Geese Need You!

The HSUS protested a plan put forth by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that assigns responsibility for managing non-migrating Canada geese to overburdened state wildlife agencies and clears the way for mass slaughter of millions of the birds. The plan, outlined in a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) released in February, fails to address the humane, community-based programs that have successfully resolved human-goose conflicts in many towns. Instead, the USFWS plan favors a 10-year program that calls for mass killing of adult and immature geese by shipping birds to commercial slaughterhouse operations or killing them in the field with lethal gas.

USFWS is expected to issue a final environmental impact statement as this newsletter goes to press. A notice of proposed regulations to implement the plan is also expected. Although comments are no longer being accepted on the DEIS, the public will have another opportunity to tell USFWS what they think of the plan during the comment period on the proposed regulations.

Our office is compiling a “goose activist” contact list to notify members if and when another opportunity arises to make formal comments. If you are interested in joining, please send an e-mail to maro@hsus.org and include the words “Goose Activist” in the subject line.

Turnpike Turtles

An article in New Jersey’s Sunday Star Ledger prompted MARO to assist a father and sons who were rescuing turtles on the New Jersey Turnpike. The creatures were being crushed as they tried to cross the Turnpike near the Lincoln Tunnel exit during their nesting season. It is not uncommon for turtles to cross roads in the spring to lay their eggs; unfortunately the New Jersey Turnpike is one of the most densely traveled roadways in the nation, with average daily traffic of more than 560,000 vehicles. “I couldn’t think of a worse place to be a turtle,” said MARO Program Coordinator Barbara Dyer. “We had to help these turtles without putting this family in harm’s way.”

During the early spring, Carl Manners and his sons Tommy and Jimmy drove to the turtles’ crossing in the early mornings to help prevent the animals from being killed by cars. But the work of these good Samaritans was soon no longer needed. Thanks to MARO’s prompting, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority helped resolve the problem.

The HSUS partnered with Jason Tesauro, senior zoologist of the state’s Endangered and Nongame Species Program, to decide the best course of action. Tesauro wrote to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and The HSUS followed up by directly contacting the Authority as well. In response, the Authority constructed a special fence in time for the turtles’ nesting season, which began around May 1. The fence provides a grassy strip suitable for egg laying, but also prevents most turtles and other wetland wildlife from accessing the Turnpike.

The turtle species involved include common snapping turtles, eastern painted turtles, common musk turtles, and northern diamondback terrapins (which are listed as a species of special concern). These turtles are survivors in a very urbanized section of New Jersey. An HSUS survey revealed that 87 percent of respondents are concerned about protecting turtles from traffic.

The HSUS applauds the cooperation of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority in recognizing the importance of sharing our environment with the animals who live here too. We also salute the efforts of the Manners family and Jason Tesauro. But we must caution our readers: Please do not put your safety at risk to help an animal. Do not attempt to move an animal off a road unless you can do so in complete safety. And in the case of turtles, always carry them from the road in the direction they were heading. Otherwise, they will head back into the road to get where they’re going. If you see an animal in a road and cannot safely help, call your local police or animal control.

New Jersey Bear Update

Please continue to contact Gov. James McGreevey (P.O. Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625; 609-292-6000; fax: 609-777-2200) and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell (P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625; 609-292-2885; fax: 609-292-7695) and ask them not to allow a hunt of black bears.
I
t there a fur coat or other fur garment
collecting dust in a closet or attic in your
home? Are you moving to a warmer
climate, where a fur coat is not practical? Did
you know you can donate these items to help
comfort orphaned and injured wildlife? The
HSUS sends all furs to wildlife rehabilitators,
who use them as bedding and nesting
material for the animals in their care. All
donations are tax-deductible. The HSUS
accepts all fur and fur-trimmed apparel,
including shearing. Fur accessories such as
hats, gloves, scarves, and muffs are also
accepted. Donating is easy. Package your fur in a sturdy box, or padded envelope for small
items, and mail it to Fur-Free Century, The HSUS, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC
20037. The HSUS will send a letter thanking you for your donation, which should also be
kept for your records.
If you plan to itemize tax deductions, you can claim the fair market value of the fur (the
amount you could sell the fur for today) for your donation. Furs valued at $5,000 or more
must have a qualified appraisal, according to the Internal Revenue Service. You must have
the appraisal done before sending The HSUS your donation. Consult your tax attorney for advice.

Long Island/New York City Emergency Conference

The HSUS participated in the first conference of its kind in New York City to address
the events of September 11. The HSUS was the sole animal protection organization to
exhibit at the Long Island/New York City Emergency Management Conference in May.
The conference sponsors included the New York City Office of Emergency Management;
Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services; Nassau County
Emergency Management Office; Long Island Power Authority; Key Spay Energy; and
the New York State Emergency Management Office.
The conference opened with a tribute to the heroes of the September 11 tragedy played by
the New York City Police and Fire Departments’ and Port Authority Police Department’s pipe bands. Experts in the field of federal, state, and local emergency services discussed their
actions and roles at the World Trade Center. One of the most moving presentations was
by the first responders, who told of their experiences at Ground Zero. Distinguished
speakers included former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani; James Kallstrom,
director of the New York State Office of Public Safety; and Dan Rather, anchor and
managing editor of “CBS Evening News.”

“...a conference that I will never
forget. It was full of emotion, as well as
knowledge and insight from the very
people who responded to this tragic
attack,” stated attendant Barbara Dyer,
MABO program coordinator. “It certainly
pointed out that planning is essential in
any disaster and will improve your chances of success. That is why The HSUS
continues to urge you to have a disaster plan that includes your pets. Being
prepared can save lives.”

Put Old Fur to Good Use

Morristown Goose Project Goose

Put Old Fur to Good Use

Animal such as these orphaned mice can benefit from your old fur.

News from Other Regions

HSUS Keeps Things Cool for the Animals Evacuated by the Arizona Fires

The wildfires that burned more than 460,000 acres of eastern Arizona and displaced an estimated 30,000
people from their homes also forced hundreds of animals into temporary shelters in at least five different locations.
The majority of those pets, distressed but
otherwise healthy, were returned to their owners, thanks to several animal
organizations, including The HSUS.
The temporary animal shelters were set up shortly after the Rodeo and Chediski
fires, which were first spotted on June 18 and 20 respectively, began displacing
residents in the area. The HSUS National Disaster Animal Response Team (N-
DART) established a mobile emergency facility—actually a semi-truck, owned by
Code 3 from Colorado, that’s equipped with boats, a horse trailer, a four-wheel
drive vehicle, cages, and a triage unit—in Eager, where volunteer veterinarians saw
20 to 25 animals a day. Some animals had serious medical conditions, but most were
treated for minor problems such as stress, lacerations, and smoke inhalation.

From their base in Eager, HSUS’s N-
DART members also monitored an Apache
Indian reservation in nearby McNary and Hon Dah, where more than 100 dogs were
left behind when officials apparently told residents to leave immediately, without
their animals. The N-DART members, some of whom volunteered for the reservation
away from Florida, Maryland, Missouri, and
Oregon, fed and watered the reservation animals daily.

In cooperation with state and local agencies—from the Arizona Humane Society and the Humane Society of Southern Arizona to the Payson City Council and its volunteer Police
Department—N-DART members had earlier been operating an emergency shelter for dogs
and cats in Payson, about 30 miles west of Heber.

During HSUS’s tenure at the Payson shelter, volun-
teers assisted many animals, some of them rescued by N-
DART members and some brought in by evacuees. But
by June 28, The HSUS had transitioned out of Payson and shifted all operations
to the mobile unit in Eager.

But not before some rather dramatic rescues.
Beginning on Monday, June 24, N-DART’s Melissa
Forberg and other team members joined firefighters, local police, and the sheriff’s
department in rescuing several animals from Heber. They also tried to rescue a pot-bellied pig and two horses, but were
ordered out of Heber after witnessing temperatures and high winds reached
dangerous levels.

Lou Guyton, HSUS’s Southwest Regional Office
director, said members of the rescue
team reported that there was heavy
smoke, not to mention burning fires, in
the Heber area. “The smoke was so thick
that sometimes it was hard to see,”
Guyton said. “There were even cinders
coming out of the sky.” Not surprisingly,
the pets rescued in Heber were expected to
to see the N-DART team, Guyton said.

On June 26, from their station in Eager, the N-DART members visited communi-
ties that had requested assistance, and
rescued three dogs and two sheep. The
HSUS received several requests from evacuees to help feed or locate their pets. These
trips are unfortunately part of ever
major disaster. Melissa Rubin, The
HSUS’s vice president of field and disaster
services, says animals are left behind because owners are not adequately
prepared for such emergencies. When
orders are given to evacuate, owners must move quickly, which is difficult when a
scared animal is in hiding or wandering
outside. That’s why it’s important for
owners to confine their animals early in
case they need to evacuate quickly.

The successes clearly outnumbered the losses. The HSUS estimates it treated more
than 100 animals in the mobile unit, and fed and watered another 200; the Arizona
Humane Society estimates that the other
shelters handled 200 to 250 animals each. Because of the actions of countless
animal-protection volunteers and professionals, many owners had happy
reunions with their pets. The commun-
ities served by these humane organiza-
tions that had requested assistance, and
rescued three dogs and two sheep. The
HSUS received several requests from evacuees to help feed or locate their pets. These
trips are unfortunately part of every
major disaster. Melissa Rubin, The
HSUS’s vice president of field and disaster
services, says animals are left behind
because owners are not adequately
prepared for such emergencies. When
orders are given to evacuate, owners must move quickly, which is difficult when a
scared animal is in hiding or wandering
outside. That’s why it’s important for
owners to confine their animals early in
case they need to evacuate quickly.

The successes clearly outnumbered the losses. The HSUS estimates it treated more
than 100 animals in the mobile unit, and fed and watered another 200; the Arizona
Humane Society estimates that the other
shelters handled 200 to 250 animals each. Because of the actions of countless
animal-protection volunteers and professionals, many owners had happy
reunions with their pets. The commun-
ities served by these humane organiza-
tions that had requested assistance, and
rescued three dogs and two sheep. The
HSUS received several requests from evacuees to help feed or locate their pets. These
trips are unfortunately part of every
major disaster. Melissa Rubin, The
HSUS’s vice president of field and disaster
services, says animals are left behind
because owners are not adequately
prepared for such emergencies. When
orders are given to evacuate, owners must move quickly, which is difficult when a
scared animal is in hiding or wandering
outside. That’s why it’s important for
owners to confine their animals early in
case they need to evacuate quickly.

The successes clearly outnumbered the losses. The HSUS estimates it treated more
than 100 animals in the mobile unit, and fed and watered another 200; the Arizona
Humane Society estimates that the other
shelters handled 200 to 250 animals each. Because of the actions of countless
animal-protection volunteers and professionals, many owners had happy
reunions with their pets. The commun-
ities served by these humane organiza-
tions that had requested assistance, and
rescued three dogs and two sheep. The
HSUS received several requests from evacuees to help feed or locate their pets. These
trips are unfortunately part of every
major disaster. Melissa Rubin, The
HSUS’s vice president of field and disaster
services, says animals are left behind
because owners are not adequately
prepared for such emergencies. When
orders are given to evacuate, owners must move quickly, which is difficult when a
scared animal is in hiding or wandering
outside. That’s why it’s important for
owners to confine their animals early in
case they need to evacuate quickly.

The successes clearly outnumbered the losses. The HSUS estimates it treated more
than 100 animals in the mobile unit, and fed and watered another 200; the Arizona
Humane Society estimates that the other
shelters handled 200 to 250 animals each. Because of the actions of countless
animal-protection volunteers and professionals, many owners had happy
reunions with their pets. The commun-
ities served by these humane organiza-
tions that had requested assistance, and
rescued three dogs and two sheep. The
HSUS received several requests from evacuees to help feed or locate their pets. These
trips are unfortunately part of every
major disaster. Melissa Rubin, The
HSUS’s vice president of field and disaster
services, says animals are left behind
because owners are not adequately
prepared for such emergencies. When
orders are given to evacuate, owners must move quickly, which is difficult when a
scared animal is in hiding or wandering
outside. That’s why it’s important for
owners to confine their animals early in
case they need to evacuate quickly.
Saving Hokget

Regional office staff are often called to respond to a disaster such as a hurricane, flood, or wildfire that is impacting animals. But the spring rescue of Hokget (also known as Forgea) the forgotten dog far off the coast of Hawaii was unusual in terms of the resources required to bring an animal to safety.

The request for assistance came from the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS). A ship, the Insiko, had been damaged by an engine fire and had been adrift for nearly two weeks with a crew of about 11 people and one dog (Hokget). The humans were rescued by a cruise ship, but because of a series of miscommunications, the dog was left aboard the listing ship for what turned out to be another three weeks of survival on the open seas.

Initial attempts to locate the ship and rescue Hokget using the services of a marine salvage company, American Marine Services, proved fruitless. Just when HSUS and HHS were about to give up hope and resign themselves to the fact that the Insiko—with Hokget aboard—had sunk, a Japanese fishing vessel radioed the U.S. Coast Guard that they thought they had passed the ship on their way into Hawaii.

This is when HSUS Northern Rockies Regional Director Dave Pauli was called for help. Pauli, at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, submitted a written protocol for possible capture strategies (such as humane traps, nets, or chemical immobilization). Such measures might have been needed because a fishing boat crew who had boarded the disabled tanker had frightened the dog. Hokget ran below deck to avoid capture. Two days later, HHS assembled a capture and recovery team and invited Pauli to join.

The HSUS and HHS developed strategies for Hokget’s safe removal should the team be able to board the ship with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard, which was working to ensure that the Insiko’s thousands of gallons of diesel fuel would not end up causing an environmental catastrophe. Upon arrival in Hawaii, Pauli met with the other response team members, veterinarian and Kauai Humane Society Executive Director Becky Rhoades and HHS Director of Operations Linda Haller. All that prevented an immediate rescue was formal Coast Guard approval that the ship was safe to be boarded and finding a way to get to Johnson Atoll, which is 500 miles off the Hawaiian coast and serviced irregularly by commercial flights.

Hokget is a Taiwanese dog whose name means “good fortune.” Her name turned out to be prophetic, for on the 21st day of her adventure, crew from American Marine Services tug American Quest boarded the Insiko to check on safety conditions. Hokget was ready to be rescued and made herself available for a quick and quiet capture by the tug boat crew. The entire HSUS/HHS team was ecstatic that Hokget was finally in the care of humans and headed back to Honolulu. When Hokget arrived, Dr. Rhoades evaluated her. The little dog then flew to the Kauai Humane Society where she was to be held for a four-month rabies quarantine before being adopted.

Find Out More ... about the activities of MARO and The HSUS’s other nine regions by visiting www.hsus.org/regions. Go directly to MARO’s page at www.hsus.org/maro.

Ulster Co., NY, Hosts Training Event

The Empire State Animal Protection Forum drew a statewide audience at the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson, New York, on May 19–21. Representatives of shelters and other organizations working on behalf of animals attended this networking and training opportunity that included workshops on a wide array of topics such as establishing a spay/neuter program in your community, disaster planning and response, and evaluating the health and behavior of animals. An exhibit hall provided attendees with information about supplies and services used in animal shelters.

The HSUS was a major planner and sponsor of the event. Other key planning partners included the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Animal Care and Equipment Services, the Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady, the New York City Center for Animal Care and Control, the Humane Society at Lollipops Farm, the New York State Animal Control Association, and the New York State Humane Association.

Enthusiasm among attendees was high, and plans are underway for next year’s Forum, to be held in Albany in the spring. Please check MARO’s Web page at www.hsus.org/maro for the exact dates and location.

Region Represented at Expo

The HSUS held its eleventh annual Animal Care Expo at the Fountainebleau Hilton Resort and Towers in Miami, Florida, April 3–6, 2002. Attended by more than 1,000 people this year—including 91 from the Mid-Atlantic region—Animal Care Expo is the world’s largest trade show and education conference for animal care and continued on page 5.
Butch Doing Well

In the Spring 2002 MARO Regional News we announced the signing of S1315/ A2698 into law by then Acting New Jersey Gov. Donald J. DiFrancesco. The new law strengthens penalties for animal cruelty and requires mental health counseling for juveniles convicted of certain offenses. We would like to mention that the bill was nicknamed Butch’s Law after a dog who was found aban-
donred on the beach in Cape May, New Jersey. The dog had been beaten, shot with a pellet or BB, and had difficulty walking. After months of recuperation, Butch found a loving home with Ray and Roberta Webb of Lower Township, New Jersey.

Roberta Webb of Lower Township, New Jersey, proudly wears a tireless animal advocate, joined MARO’s Barbara Dyer at a New Jersey roundtable discussion on animal protection issues.

BARBARA WEBB

Above: U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli

A2698 into law by then Acting New Jersey Gov. Donald J. DiFrancesco. The new law strengthens penalties for animal cruelty and requires mental health counseling for juveniles convicted of certain offenses. We would like to mention that the bill was nicknamed Butch’s Law after a dog who was found aban-
donred on the beach in Cape May, New Jersey. The dog had been beaten, shot with a pellet or BB, and had difficulty walking. After months of recuperation, Butch found a loving home with Ray and Roberta Webb of Lower Township, New Jersey.

Above: MARO’s Barbara Dyer (far left) and Samantha Malley (far right) role play scenarios for participants at the National Conference on Animals in Disasters, held May 29–June 2, 2002, in Fort Worth, Texas.


Regional Snapshots

Left: Students from Public School #24 in Paterson, New Jersey, proudly wear HSUS’s T-shirts presented to them by Chief Animal Control Officer John DeCando.

CONTINUED FROM “EXPO,” PAGE 4

Butch and friends.