Making the Connection

Unfortunately, violence pervades our culture. From the movies to world and local news, we are bombarded with brutal images daily. It is easy to feel helpless in the wake of so much suffering—particularly when violence impacts so many innocent animals in our midst.

One way The HSUS works to address the issue of violence is through our First Strike campaign, which was developed to raise awareness and educate communities about the well-documented connection between animal cruelty and human violence. Research has shown that cruelty to animals can be a warning sign of other violence. Studies indicate that violent offenders frequently have histories of abusing animals. The FBI has used this correlation for years in profiling serial killers. Law enforcement agencies are learning to recognize animal cruelty as a

Fighting Animal Cruelty in the Region

Companion animals in Washington and Oregon are protected by some of the strongest anti-cruelty laws in the nation. In both states, animal protection laws prohibit intentional acts of cruelty that cause an animal to suffer physical injury, pain, or death. Unfortunately, animal abuse is still a widespread problem in our region. PNRO actively monitors cruelty cases involving animals and works to ensure strong prosecution of animal cruelty in our region.

Here are just a few of the cases we’ve worked on in the past few months:

- Adams County, Washington: PNRO offers $1,000 reward in the case of a young female dog shot numerous times in the face with a pellet gun and abandoned by the side of the road. The perpetrator of this horrific crime has not been found, but the dog (dubbed Angel by her rescuers) survived her injuries and has been adopted into a loving home.
- Washington County, Oregon: PNRO offers $1,000 reward in the case of four cats who were skinned, mutilated, and killed in the Portland suburb of Tigard. Perpetrators were never found.
- Lane County, Oregon: PNRO contacts the Lane County District Attorney and urges strong prosecution of a 12-year-old boy who shot two horses with a bow-and-arrow. One of the horses died of her injuries, and the second horse miraculously survived. The boy was charged with one count of aggravated animal abuse and two counts of animal abuse.
- Skagit County, Washington: PNRO is working with the police department and prosecuting attorney in the city of Anacortes in a case involving a puppy who was bludgeoned to death last fall with a baseball bat. The perpetrator was charged with second degree animal cruelty and PNRO generated pressure to upgrade the charges to first degree.
- Ochoco National Forest, Oregon: Two wild horses were shot and killed in the Ochoco National Forest in the winter of 2002. PNRO offered a $1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. The Ochoco Forest Service also offered $1,000, bringing the total reward to $2,000. PNRO will continue to monitor animal abuse cases in our region and to lobby for vigorous prosecution of the perpetrators. If you have information about an animal abuse case in your area, please contact law enforcement or animal control, or call our office for more information about how you can help.

Veterinary ophthalmologist William Yakely takes the stitches out of Angel’s eye while his assistant Debby holds the black Lab. Clyde Hiland, her foster parent from Ritzville Animal Rescue, took care of her after she was shot in the face with a shotgun and left for dead. She lost one eye, but there is hope she may regain vision in the other.
People Making a Difference

PNRO urges prosecution of animal abusers in headline cruelty cases that draw media attention and public outrage, but also focuses attention on lower-profile neglect cases. Laws in Washington and Oregon protect animals from neglect, requiring animal guardians to provide necessary food, water, shelter, sanitation, ventilation, space, rest, and medical care. PNRO staff are frequently informed of cases involving dogs chained or tethered outdoors 24 hours a day, without access to food, water, or shelter. Too often, these animals have no protection from inclement weather and suffer from malnutrition, disease, and injury. Sadly, the suffering of these neglected animals often goes unnoticed or unreported, even though it is a blatant violation of anti-cruelty statutes.

We are always heartened by the efforts of the many people in our community who are “fighting the good fight” for animals. We want to share a few compelling examples.

Seattle, Washington: In December, we received a phone call from Rochelle Rodriguez, a Seattle resident, who witnessed a dog suffering from extreme neglect in his neighbor’s backyard. The dog was severely emaciated, chained to a post with no access to shelter, food, or water. Due to heavy winter rains, the animal was forced to sit in a mud puddle, soaking wet, day-in and day-out. PNRO staff referred Rodriguez to local animal control and worked closely with him to ensure a humane resolution for the animal. After persistent phone calls to animal control, the dog was removed from the home, given some badly-needed TLC at the local animal shelter and eventually put up for adoption. For Rodriguez’s persistence, another dog is free from suffering and given a second chance at life!

Spammond, Washington: On Christmas Day, Bill Eylander’s wife refused to serve the family’s holiday dinner until her husband—a man who runs a tree-cutting service—agreed to drive more than 25 miles to pick up shoes for the homeless women who runs a tree-cutting service—agreed to drive more than 25 miles to pick up shoes for the homeless women. The cat, Sheriah, was stuck 60 feet up a tree and had gone four days without food or water. Eylander rescued the cat within five minutes of his arrival and delivered Sheriah in a grateful Ogan’s arms, earning the title of “tree-top angel.”

Mount Hood, Oregon: Shortly before Christmas Eve, several members of the Mount Hood Snowmobile Club discovered five young cows stranded in snow-drifts high on Mt. Hood. Thin, cold, and weak, the cows huddled under the shelter of a single tree. The men contacted PNRO and returned to the site later in the afternoon to deliver several bales of hay. They quickly realized that the cows were also very dehydrated and needed water as soon as possible. So, on Christmas Eve, hours before these men were scheduled to celebrate the holiday with family and friends, they loaded up their snowmobile “slighthams,” and delivered a very special Christmas gift: 40 gallons of water and more hay for the weary cows.

PNRO and several snowmobilers worked with the Warm Springs Police Department to identify the cows’ owner and develop a plan to rescue the animals from the mountaintop. It was a tricky situation that made us feel as though we were asking for a Christmas miracle. The challenge didn’t intimidate the club members, though. Like guardian angels, these caring individuals watched over the five young cows, ensuring that their immediate needs were met.

Two days after Christmas, the cows were brought home safely. Enticed by a snow-moving snowmobile topped with hay, the cows walked out of the snow-filled forest single-file—a five-mile journey.

To Fareed Crowder, Ken Gilbertson, Clinton Ferguson, Jim McKee, Dave Ward, Dave Manthony, and Jerry Draper: Thank you for your compassion. Actions like yours help to build a community of kindness. Your generosity will be remembered, and we will celebrate your spirit of giving year-round.

Northwest Labs has a number of local animal shelters working in creative ways to educate the public and break the cycle of animal abuse. The Seattle Animal Shelter’s Guardian Angels’ Network provides a hotline for citizens to call to report animal abuse. The same program distributes bumper stickers and features bus signs stating: “Stop the silent suffering. Report Animal Abuse.” Such efforts make a difference and send a strong message to the public that animal abuse will not be tolerated.

PNRO works closely with local animal protection organizations, as well as The HSUS’s First Strike team to monitor animal cruelty cases in Washington and Oregon. Our staff communicates regularly with law enforcement, prosecutors, social workers, and the media to educate animal abusers on the repercussions of their actions.

PNRO offers rewards of $1,000 or more for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of these heinous crimes. We have also created a database of cruelty cases to help us track incidents and trends in our region. Our aim is to promote a zero-tolerance of animal abuse in our region and ensure prosecution of violent offenders.
Individual acts of kindness toward animals are the cornerstone of the animal protection movement. Such actions empower us, influence and empower others, and have certainly contributed to the considerable progress that the animal protection movement has made in the past few decades.

But perhaps the most compelling reason to take action is that for many animals, your action is their only hope.

Every day, our office is flooded with phone calls and e-mails reporting animal suffering, cruelty, and neglect. Abandoned cats and kittens struggling for survival in vacant lots and alleyways; bored and lonely dogs languishing in neighborhood backyards; truckloads of bedraggled chickens stacked 10 cages high on their way to slaughter; and wildlife struggling to survive in suburbia. The list goes on.

Animal suffering and cruelty are still all too prevalent in our society. But that’s where you come in. Like the couple who stopped to help the lost dog, every day is a new opportunity for each of us to take notice of the animals in our midst who are in need and to act on their behalf. Never doubt that your actions make a difference.

Promoting the protection of all animals

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(it explicitly targeted the commercial fur trade) once the initiative passed, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife declared a ban on mole trapping.

A bill was drafted that would have clarified the confusion about mole trapping, but when this bill moved to the Senate for a vote, Sen. Jim Hargrove (D-24) amended the bill so that it repealed the entire initiative. Unbelievably, the Senate voted 38 to 11 to pass this bill.

Voters were outraged. When the amended bill moved to the House, more than 125 citizens—mobilized on two days’ notice—filled the hearing room. One by one, voters provided powerful testimony in favor of I-713, strongly urging legislators to keep the initiative in place.

Citizens across the state flooded legislators’ offices with phone calls and e-mails, demanding that their elected officials honor the voters’ intentions. At the time this newsletter went to print, PNRO was optimistic that the House would quash this attempt to overturn I-713. But we will surely face this fight again in the 2003 legislative session.

Without Your Grass On

Immediately contact your state legislators to express your opposition to efforts to repeal I-713. To learn how to identify your legislators, contact our office.

Heartfelt thanks go to Reps. Sandra Romero, Hans Dunshee, Mary Lou Dickerson, and Dave Upthegrove, who worked diligently to ensure that the House would not overturn I-713.

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