HSUS Moves Against Area Cockfighters

Above, an HSUS raiding team and officers of the Lenawee County Sheriff’s Office broke up a cockfight near Adrian, Michigan, in late January, arresting 33 people. Left, dead roosters attest to the viciousness of this bloody activity. Right, a close-up of the sharp metal spurs, or gaffs, used by cockfighters.
Cockfighting

The Great Lakes Office began its current investigation into illegal cockfighting in the region after receiving a series of tips late last fall. Working with law enforcement officials in both Michigan and Ohio, Field Investigator Tim Greyhavens was able to penetrate the bloody world of cockfighting and gather firsthand knowledge of both fighters and fight locations.

In Michigan, the GLRO worked with the Lenawee County Sheriff's Office and the Lenawee Humane Society to set up the raid near Adrian on a cold January night. Found at the site of this fight were 27 live and 18 dead gamecocks, fighting paraphernalia such as metal gaffs, and a trophy for the winner of the night's contests.

Unfortunately, Ohio has a very weak misdemeanor law for cockfighting, making the state a haven for fighters and local law enforcement officials in both Michigan and Ohio. Field Investigator Tim Greyhavens led the participants in workshop sessions.

Dogfighting Update

During late November and early January of last year, the GLRO took part in a multi-state investigation of dogfighting that led to the arrest of 47 individuals in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio. As this report goes to press, 12 others were charged with dogfighting, or attending a dogfight, and are still awaiting trial.

LESS THAN ONE MONTH LATER a bill was introduced in the Ohio legislature that, if passed, will change the law so that dogfighting will become illegal in Ohio. Sponsored by Rep. Walter McClaskey, HB 890 paved the way for any USDA licensed dealer to collect dogs from Ohio pounds. The GLRO testified before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee against this damaging legislation.

The Michigan Federation of Humane Societies celebrated its 50th birthday by holding a “Golden Jubilee Celebration Workshop for Humanitarians” on April 23-25 in Lansing, Michigan. Members of the Federation as well as HSUS staff members John Hoyt, Phyllis Wright, Sandy Rowland, and Tim Greyhavens led the participants in workshop sessions. Certificates of Appreciation were presented at an awards banquet held on the Saturday evening of the workshop.

The newly formed Humane Alliance of Northwestern Ohio sponsored a very successful two-day seminar for humane officers on April 16 and 17 in Bowling Green, Ohio. Coordinated by the Great Lakes Regional Office, the workshop featured speakers from the field of law enforcement, an attorney, a veterinarian, a USDA employee, and HSUS’s Tim Greyhavens.

The City of Cleveland Spay/Neuter Clinic located at 2690 West 7th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, 44113 reports having performed 1740 surgeries in 1981. The city-owned and operated clinic has been open since mid-1979. Each surgery costs $15.00. The clinic may be used by any resident of Cleveland.

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In February, the GLRO was granted a permanent injunction against the Champaign County Commissioners and Kiser Lake Kennels. The order was handed down by Judge Roger Wilson of the Champaign County Common Pleas Court.

Less than one month later a bill was introduced in the Ohio legislature that, if passed, will change the law so that dogfighting will become illegal in Ohio. Sponsored by Rep. Walter McClaskey, HB 890 paved the way for any USDA licensed dealer to collect dogs from Ohio pounds.

In Toledo, Ohio, the GLRO and local law enforcement officers arrested 172 individuals at a dogfight on November 28. plead guilty to charges filed against them. The GLRO testified before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee against this damaging legislation.

The HSUS has been actively working against “bunching” in our region in an attempt to prevent pets from being taken for research. A trophy for the winner of the night’s contests.

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In Dayton, Ohio, Citizens for Humane Education held a rally early this winter to bring to public attention the fact that fur garments are the product of a great deal of suffer-
From the Director's Desk

In a small town in our region the animal shelter received a call that two dogs were tied outside. The city was flooding and the waters were already up to the dogs' necks. The humane society sent a person to the scene to rescue the dogs but it was unlikely the dogs could be reached in time to save them.

In Port Clinton, Ohio, the frigid spring waters of Lake Erie were rising with such force the residents had to be awakened during the middle of the night. They were told they could not take their pets with them as they were evacuated. No one knows how many pets died in the icy waters that inundated the town.

If an emergency situation should strike your community, are you prepared to respond as a humane society? The bitter cold of winter and rampant floods of spring have served to remind us of the need for an emergency rescue plan for every shelter and humane society.

If you don't already have plans for aiding animals in the aftermath of disasters, you should initiate a plan now and make it a priority. You may include in your plan that The HSUS may be called upon if the problem is of such magnitude that outside assistance is needed.

Please don't wait. It may be too late for the animals' sake.

Sandy Rowland
Regional Director
May 1982

Chicago: Sept. 17-18, 1982

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