who lives in a protected and safe situation; in a word, indoors. Unlike their wild counterparts, domestic cats are not suited for the “great outdoors.” Many cat owners believe that the enjoyment an outdoor cat receives outweighs any of the dangers. Unfortunately, free-roaming cats are hit by cars, purposely or accidentally poisoned; become lost or stolen; are killed and wounded by predators; become victims of animal cruelty; and suffer from exposure, disease, and parasites. And most of the same pleasures an outdoor cat experiences can easily be provided in the great indoors. We recognize that many people haven’t experienced the pleasure of an “indoor-only” cat and they continue to let their cats outdoors where exposure to these threats decreases their lifespan.

Through our investigations and education, we hope to change this.

Some highlights of our planned 2005 event include:

- A national conference with speakers on numerous cat issues. We will have workshops of interest to veterinarians, animal control officers, and cat caretakers.
- A safe-cat product demonstration site that will give people a chance to see cutting-edge products for keeping cats safe. Products such as fencing, outdoor cat habitats, other cat containment systems, microchipping, and protection and enjoyment products will be featured.
- An animal wellness and spay/neuter clinic that we hope will result in 2,005 cat surgeries during the week. We also plan to include some veterinary training about early age spay/neuter techniques and other cat care issues.
- A household pet cat show to display the beauty of the many spayed and neutered safe cats in the community.
- If you have interest in supporting or participating in this project, please contact our office.

Want To Be More Involved? Here’s How.

In the last issue of the “NRRO Regional News,” we invited you to become more involved with our work helping animals across the region. We received a number of responses. Many requesting e-mail alerts, and others offering to lend us everything from animal airline carriers and a generator to animal handling and computer skills. These offers are greatly appreciated!

We have an idea, however, that there are still many more of you who might be interested in getting involved, and we hope you will take this opportunity to do so. If you are interested in learning more about animal issues in the region, or if you want to become more directly involved in animal protection, please fill out the form here. We are looking forward to including you in our database.

Yes, I’d like to help. Please include me in your database.

Name __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City __________________________________________
State ________ Zip ________

Please add me to your database for
☐ legislative alerts ☐ disaster notices ☐ special projects ☐ animal rescue needs
I have the following skills/abilities: ☐ veterinarian ☐ vet tech ☐ pilot ☐ groomer ☐ trainer ☐ I can house livestock ☐ I can foster small animals ☐ I’m a good animal handler ☐ I can house respondents during local events ☐ I can travel with NRRO teams ☐ Other ________
I have the following equipment that you can use in time of need: ☐ recreational vehicle (RV) ☐ horse trailer ☐ plane ☐ boat ☐ trailer ☐ Other: __________

Please fax this form to 406-255-7162 or mail it in the enclosed envelope to NRRO, 400 N. 31st St., Ste. 215, Billings, MT 59101.

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.
☐ Promoting for my pets in my will and in my estate.
☐ Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.

Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

Promoting the protection of all animals.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES NRRO Regional News FALL 2004

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES NRRO Regional News FALL 2004
Dave’s Dialogue

By Dave Pauli
Director of the Northern Rockies
Regional Office

Our Office Keeps Going and Growing

The first half of 2004 blew by faster than a deer mouse seeking refuge from an owl’s shadow. Our hectic year started in January with workshops that have just never slowed down. In addition to the cases detailed in this newsletter, we’ve been on hand for four consecutive legislative sessions, Animal Care Expo, and training programs for the Montana Animal Care and Utah Animal Control Officers Association.

In addition, we responded in an animal hoarding case in White Sulphur Springs and assisted numerous local prosecutors, veterinarians, and animal control officers. With spring came our annual rescue and placement of dozens of wild animals, including a fox pup, baby geese, and many “orphaned” wild babies.

To help with all this work, we hired a new NRRO team member. We are pleased that Colin Berry (in photo below with her dog, Gracie) left the warmth of Tennessee to join Sylvia, Suzi, and me. Colin hit the ground running with her first two workdays spent on a native nation wellness clinic. She’s since become involved in a dozen different projects.

All this work is paying off. The HSUS-produced “Camp Collie” video won first prize in the Advocacy/Public Policy/Awareness category of the Latham Foundation’s Video Search for Excellence Contest. Our hats are off to HSUS video services and producer Kathy Milani for recording the emotion and drama of this large and unique 10-month cruelty case that resulted in both a cruelty conviction and a new Montana felony cruelty law.

The remainder of our year is already booked with projects. As always, please know that we could not have success without your support!

continued from “Montana Breeding Dogs,” page 1

would have been returned to the defendants. The Montana Attorney General’s Office is still charging the remaining suspect with one count of felony animal cruelty, two misdemeanor counts of animal cruelty, and two counts of child endangerment.

While it is unfortunate that many of the dogs went back into the breeding operation, the facility is now under the close scrutiny of many county, state, and federal agencies. If conditions or animal care do not meet standards, our team will take the necessary actions. The HSUS spent more than $40,000 to shelter the animals for three months and is seeking donations to defray the costs. Anyone wishing to donate may send a contribution to NRRO, 490 N. 31st St., Ste. 215, Billings, MT 59101. Please make checks payable to HSUS/AHAT (Animal Health Assessment Team).

Contacting HSUS

Write:
HSUS Northern Rockies Regional Office
490 N. 31st St., Ste. 215
Billings, MT 59101

Fax:
406-255-7162

Call:
406-255-7161

Web Page:
www.hsus.org/nrro

Special In-kind Donations Sought

O ur involvement in cases such as Camp Collie and Cause for Paws, has left us with the equipment needed to shelter large numbers of animals in an emergency. That’s great. But we don’t have the vehicles necessary to get the equipment where it needs to go. Currently we have to either rent 16-foot flatbed trailers or hire out the transport. This is simply a waste of money. So we are seeking donations of two flatbed trailers for the storage and transport of the kennel equipment.

Owning the trailers would not only end the need to rent equipment, but it would also allow for this rescue gear to be immediately ready for transport before or after a disaster or large-scale cruelty case.

Added to this wish list would also be a larger pickup truck with the capacity to haul these trailers. NRRO staff members have tested the limits of their quarter-ton pickups. What we really need is a half-ton or three-quarter-ton vehicle to safely and efficiently haul the rescue gear where it needs to go.

Donations of a useable flatbed trailer or a late-model truck to pull them with are tax deductible. Please contact our office to discuss the options.

The NRRO Regional News is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Northern Rockies Regional Office, 490 N. 31st St., Ste. 215, Billings, MT 59101; 406-255-7161. Dave Pauli, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays.

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