New Yorker Wins National Award

Another milestone in Schnapp's career was the successful movement in New York state to ban the sale of animals from shelters to research laboratories.

Max Schnapp is a longtime member of The HSUS who takes pride in never having missed an annual conference. He credits his love of animals to his Hebraic upbringing which stresses that animals must be spared needless cruelty.

Three tables of Mid-Atlantic members and friends rose to their feet applauding as HSUS President John A. Hoyt presented the award. Mrs. Austenberg, also a Brooklyn native, said she was thrilled that Max has been so honored. "I met Max at the first Great Swamp protest and since then have admired his strong commitment to animal welfare," Austenberg said.

Accompanied by family and friends, Max Schnapp (center) shows off his award.

HSUS Attacks Dog Racing in Penn.

The HSUS continues to oppose dog-racing legislation and has attacked H.B. 1079, a bill to legalize pari-mutuel dog racing in Pennsylvania.

Testifying before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Committee on Business and Commerce, HSUS investigator Robert Baker described many of the cruelties in dog racing. Baker, a former racehorse owner who has spent over five years investigating both horse and dog racing, said that "if dog racing is legalized, thousands of dogs will be exploited and abused. In addition, thousands of other animals will be maimed and brutally killed in training practices common in the industry."

Baker described one such training method known as "coursing" in which live jackrabbits are chased down, mutilated by young greyhounds, and left to die. In another called the "whirl-a-gig," a small animal is dangled from a pole while the dogs are encouraged to chase it. The animals used may be domestic rabbits, guinea pigs, or even kittens.

Greyhounds themselves are often the victims of the racing business, noted Baker. "The HSUS estimates that more than 30,000 greyhounds are destroyed each year simply because they don't run fast enough or are injured while racing. In fact, about ninety percent of these dogs that are bred to race are instead killed by the time they are four years old."
In mid-October, the HSUS was called upon to defend the major victory animal-welfare proponents had won just a year before in New Jersey.

In 1984, the state passed a law completely banning the use of all steel-jaw leghold traps. In October 1985, trappers in New Jersey filed suit challenging the constitutionality of the ban and asking that use of leghold traps be reinstated. Ironically, the suit also asked that the padded, steel-jaw leghold trap be banned. A settlement of this lawsuit was filed in August.

In a separate review, the Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler decided to continue indefinitely the suspension of funding to the head-injury experiments on baboons.

In New Jersey, the HSUS immediately joined with the state Department of Agriculture that it violated the Animal Welfare Act during head-injury experiments on baboons.

A recipient of a master of science in speech from Emerson College in Boston, Rick has also developed a business plan and work and holds a business management certificate from Fairfield University, Conn.

Current living in Bernardsville, N.J., with wife Audrey and their two dogs, Sugar and Spike, Rick will be extending the HSUS peformance to all four states within the region.

The Region

Pennsylvania — In September, the University of Pennsylvania indefinitely suspended all research using primates in the head-injury clinical research laboratories at its medical school and reprimanded the researchers responsible for supervising the experiments.

The University of Pennsylvania has agreed to pay a $4,000 fine to settle charges by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that it violated the Animal Welfare Act during head-injury experiments on baboons.

In a separate review, the Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler decided to continue indefinitely the suspension of funding to the head-injury lab. Congressional action to deny funding to the lab was discontinued.

Proponents of the law said members received personal assurances from the university that the laboratory was — and would remain — closed.

New Jersey — Newark police, alerted by suspicions neighbors, broke up an illegal cockfight in an abandoned factory building on February 9, 1986, arresting 129 people from four states and confiscating 37 gamecocks.

The HSUS by way of Florida where he was already expected to bar him from owning or being engaged in any business in the state, the suit has been rendered but a preliminary decision has not been issued upholding the ban.

In victory in court is never certain, but The HSUS is committed to winning such tests. Where laws are not strong enough, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals can be brought in to help get strong laws.

Over 50 guests ventured out on a snowy, wintry December 11, 1985, to join the Mid-Atlantic regional office (MARO) staff in their Open House celebration. The festive occasion was to honor our new office facility in Madison, N.J.

Sipping traditional holiday-mulled apple cider and nibbling cheeses and other delights prepared by MARO staff and friends, guests mingled and viewed videotapes on animal-welfare issues, including the Governor’s historic signing of the New Jersey ban on steel-jaw leghold traps.

President Ed Sayres, Jr., St. Hubert’s Giralda Animal Welfare and Education Center, opened the Center’s Gallery to the guests for a private showing of the exhibit, “Fitz of the Pets,” on loan from the Dog Museum of New York.

Region Holds Open House

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Special guests included HSUS Director of Higher Education Dr. Randall Lookwood and New Jersey Secretary of State Jane Bur­go, both of whom spoke to the assembled guests praising the dedicated work of the regional office.

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Ready and Able

Last November, the Mid-Atlantic regional office (MARO) worked by adding Richard (Rick) L. Abel as Program Co­ordinator.

A native New Yorker, Rick comes to The HSUS by way of Florida where he was community relations director with the Hal­fitas Humane Society in Daytona Beach. In Daytona, Rick was responsible for mem­bership development, public relations cam­paigns, volunteerism, and special projects.

A recipient of a master of science in speech from Emerson College in Boston, Rick has also developed a business plan and work and holds a business management certificate from Fairfield University, Conn.

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Court Bars Dealer From Commerce in Pet Animals

The Morris County Office of Consumer Affairs filed suit in the Superior Court of New Jersey Chancery Division seeking to bar a dealer, previously convicted of animal neglect and cruelty charges, forfeit his right to do business in New Jersey be­cause of fraudulent business practices.

The suit charged that Marc Stern, oper­ator of Pet Gallery in the Mall at Short Hills, willfully refused to comply with pro­visions of several state statutes governing the sale of animals and regulations requiring individuals to notify consumer of vari­ous rights.

Besides seeking to have Stern banned from doing business in the state, the suit was intended to bar him from owning or managing any corporation or business ent­reprise, or holding more than ten percent of the stock of any company doing business in New Jersey. In addition, the suit asked that Stern’s present firms be placed in receiver­ship and his assets frozen until all re­stitution to consumers is paid.

Included in the suit’s charges were allega­tions that Stern “systematically” provided consumers with incomplete and unsigned pedigreed papers, forged certificates of ownership, and animal-history documents required under New Jersey law.

Stern, who also owns the Skamperdale Kennel in Chestertown, N.J., was found guilty of animal cruelty and neglect charges there and in Roxbury, N.J., in matters that are under appeal. In New York, Stern was fined $5,000 and put on prob­ation for three years after admitting 100 counts of animal cruelty at his Harris­ man Kennels in Harttman, N.Y.

HSUS investigator Paul Miller and re­gional director Nina Austenberg worked with Carol Glade, Morris County Consum­er Affairs, in documenting the case.

In the case brought by the Morris Coun­ty (NJ) Office of Consumer Affairs, Judge Arnold Stern ruled on December 29, 1985, that Marc Stern is permanently enjoined from doing business in the state, the suit was intended to bar him from owning or managing any corporation or business ent­reprise, or holding more than ten percent of the stock of any company doing business in New Jersey. In addition, the suit asked that Stern’s present firms be placed in receiver­ship and his assets frozen until all re­stitution to consumers is paid.

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HSUS Continues to Seek End to Great Swamp Hunt

Deer hunting season at Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge opened on December 12, 1985, and several dozen protesters were on hand to demonstrate their opposition.

"This protest is to bring into focus the plight of animals," said Nina Austenberg, Mid-Atlantic regional director. With signs reading "Stop the Hunt" and "This is Their World, Too," about 50 members of animal-protection groups gathered at the New Jersey refuge to protest sport hunting on federal wildlife refuges.

John Grandy, HSUS vice president for wildlife and environment, said that wildlife refuges were intended as "inviolable sanctuaries" for birds and animals. "This action is symbolic of our continuing opposition to public hunting on refuges across the nation that, this year alone, has killed 600,000 wild animals," Grandy said.

The annual deer hunt at Great Swamp, which originally lasted ten days, but now spans six days, was begun in 1974 to control the herd population and avoid herd starvation. The event has provoked a protest demonstration by humanitarians every year.

A big argument used previously to justify the hunt was that the physical condition of many deer was poor and dead deer were being found on searches. Further, the poor condition of the animals indicated the refuge could not sustain enough vegetation for food for so many, a condition compounded by the needs of other wildlife.

In response, Grandy pointed out that every year some animals have to die but "God decides when." He noted that the deer brought in by hunters appeared to be robust. "What makes them not healthy," Grandy said, "is being shot...."

Protestors gathered at the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge.