Workshops Planned For School Staffs

The HSUS New England Region this fall will conduct a series of humane education workshops designed specifically for teachers, school administrators, and guidance counselors.

The workshops will be held in conjunction with Project LEARN, a cooperative education project of 18 school districts within 17 southeastern Connecticut towns. The project serves 51 schools, 1,300 teachers, and 23,500 pupils.

"Because of increasing emphasis on ecology and our environment, there is a greater interest in animals in school programs than ever before," said John Dommers, director of education for the HSUS New England Region and workshop leader. "Many educators are experiencing the need to assist students in developing a greater respect for life through animal-related classroom and outdoor activities."

He said there is also a need to increase motivation and make learning more fun in major curriculum areas. The HSUS workshops will serve these needs with a series of presentations and involvement activities by specialists in the field.

The workshop sessions are scheduled for the following subjects:

- Selection, Care, and Handling of Suitable Classroom Animals
- Curriculum-Integrated Programs and Activities Involving Animals
- Helping Children's Senses Make Sense Outdoors
- Careers for Animal Lovers

A team of animal specialists and educators will act as resource individuals at each session.

Dommers plans to extend the in-service education workshop program throughout the New England Region in the near future, through cooperative education projects such as LEARN or through school system in-service programs. For further information call or write the New England Regional Office.

The HSUS New England Region plans to help teachers and school administrators develop tools for teaching children a greater respect for life through animal-related classroom and outdoor activities.

Shaw Stresses Early Education

The director of the HSUS New England Region has urged Maine humanitarians to work for the introduction of environmental studies, including the teaching of humane treatment of animals, into the public schools curricula.

"Early education is the key to success of the humane movement," Rear Adm. James C. Shaw, USN (ret.), told the annual meeting of the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals last May.

He cited Connecticut as a state that requires environmental education in the schools.

"The response from educators there has been heartening," he said. "Perhaps we can have a younger generation learn and practice the humane ethic."

Shaw said ecologists and conservationists are learning that animal problems are as grave to the nation as pollution problems. The surplus of cats and dogs is nothing but animal pollution," he said. "The responsibility for the welfare of animals does not rest solely with humane societies," he said. "It is a public responsibility the state, cities, and federal government must share."

Potential Shelter Money

The use of federal revenue sharing funds for public animal shelters offers communities a new way to finance sorely needed improvement in local direct animal welfare establishments. Interested humanitarians should explore the possibilities and procedures with their municipal officials.
Maine Humanitarian Rehabilitates Wildlife

Located in the Far North, near the Canadian border, at Sherman Station, Maine, is a unique wild animal sanctuary owned, operated, and financed by a compassionate HSUS supporter. She is Jerry (Mrs. John) Elwell.

Rehabilitates and Returns

Concentrating on the rescue and rehabilitation of distressed wildlife, Jerry Elwell cares for sick and injured animals of all sizes and kinds brought to her by concerned citizens and conservation officers. Most of them are returned to the wild after rehabilitation.

When an animal is too badly crippled to survive on its own, she adds it to an ever-increasing number of handicapped and permanent “house guests.”

But Jerry does not stop there. As a writer, she reaches a public audience with stories of the animals she knows well, arguments for their humane treatment, and campaigns for abolishing cruelty. Her newspaper column “Fur and Feathers” is known throughout Maine, and her recent book “Cuddles, A Befuddled Maine Woodchuck” is now in the bookstores.

Crusades for Trap Ban

She is currently conducting a crusade against the leghold trap. Her fiery prose has brought her strong editorial and public support on the one hand and, on the other hand, violent opposition from leghold trappers.

A recent patient at Jerry’s animal hospital adds force to her arguments—a barred owl badly mangled by a trap. Her words crackle with anger over this one.

“The greed, injustice, cruelty and aggression so apparent in today’s world will one day be overcome as long as there are people like Jerry Elwell to lead and inspire along a path to humane goodness,” declared Rear Adm. James C. Shaw, USN (ret.) director of the HSUS New England Region.

Film on Surplus Pets Available to Schools

“The Animals Are Crying,” a 28-minute film on surplus breeding of cats and dogs, is available for use by schools through arrangement with the Regional Office.

It is recommended that a local HSUS member or group schedule the dates and appear in person at the showings to give introductory remarks and answer questions.

This procedure has been highly successful in Fairfield County, Conn., where two volunteers have presented the film at assemblies to more than 50,000 students and teachers. The response has been extremely enthusiastic.

Memorial Suggestions

The HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center offers a wonderful opportunity for humanitarians to memorialize deceased friends, family members, or pets in a manner that will serve animal welfare on a continuing basis. Memorial gifts to the Center are being accepted and recognized for a variety of purposes. Anyone interested in such a special purpose memorial should write or call the Center, P.O. Box 98, East Haddam, CT 06423 (phone: 203-434-8666).

HSUS New England Regional Office: (203) 434-8666