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As the National Guard entered New Orleans to quell civil disorder coming in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, members of the HSUS National Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) worked their way into the nearly obliterated regions of southern Mississippi and Louisiana. The situation could not have been more urgent in both areas, with reports of animals locked in homes, kennels, veterinary clinics, and other locations. It was a race against time for our first responders on the ground.

HSUS personnel in Gulfport, Mississippi, rescued more than 125 animals trapped in a flooded animal shelter, where some had desperately swum in their cages for hours before being saved. Tragically, not all survived. Those who did were rushed to nearby Jackson, where an HSUS team arranged to place them with humane organizations beyond the endangered area.

Meanwhile, The HSUS, in concert with animal protection groups throughout the

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An airboat moves down a flooded New Orleans street September 5 with animal rescue workers, a rifle-toting guard, and several rescued dogs. With thousands of stranded pets in the city, HSUS rescuers were frantically trying to reach as many animals as they could.

A

early 50 enthusiastic protesters, led by MARO Program Coordinator Barbara Dyer, left their "negative" regards to Red Lobster in Times Square in the middle of a heat wave. Protests were also held at 94 Red Lobsters in 28 states and three Canadian provinces.

Members of The HSUS, as well as Caring Activists Against Fur, and individual protesters held signs reading: "Don't buy while they die!" which referenced the yearly spring seal hunt in Newfoundland that kills more than 300,000 defenseless pups who are just days or weeks old for their pelts. "Canada's commercial seal hunt has become the largest, most brutal slaughter of marine mammals on earth," states Dyer.

Educational information was distributed to passing New Yorkers and tourists from around the world, so that people could understand how an international boycott of Canadian seafood could help stop the seal hunt.

Canada exports two-thirds of its seafood to the United States, which brings $3 billion annually into the Canadian economy. Red Lobster is the largest seafood chain in the U.S. and has the power to stop the Newfoundland seal hunts. Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans has declared that it would only stop the hunt if the fishing industry asked for it to be stopped. "So we are giving them an economic incentive to stop the hunt," adds Dyer.

What can you do? Please ask Red Lobster managers to stop serving Canadian seafood. Ask restaurant servers which seafood items on the menu are from Canada, and don't order them. Write to the company's corporate leaders and ask them to oppose the commercial seal slaughter and join The HSUS's boycott of Canadian seafood: Red Lobster/Darden Group; Joe E. Lee, Chair, and Clarence Otis Jr., CEO; 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive; Orlando, FL 32809; 407-245-4000; 1-800-LOBSTER (1-800-562-7837); e-mail from the corporate Web page at www.redlobster.com/contactus.asp.

For further information about how to protect seals, visit www.protectseals.org. If you are interested in participating in protests, please e-mail maro@hsus.org.
New York's Animal Population

A growing number of states have followed the lead of New Jersey legislators who passed a law in 1993 allowing for the production of animal-friendly license plates. Through this effort, MARO now has similar legislation: Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania. The laws vary to some extent from state to state, but, in general, part of the proceeds from the sale of the plates is used to support subsidized spaying and neutering for shelter-adopted animals or for cats and dogs of low-income pet owners.


On the set of "The Pet Stop" are host Brian Voynick, actress and New Jersey APFC spokesperson Kelly Bishop, MARO Director Nina Austenberg, and Dr. Arthur Baeder with the Domestic Companion Animal Council.

Misty of the states covered by the APCE For information on obtaining New Jersey's animal-friendly license plate, visit the APCE

Paws Up for PAWS!

L e'ts hear applause for PAWS, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute that will, if enacted, strengthen the ability of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to oversee large commercial dog and cat breeding facilities. Introduced in May 2005 by Sens. Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Reps. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) and Sam Farr (D-CA), PAWS is designed to help ensure the humane treatment of animals bred and sold by "puppy mills" and "kitten mills," many of which are operating under the radar of the USDA because they sell directly to the public instead of through another business such as a pet store. The bill also offers consumers a means to learn about the source of the animals available for purchase, including those imported from abroad. Although The HSUS recommends animal shelter and responsible rescue organizations as the best resources for obtaining companion animals, we understand that people still need to make the event a success, and their understanding that the deer are just trying to survive and adapt to the overdevelopment that has been thrust upon them," said MARO Program Coordinator Barbara Dyer, who organized the three-day string of visits.แปลก that there were two things that they could do if deer were eating their flowers, plants, and shrubs: First, plant what deer don't like to eat, and, second, protect the plants that they do like to eat. For those who won't get a personal visit from Baker, please see a list of deer resistant plants at www.fundforanimals.org/ urbanwildlife and click on the "Coexisting with Wildlife Fact Sheet #7." For a list of manufacturers and suppliers of products used to resolve wildlife conflicts, visit www.wild shoulders.org.

WV Animals Win!

West Virginia's animals and people have good cause for celebration. Gov. Joe Manchin (left) recently signed into law bills requiring dogs and cats adopted from shelters to be spayed or neutered, increasing penalties in animal cruelty code and implementing an animal cruelty early intervention program, and outlawing remote Internet hunting. Thanks to Gov. Manchin and the dedicated West Virginia activists, the 2005 session was a great success.
Barbara Dyer were deployed to the facility, as was heading to Gonzales, Louisiana’s, State University’s Veterinary Medical College. MARO’s Samantha Mullen and Louisiana SPCA in its efforts to rescue count­
treat animals in need of intensive care. The sheer volume of the challenges has been answering the Call.

Phones began ringing at The HSUS almost as wasted as the nonprofit sector, and improvising solutions into devastated areas of Louisiana and Mississippi, working to establish pet-friendly shelters, coordinating animal relief activities with local partners in both government and the nonprofit sector, and improving solutions to a host of animal-related emergencies. But the devastated city of New Orleans was still waiting. Answering the Call.

The HSUS, along with America’s top animal-protection organizations, was on the ground in New Orleans the moment news of Hurricane Katrina broke. On the scene before many of the major cities affected by the storm, The HSUS has continued to provide support through emergency response efforts such as restaurant to support the valuable and important role that animals play in our society.

An Overwhelming Task.

On their first foray into the embattled city of New Orleans on September 4, members of the HSUS DART, together with animal control staff from the Louisiana SPCA, targeted ani­mals stranded at the Superdome as their priority. There, they rescued dozens of animals relinquished or abandoned by evacuees who fled the city to escape Katrina’s rage. Once the base of operations was established in the city, animal rescue workers faced a constant and urgent challenge. Throughout the weekend, reports of animals in urgent need of rescue continued to pour into the HSUS call center and into other organizations mobilized in the region. “It’s just overwhelming,” Laura Maloney, executive director of the Louisiana SPCA, told a Knight-Ridder journalist. “There are countless thousands of abandoned pets in the city. And hundreds and hundreds are stuck inside their homes.” During the evacuation of New Orleans, rescue workers barred pets from buses, trains, and other facilities. And Red Cross does not permit animals in its shelters. The harsh and depressing fact remains: In most disaster scenarios, people and their pets are often forced to go their separate ways.

The Louisiana SPCA, whose shelter was located in New Orleans, had been able—well before the infamous levee gave way—to evacuate all of the nearly 1,400 animals in its facility to the Houston SPCA, some 250 miles to the west, thanks to the generosity of well-coordinated efforts of that shelter, whose executive director, Paty Mercier, continued to offer the invaluable assistance of her staff and volunteers to the Louisiana SPCA and The HSUS during the protracted rescue efforts. Many other shelters throughout the country accepted considerable numbers of evacuated animals in response to the need to make more space available at the Gonzales facility, which only reached its capacity of approximately 1,400 animals.

The Ongoing Mission. This is going to require a massive, long-term effort to help the animals and the people impacted by Hurricane Katrina,” said HSUS’s Laura Bevan. But The HSUS is committed to doing all it can. To support The HSUS’s animal protection efforts, go to www.hsus.org/join.

“Off the Chain” Reveals Betrayal of Man’s Best Friend.

President Theodore Roosevelt saved one. So did Helen Keller. This breed of dog was the trade­mark of Buster Brown shoes and RCA Victor. Petey was the canine star of television’s “Our Gang.” And Shubby was the most decorated dog in American history, having received numerous medals and the honorary rank of Sergeant for his services during World War I. Do these famous dogs have in common? They were all American pit bull terriers.

How did such a beloved breed come to be feared as a “public enemy” that is supposed to be their caretakers. Brown is donating to The HSUS one million to help The HSUS’s efforts toward the long-term recovery of The HSUS’s projects. Please send us your Trader Joe’s receipts. Please show them to The HSUS’s staff that they care about the welfare of laying hens. Send receipts to: The Humane Society of the United States, Factory Farming Campaign, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Send a Message to Trader Joe’s.

Call Trader Joe’s at 781-455-7319 and ask the company to adopt a policy to sell only cage-free eggs.

During your next trip to Trader Joe’s, call the store manager and request that the chain adopt a policy against selling battery cage eggs. Please send us your Trader Joe’s receipts. They will be sent to the company to show that consumers care about the welfare of laying hens. Send receipts to: The Humane Society of the United States, Factory Farming Campaign, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

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, quickly reaches
- Providing for my pets in my will or in case of emergency
- Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS

- Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to benefit The HSUS
- Giving The HSUS’s gift of stock

Promoting the protection of all animals.
Are We Winning the Battles But Losing the War?

It is really encouraging to see that many new groups have joined the fight against sport hunting in the mid-Atlantic region. In the early 1970s, The HSUS—joined by Friends of Animals, the Fund for Animals, and DEER Inc.—began protesting the barbaric deer hunt in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, located less than an hour’s drive from New York City. Our office led the protests for more than 25 years, until it became nearly impossible to draw participants or media attention. The lack of interest in the Great Swamp seems unbelievable at a time when practically every new area opened to sport hunting spawns another activist group and demonstration. Perhaps it was this splintering of the humane movement that caused the Great Swamp Protest to lose momentum. It’s entirely possible that we are all fighting on too many fronts—trying to extinguish tiny sparks, instead of concentrating on the slow-burning embers that continue to start new fires everywhere.

When the Great Swamp Protest began, we were objecting to six days of sport hunting in the Refuge, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Meanwhile, the annual number of hunting days elsewhere in the state continued to grow—from 19 days in 1950 to more than 100 days in 2005. Slogans such as “This is a Refugee!” and “Save the Deer”—commonly heard in the early days of the Great Swamp hunt—gave way to shouts of “Who’s to Blame? Fish and Game!”—as the humane community began to recognize that the situation outside the Great Swamp was growing considerably worse.

New Jersey’s deer population continued to explode despite the increase in sport hunting activity and horrendous methods used to kill deer. Eventually we revealed that the “management strategies” used by New Jersey’s Division of Fish and Wildlife to maximize sport hunting opportunities and revenue were in fact the cause of this population increase. Most of our members are aware that wildlife populations are “managed” by such means as habitat and sex-ratio manipulation. Any high school biology text will tell you that a limited number of males can easily repopulate an area if the number of surviving females in that hunted population remains relatively high. This is the goal of sport hunting managers—to ensure enough “targets” to sell the next season’s hunting licenses. This gruesome priority will not change in our state—or any other state—as long as the percentage of sportsmen on the policy-making Fish and Game Council continues to vastly over-represent the fraction of state residents who hunt.

To that end, The HSUS recently launched a litigation division to expand on a number of humane initiatives, including the wildlife litigation begun more than three decades ago when The HSUS filed its first lawsuit against the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Our focus must be on restructuring these management agencies, forcing them to represent the gardeners, homeowners, farmers, and ordinary citizens of our state. As long as this management imbalance exists, all the individual protests in the world will not make sport hunting a thing of the past.

Contacting HSUS

Write:  
HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
270 Route 206, Bartley Sq.
Flanders, NJ 07836

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

Promoting the protection of all animals

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Promoting the protection of all animals

By Nina Austenberg
Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

The MARO Regional News is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 270 Route 206, Bartley Square, Flanders, NJ 07836; 973-927-5611. Nina Austenberg, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays. © 2005 by The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved. A COPY OF THE LATEST FINANCIAL REPORT AND REGISTRATION FILED BY THE HSUS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE HSUS, OFFICE OF THE TREASURER, 2100 L ST., NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037, 202-452-1100; IN NEW JERSEY, INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING (973) 504-6215. IN NEW YORK, A COPY OF THE LATEST ANNUAL REPORT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ORGANIZATION OR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY WRITING THE CHARITIES BUREAU, 120 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10271. IN PENNSYLVANIA, THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA, 1-800-732-0999. IN WEST VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENTS MAY OBTAIN A SUMMARY OF THE REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, STATE CAPITOL, CHARLESTON, WV 25305. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY ANY STATE. Printed on recycled paper.