Region Hosts Successful Conference

People from across the country described The HSUS’s biennial National Conference on Animals in Disaster as a smashing success. Several attendees said this year’s event, held in Philadelphia in mid-May, was the best conference they had ever been to. A wide range of communities was represented, both geographically and by vocation. They came together—some for the first time—to address issues that concern them all. It was gratifying to see the excitement and enthusiasm of the attendees as well as the speakers. Many participants experienced a renewed vision of how they could help the people and animals in their communities back home.

Participants included more than 300 people from 42 states as well as Costa Rica, Canada, and England, representing continued on page 2

MARO’s Samantha Mullen (right) helps in a mock disaster evacuation exercise.

Dogfighter Convicted in NY, Indicted in PA

James Fricchione, former publisher of “Sporting Dog Journal,” was convicted, in Orange County, New York, on March 1, 2004, of multiple felonies and misdemeanors for dogfighting and related activities. He was sentenced to 2 ½ to 7 years in prison, fined $5,000, and banned from owning dogs for 10 years. Our office was instrumental in building the case against Fricchione (see spring 2004 “MARO Regional News”).

In early June, after a brief incarceration in a state prison near Buffalo, New York, he was released on a $1 million bond, pending an appeal of the charges. The appeal process may take at least a year, according to Orange County authorities.

“Sporting Dog Journal” and similar magazines, as well as Web sites that appeal to the same audience, continue to be published. In fact, despite Fricchione’s conviction, the May–June 2004 issue of “Sporting Dog Journal” appeared early in the summer, presumably the work of a different publisher. However, as a result of a case developed by the Pennsylvania State Police, many of those who advertise in “Sporting Dog Journal” may soon be looking for new ways to network with one another about the prowess of the animals they breed, buy, and sell—dogs valued for their ability to maim or kill one another in bloody contests that are illegal in every state.

On July 26, 2004, James Fricchione was indicted again, but in this instance by a Pennsylvania grand jury. So was Jack Kelly of Jefferson, Georgia, who was believed to have sold the magazine to Fricchione in 2001. Both men were charged with crimes related to the promotion of dogfighting. About half the states in the country, including Pennsylvania, explicitly incorporate a ban on promotion of animal fighting-related activities in anti-cruelty statutes. “The Pennsylvania case in all likelihood represents the first major challenge to the often heard argument that Web sites and magazines promoting illegal animal fighting are protected under the First Amendment. We applaud the authorities who are enforcing this critical component of Pennsylvania’s law against animal fighting,” said Samantha Mullen, program coordinator at MARO.

Fricchione’s conviction in New York and that of another high-profile dogfighter, Schenectady’s Thomas Provencher, helped prompt legislators to pass measures strengthening New York’s statutes against animal fighting. Sen. Bonacic’s bill S. 5172 and Assemblyman Paul Tonko’s A.8586-A added felony-level prohibitions against breeding or selling animals for fighting.
Help Stop Another Bear Hunt in December

Despite Gov. McGreevey’s opposition and bear population estimates of less than half the number expected, the New Jersey Fish and Game Council voted 10 to 1 to keep a black bear hunt in the 2004-2005 game code. Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell sent a letter in April to the Council stating, “At the time of the Council’s adoption of the game code last year, the Fish and Wildlife Division presented black bear population estimates to the Council of approximately 3,200 animals. The most recent estimates by our black bear biologists presents an estimate of less than half that number. The substantial difference in population estimates between this year and the last mitigates against inclusion of a bear hunt in the code at this time.”

In my understanding of the complaints that are down, non-lethal tactics are working, and people are becoming more tolerant of bears,” says Barbara Dyer, MARO program coordinator. “The Council should take the issue that is maily at hand before the people of New Jersey and let them decide whether they wish to sanction the pursuit and killing of bears for recreation.”

How You Can Help
1. Ask the governor to issue an executive order to stop the hunt. Write, call, or e-mail P.O. Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625; 609-292-6000; www.state.nj.us/governor/permits. Contact him at P.O. Box 402, Trenton, NJ 08625-0402, 609-292-2885.
2. Support the following legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Anthony Chiappone (District 31, Hudson):

   A. 2852 changes the composition and revises the authority of the Fish and Game Council and creates non-lethal alternative committee within the council.

   B. 2704 prohibits black bear hunting, creates a black bear study commission, authorizes the issuance and sale of black bear stamps, and establishes a black bear stamp account. Ask your representatives to support these bills. To find out who represents you in the Assembly call the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630, or visit the Web site at www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/search.asp.

HSUS Will Start Bear Contraception in NJ

It is long way from preventing births in zoo bears to solving conflicts between people and wild bears, but The HSUS is taking the first steps. This October, The HSUS will begin testing a contraceptive vaccine on captive black bears at Six Flags Great Adventure Wild Animal Safari Park in Jackson, New Jersey. Six Flags is partnering in the research.

The interest in testing contraception with black bears was stimulated in part by the heated public argument in New Jersey and other states over how to control the impacts of growing bear populations on suburban communities. Last year New Jersey bear hunt was explosively controversial, and the debate continues as to whether the hunt will be repeated this fall.

The HSUS and its research partners have already shown that contraception can control population size in small herds of wild horses and white-tailed deer. Additionally, it has been used in more than 100 zoos and aquraria throughout the world to prevent the births of unwanted animals. We are optimistic about the potential for bear contraception; however, the method has never been used on free-ranging black bears, and only a few captive bears have been treated in scattered locations.

continued from “Conference,” page 1

animal care and control, humane and veterinary organizations, disaster organizations, and state and federal government emergency managers and agricultural officials. Fifty-eight speakers presented 32 workshops. Keynote speaker Temple Grandin, an associate professor of animal science at Colorado State University and perhaps the world’s foremost authority on humane animal handling methods, explained concepts such as the flight zone of grazing animals, as well as how to use animals’ natural behavior to help reduce stress during the evacuation, transport, and sheltering associated with both man-made and natural disasters.

More than 100 people stayed an extra day to take part in a day-long Emergency Animal Sheltering workshop, which culminated in a mock sheltering exercise in the hotel parking lot. Staff from the Philadelphia Animal Care and Control Trust, Pennsylvania SPCA, and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management shared their expertise by demonstrating safe animal handling techniques, with the participation of their own companion animals.

It Pays To Be Proactive

Thanks largely to the efforts of the Pennsylvania Citizens Against Greyhound Racing, who spearheaded a bill signed into law on May 21, 2004, greyhound racing has been explicitly banned in Pennsylvania.

The HSUS hails this excellent measure, which was introduced by Rep. Charles McMillen Jr. and passed via an amendment offered by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf. The legislation succeeded despite the fact that greyhound racing had never actually been introduced there. Those who supported the ban had the foresight to realize that prevention is virtually always more effective than reaction. Animal advocates who live in states where greyhound racing is legal understand all too well that once a legalized gambling activity becomes entrenched, with its ensuing benefits to state coffers and other economic impacts, it takes more than a Herculean effort to root it out.

Another exceptional aspect of Pennsylvania’s greyhound racing ban is the fact that the law was passed within only two legislative sessions. This is a significant achievement in itself, since it is uncommon for bills to take much longer to become enacted. Anne Irwin, legislative chairperson of the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania, observed, “The bill to ban greyhound racing here was, of course, strongly supported by the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania and other groups, but it is a testament chiefly to the focused efforts of Pennsylvania Citizens Against Greyhound Racing that it made its way through the legislature and to the governor’s desk in a relatively short time.”

HSUS Sues Over In-Humane Standards

The HSUS joined a broad coalition of national animal protection organizations, farmers, veterinarians, and environmental and consumer groups charging that the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) failed to establish humane standards for farm animals as required by the Legislature in 1999. In the fall of 2003 “MARO Regional News,” we stated our negative opinion of the so-called “humane” standards put forth by the NJDA. These regulations are not more than industry standards, which view cows, pigs, chickens, and other animals as commodities to be bought, sold, and slaughtered to achieve the highest profit with little thought for their welfare. In response to public comments on the issue, the State Board of Agriculture and the NJDA said that they have “set the appropriate standards for humane treatment of domestic livestock.”

“The HSUS does not think that there is anything humane about gestation crates that immobilize breeding pigs for months on end, tethering and confiningveal calves until they are sent to slaughter, and forced molting, which is commonly achieved by starving laying hens for up to two weeks in order to increase egg production,” says Barbara Dyer, MARO program coordinator.

“Thanks to Pennsylvania’s new law, greyhounds will not suffer and die for the racing industry in that state.”

“Can’t even begin to tell you how beneficial attending Expo was. In addition to the educational opportunities, I had the fortune of associating with colleagues from all over.”

—Mike Melchione, chief animal control officer, Township of Stafford, New Jersey

Expo 2004 Provides Training

Animal Care Expo, held in Dallas, Texas, March 10-13, drew numerous people from the Mid-South Region. Hills Science Diet once again supported this highly valued training event; the company’s generous scholarship funds were allocated among attendees from each region. The following expressions of gratitude come from three MARO scholarship recipients.

“Thank you so very much for providing the funds for my scholarship and for your support of all our sheltering programs. The full day session about board development was an excellent session. I have attended many conferences in the past, all providing excellent information and support, but this program was especially germane to my current needs.”

—Gordon Willard, executive director, Animal Protective Foundation of Schenectady, New York

“I have been in the animal sheltering field for more than 20 years and am still amazed at the quality of programs and the wealth of information that is there for the taking at HSUS-sponsored conferences. The choices of workshops ranging from upper level management to line staff and those new in the business are comprehensive and all encompassing.”

—Karen Dixon, executive director, Animal Welfare Association, Voorhees, New Jersey

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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—in 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.
The Humane Society of the United States

**Humane Treatment of Veal Calves**

MAO's Barbara Dyer and Dr. Michael Appleby, HSUS vice president of farm animals and sustainable agriculture, attended the hearing of S. 159, which requires humane treatment of calves raised for veal, in the New Jersey Senate Economic Growth Committee. Dr. Appleby’s testimony provided scientific support of the Senate bill provisions. Although Committee Chair Raymond Lennia provided a fair hearing of the bill, it was held for clarification on several issues. Dr. Appleby wrote to the committee to clarify. He pointed out that common veal industry methods of attaining tender white meat include only feeding the calves milk (which can cause them to be anemic), not providing any bedding, and severely restricting their movement. Dr. Appleby also noted that white veal can be produced even if calves are given solid food and freedom of movement. S. 159. A. 329 will ensure that calves have sufficient space to turn around, lie down, sleep, and groom themselves. It requires that they be fed a sufficient diet to prevent anemia and the impairment of the calves’ digestive systems. Please continue to support these bills.

**Uncaught Wildlife Refuge**

Through the efforts of our office, the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, Inc. (Home of Beaver Defenders) in Newfield, New Jersey, has enlarged its preserve. The Wildlife Land Trust, an HSUS affiliate, helped the Refuge purchase 67 acres adjacent to its existing 540-acre sanctuary—67 acres that had been previously hunted. Adding to this sanctuary was especially meaningful to our office, not only because land is so precious in the most densely populated state in the nation, but also because our office was partially responsible for the purchase of the original tract.

The Wildlife Land Trust was established in 1993 to provide permanent safe homes for wildlife. The Trust works with private property owners who have land that they would like to see protected as a permanent wildlife sanctuary. In some cases, this involves the owner transferring ownership of the land to the Trust. In others, the Trust works with the owners on the terms of a conservation easement: a set of permanently enforceable legal restrictions on the use of the property that are binding on the current owner and anyone else who may own the property in the future. Regardless of the legal tool used, the need of wildlife always takes priority on Trust sanctuaries, and recreational and commercial hunting, trapping, and logging are always prohibited.

For more information, including how you can ensure that your land remains a permanent safe place for the wildlife who call it home, see the Wildlife Land Trust’s Web site at www.wlt.org, or call our office.

**Unexpected Wildlife Refuge**

By Nina Austenberg

**Director’s Report**

By Nina Austenberg

**Directional Office**

Preserving the Wild for the Wildlife

About 15 years ago, the county was taking down trees along my road. At the end of my driveway, I noticed one tree, displaying a red “X,” that involved it to be cut down. I reasoned that although the tree was dying, it was still half alive. It provided some shade and habitat for squirrels, birds, and other small creatures. After numerous phone calls and “chats” with the tree contractors, I persuaded them to leave the tree. It remains there—weak, withering, and disintegrating but still standing.

I have since learned from bird experts that certain species of birds will only nest in dead trees. Now I know not everyone wants to leave dead or drying trees on their property, but there are other things that we can do to protect wildlife all year long. For example:

- Take a break from mowing, and allow some areas to go to field.
- Plant native trees and wildflowers whenever possible. The habitats they create are necessary for the survival of creatures such as butterflies and birds of prey.

Consider using fewer pesticides, perhaps encouraging natural control of insects by hanging bat houses.

Our office is located on busy Route 206, a state road, less than an hour’s ride from the George Washington Bridge. When we moved our office to Flanders, we were delighted to find our building situated next to an undeveloped lot, several acres in size. Over the last 14 years, we have enjoyed watching a red-tailed hawk who hunts in the wooded lot and the nearby forested area. Deer, coyotes, myriad birds, and even the occasional black bear have been our wild neighbors.

Several years ago, a supermarket chain got approval to develop on that parcel. In the last few weeks, tons of dirt have been moved to the site, and small trees and brush have been cleared in preparation for a loading dock and trucks. We in the office made the case for leaving the area as natural, but society’s desire to create lawns everywhere prevailed. What would be funny—if it wasn’t so sad—is the probability that our office will be called upon in the next few years to remove someone who discovered the invading lawn and became a “problem.”

I suppose that most of our members have already witnessed the destruction of trees and habitat and have made environmental issues a priority. We are beginning to see now just how critical it is that we work actively toward that goal. Animal protection advocates must continue to support non-lethal control of wildlife and humane solutions to wildlife conflicts, but we must also zealously defend the preservation of open space if wild creatures are to have any future in our region. To that end, please contact the Wildlife Land Trust at 2100 L St., Washington, DC 20037, or www.wlt.org, to find out how you can leave a legacy of protected habitat for the future.

**Contacting HSUS**

Write:
HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
270 Route 206, Bartley Square
S. Flinders, NJ 07836

Call: 973-927-5611
Fax: 973-927-5617
Web page: www.hsus.org/maro

Promoting the protection of all animals

**Director’s Report**

**By Nina Austenberg**

**Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office**

**Preserving the Wild for the Wildlife**

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