Animals Suffer Neglect.

Loopholes in Laws

must be provided with food, water, shelter, and veterinary care. Because of their lack of compliance, both kennels have either given up their licenses or had them suspended by the USDA. But they remain in operation because state laws do not require minimum standards of care.

Ann Gonnerman and Mark Chamberlin, a reporter with KAKE-TV, went through a kennel near Wichita in December. The dogs were kept in wire mesh runs and flimsy wooden cages. The animals appeared to be cold and dirty.

"Two badly matted poodles sat shivering in their own filth," Gonnerman said. "A mixed breed dog had a large, open wound on its side and was running loose."

"These animals should not have to live in filth and suffer from poor nutrition," Gonnerman said. Committees are being set up in Kansas and Missouri to obtain state legislation that would require that kennels maintain certain minimum standards of care.

Recently, the Midwest Regional office has uncovered inhumane conditions at two dog kennels, one outside Des Moines, Iowa, and the other near Wichita, Kansas. Regional director Ann Gonnerman reported her findings in the Iowa kennel. "The water was frozen and the cages filled with excrement. The dogs were unable to move without great effort in the old wire bottomed cages."

Many breeding facilities ignore humane care in their race for immediate profit. A kennel required to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture comes under the federal Animal Welfare Act. This law states animals
Soring is the practice of inflicting pain to alter the natural gait of walking horses. Acid solutions and varied devices cause pressure on the horses’ feet and ankles. This cruel practice violates the Federal Horse Protection Act, which provides criminal penalties and heavy fines for violators. This 1978 study shows the severity of the situation is.

**The first three nights walking horses with signs of being sored were allowed to follow.**

Gonnerman monitored many walking horse shows throughout the 1978 season, witnessing the agony these horses are put through to win recognition and prize money. Conditions of the 1978 Missouri State Fair illustrate how serious the situation is.

"The first three nights walking horses with signs of being sored were allowed to follow," Gonnerman states. "They appeared to ask to participate in meetings February and as a result, several walking horses continue to suffer.

Gonnerman brought in Jerry Johnson, D.V.M., an equine specialist from the University of Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Missouri to assist the inspection team the study improvements needed at the public animal shelter. The Midwest office has been working with officials pushing standards of care. Temporary improvements include better sanitation, improved lighting, and repair of cages and windows.

Wichita, Kansas - After the Regional Director met several times with city officials and L. D. Loesch, D.V.M., director of the Wichita Animal Shelter, individual waterers have been attached to each cage in the shelter, ensuring each animal gets the water it needs. A concrete floor has been covered with epoxy and a new tile floor has been installed. Stronger and more protective conditions are being developed.

**Dogs That Pack to Plague Rural Areas**

"Coffee and..." group in your home. As host you will be responsible for extending invitations to guests of your choosing. We suggest that the group not be larger than 10 or 12 individuals. Members of the Midwest Region staff will be available to you, and happy to serve as convener for such get-togethers.

The Midwest Regional Office is celebrating its first birthday. It’s been a year of grueling work, logging thousands of miles of travel throughout the four-state area, and meeting with humane groups, public officials, and private organizations.

The results have been often encouraging, sometimes disappointing. Individual cases may be solved with visible results for the suffering animal. But it’s even more important for us to devote our efforts to the abuses of pet overpopulation, the pet trade, Tennessee walking horses, animal transport, inhumane euthanasia, and the dozens of other large-scale, long-term problems. These, after all, affect many thousands of individual animals.

**The Needs Of Animals Will Continue Long After You Are Gone**

Unfortunately, man’s cruelty and irresponsibility to animals will not end during your lifetime. By choosing your Will you will be a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

The HSUS will send you a booklet without obligation on how to make the best use of your animal welfare bequest. It contains information on selecting recipients and describes how to proceed when you decide to write or change your Will.

Write in complete confidence to: Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

**From the Director’s Desk**

**Midwest Update**

Dan Moines, Iowa - In a recent meeting with city officials, animal control officers were authorized to issue misdemeanor citations for violations of the Municipal Code relating to animal control. Issuing citations punishes irresponsible pet owners, not helpless animals.

St. Louis, Missouri - Mayor Conway appointed a task force of veterinarians, public health officials and animal welfare participants to study improvements needed at the public animal shelter. The Midwest office has been working with officials pushing standards of care. Temporary improvements include better sanitation, improved lighting, and repair of cages and windows.

**Coffee and...**

Experience has taught us that one of the most successful ways to discuss common concerns in the world of animals, and the work of The Humane Society of the United States, is in small groups. Such settings not only permit but encourage a free flow of questions related to the issues of legislation, sterilization, and education.

We invite interested parties to host a "Coffee and..." group in your home. As host you will be responsible for extending invitations to guests of your choosing. We suggest that the group not be larger than 10 or 12 individuals. Members of the Midwest Region staff will be available to you, and happy to serve as convener for such get-togethers.

To arrange a house meeting, please contact Jon Gommerman, Director of the Midwest Regional Office. 816-474-2070.

**Dog Packs Plague Rural Areas**

Two recent incidents prove the need for better city and county animal control to prevent dog packs. News stories reported that dogs attacked a six year old boy in Richmond, Missouri was attacked just 100 yards from home, according to the December 4 Kansas City Times. Six year old Eric Crow of Richmond, Missouri was attacked just 100 yards from home.

"Something that this state needs together become very bold and will cause a considerable amount of damage to wildlife and livestock," said Ed Nichols, Senior Resident Agent of the Fish and Wildlife Service. "We are very concerned that this state needs..." (continued on page 4)
DOG PACKS
(continued)

is dog legislation." Nichols' comments were made during his talk last fall at the wildlife symposium sponsored by the Missouri Federation of Humane Societies.

The Midwest Region talked with Richmond city officials over a month before this attack about lack of good animal control. The particular dogs were captured, but the problem remains unsolved.

After receiving complaints and advising Lee's Summit officials on humane traps, Ann Gonnerman inspected the stallion that had been attacked by a pack of dogs. "The animal was in bad condition," Gonnerman stated. "He was slashed and bitten all over. His spirit was destroyed." In this instance, the city of Lee's Summit took our advice and captured the dogs with live traps, but improved city and county animal control is needed to help prevent the suffering of people and animals.

HORSE CARE

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED

An educational seminar on horses will be held March 31, 1979, from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Continuing Education Building, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. It is being sponsored by the Iowa Federation of Humane Societies and the Veterinary Extension Service at the University.

The program will include discussion on breeding, health problems, training, practical horse psychology, food and shelter requirements, and horse safety guidelines.

A tour of the Livestock Pavilion and the Veterinary College will also be included.

The cost is $15.00 per person (which includes a luncheon). For reservations or further information, write to:

Extension Courses and Conferences
Room 102, Scheman Continuing Education Building
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011

YOU CAN HELP

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