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Key Dog-Fighting Figure Is Convicted

In a courtroom in Orange County, New York, a judgment was rendered on March 1, with potentially daunting consequences for dogfighters throughout the country. Judge Nicholas DeRosa convicted James Fricchione, publisher of "Sporting Dog Journal," of six felonies and five misdemeanors for dogfighting-related activities.

After the verdict, Assistant District Attorney David Hoovler said, "To the dogfighting world, this is like taking down Al Capone." Eric Sakach, director of HSUS's West Coast Regional Office and the country's leading expert on illegal animal fighting, agrees. "This could easily be the most significant case ever prosecuted with regard to the crime of dogfighting," Sakach said, in tribute to Hoovler's skills and the judge's ruling.

Fricchione's role as publisher of "Sporting Dog Journal," a magazine suspected by humane law enforcers to link animal fighters all over the world, attracted authorities' attention nearly two years ago. At that time, The HSUS had helped launch an exhaustive investigation.

This dog, confiscated from Fricchione's property, shows the wounds of battle.

Bear Hunt Proceeds Amid Protests

Despite a campaign promise to support a five-year ban on black bear hunting; despite tens of thousands of letters, phone calls, e-mails, faxes, and petition signatures against the bear hunt; and despite poll results showing that 58 percent of registered New Jersey voters believed the bear hunt should be stopped, Gov. James McGreevey allowed the first black bear hunt in 33 years to take place December 8-13, 2003. Although the hunt proceeded, The HSUS and other animal advocates never ceased efforts to stop it.

December 1, 2003: A coalition of animal protection organizations including The HSUS, The Fund for Animals, the Center for Animal Protection, and several individuals filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court to stop the hunt from taking place in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. "If the governor won't stand by his word, we will ask the court to prevent the circumvention of our federal environmental laws," stated Wayne Pacelle, an HSUS senior vice president. On December 5, U.S. District Court Judge Reggie B. Walton issued a temporary restraining order. Although the prohibition was lifted on December 9, it gave the black bears in the recreation area a one-day reprieve.

December 4, 2003: In a letter, The HSUS appealed to Gov. McGreevey to halt the bear hunt on the grounds that donations to fund humane conflict resolution efforts had risen to more than $100,000 for funding non-lethal management programs for the state, should the state agree to halt the hunt. The original $30,000 check to The HSUS, from a donor who chose to remain anonymous, inspired financial pledges from several New Jersey and out-of-state residents. The HSUS's Barbara Dyer appealed to McGreevey to "call off the ill-fated hunt and take advantage of the generous offers by New Jersey citizens who want effective bear management, not bearskin rugs." These donations are an excellent example of the determination of citizens to pursue a solution that does not involve random sport-killing of bears. The governor did not respond.

Citing the deplorable cruelty of the bear hunt, The HSUS joined the Center for Animal Protection, Saving Our Resources Today, and The Fund for Animals in placing an ad in "The Star Ledger" (New Jersey's largest newspaper), urging the governor to stop this hunt.

Even cubs who pose no threat to state residents were killed during New Jersey's December 2003 hunt.

continued on page 2
Tigers Win in Battle with NJ Owner

Tigers INin in Battle with NJ Owner

premises that day and transported to a new
Township woman known as the Tiger Lady
staff, whose aim it was to move the big cats
by state and local officials, the International
Texas.
Fund for Animal Welfare, and sanctuary
by late afternoon. The cats began their road
trip to Texas that same evening, funded, in
part, by an HSUS contribution.
The move was a well-coordinated effort
Richard Farinato, HSUS director of
captive wildlife protection, was on site at the
invitation of the New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection to make sure the animals were handled humanely and with as
little stress as possible. It began at dawn, and capture and loading was finished by late afternoon. The cats began their road
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in a suburban
New Jersey neighborhood was a constant threat to
the safety of the public. The move was
carried out beautiful weather.

was the welfare of the
tigers the first priority.
This was the day the fortune
changed for these cats,
removing them from a life of
suffering to a world of
standard care."
A tranquilized tiger is moved from cage to transport vehicle. An
HSUS representative was on hand when the tigers were loaded
for transport to their sanctuary home to ensure that they were handled
humanely and with as little stress as possible.

Sandy Levine: A Decade of Caring

T he HSUS is pleased to join New Jersey
Network (NJN) in honoring one of the
station's shining stars, Sandy Levine, who
recently celebrated the 10-year
anniversary of the NJN television program
"Homeless Tails," for which she has served as host
and producer. Many New Jersey
viewers are familiar with this program,
which provides valuable pet care advice and
matches homeless animals with adoptive
families. "Homeless Tails" has made great
strides in helping the thousands of cats and
dogs who crowd New Jersey shelters, hoping
for a second chance in a loving home. NJN
reaches 3 million households and two-thirds of
all New Jersey households watch
NJN commemorated the event with a
half-hour special, “"Homeless Tails: A
Decade of Caring," which highlighted some of
the program’s many success stories. The special also re-examined some of the
human issues that the program has brought to
light over the years, such as the interaction between animal cruelty and
human violence that is publicized through the HSUS’s First Strike campaign.
NJN credits MARO Director Nina Austenberg as
being one of the driving forces behind the
start of “Homeless Tails.” In a June 3, 1993,
letter to New Jersey Veterinary Medical
Association’s (NJVMa) Rick
Alampi, Austenberg offered some
suggestions for the show, most important of which was that it "would be good for NJN, NJVMA, New Jersey Shelters, and pets if members of NJVMA would screen the pets at the shelter prior to
adoption to ensure the best possible
match for the animal in question and
make sure the pet is not a predator to
other pets." The letter continued:
"New Jersey is a leader in animal protection," said Nina
Austenberg. "It’s because of the efforts of people like Sandy Levine and ‘Homeless Tails’ that we’re able to lead the
States in animal progress." MARO honored Sandy Levine in 2002 for her lifesaving work on behalf of companion animals.
The New Jersey Senate and General Assembly similarly
issued an award to Levine for her efforts. Levine has been
nominated six times for regional
Emmy Awards, five of which were for her work with animals. The
HSUS is honored to have served as a
resource for ‘Homeless Tails,’ and is proud
and is passionate about

Opossums Now Safer in the City

T he lives of hundreds of healthy
opossums will be saved in New York
City and the five boroughs because of MARO’s
intervention. MARO Program Coordinator Barbara
A tranquilized tiger is moved from cage to transport vehicle. An
HSUS representative was on hand when the tigers were loaded
for transport to their sanctuary home to ensure that they were handled
humanely and with as little stress as possible.

Wanted: A Few Good Activists

P lease join our Regional Activist
Action e-mail list. In the past we
have had three lists: those
interested in helping black bears, veal
calves, and Canada geese. However, in order to best serve the animals, we
are merging the lists. You will then
receive action e-mails on a variety of
topics. If you are already on a list and
do not want to be on the longer list, just
e-mail us at maro@hssus.org to let us
know. But we hope you’ll continue
to help us improve the lives of animals.

continued from ‘Bears,’ page 1

Dec 11, 2003: The HSUS wrote to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley Campbell and urged him to cancel the remaining two days of the hunt in light of a data review released by DEP showing that a disproportionate number of
females had been killed in the hunt’s first four days. The kill numbers indicated that out of 182 bears killed on the first two days of the hunt, 120 (66 percent) were female. “Data
drawn from the hunt paint a potentially troubling portrait of overexploitation of the state’s small black bear population,” wrote Wayne Pacelle. “We should observe the precautionary
principle and halt this hunt immediately.” Pacelle added that the hunter kill thus far
suggested that the population estimate in excess of 3,000 bears was inaccurate. Based on
the data from the hunt, there are probably only 2,000 bears in New Jersey. “The high number of
females killed in the hunt so far is a dangerous trend that could severely impact the viability
of the bear population in New Jersey,” said Barbara Dyer. “Continuing this hunt over the next
two days may cause long-term irreparable harm to the population.” There was no response
from the Commissioner.
The hunt’s aftermath: Gov. McGreevey’s black bear hunt resulted in a grizzly body count of
328 slaughtered bears. Of that total, 209 (63.7 percent) were female and 119 (36.3 percent)
were male. Though the hunt took place over more than 1,500 square miles in seven
northwestern and central counties, more than two-thirds of the bears killed were in Sussex
County, New Jersey.

Recently, Gov. McGreevey and Commissioner Campbell have come out against a 2004
bear hunt. However, the New Jersey Fish and Game Council voted 6 to 3 to allow another hunt.
Please continue to let our governor know that you do not want another bear hunt. Join us in
protest at the public hearing on June 8, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. at the New Jersey State Museum in
Trenton. You may also comment in writing until July 16, 2004. Ask Mark McHugh, Direc-
tor, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Protection, R.O. Box 600,
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400, to omit a bear hunt from the Game Code for 2004-2005.
We wish to express our appreciation to The Bear Education and Resource Group and to all
those who protested the hunt. With your help, we hope to stop future hunts.
Those in the animal protection field—particularly in animal sheltering—are familiar with the sad, bizarre form of abuse known as animal hoarding, or animal collecting. Members of the public, though, are often astonished when they see for the first time a report on the nightly news about numerous cats, dogs, birds, horses, or other animals being hauled out of a person’s house. It is invariably appalling to learn that dozens, even hundreds, of creatures in various stages of illness, malnutrition, or other serious condition, had to be rescued from an indescribably filthy environment.

Animals living in such conditions often suffer from extreme emaciation; advanced mange and other painful skin conditions; mats “bigger than baseballs,” as one shelter worker described the coats of some of the dogs in a recent hoarding case; nails grown into footpads; open wounds; and eye, ear, and upper respiratory infections. Those responsible for such suffering invariably perceive themselves as animal lovers, and others may be misguided by the hoarders’ “good intentions.”

Some have even formed charitable organizations eligible to receive tax-exempt donations, yet do not meet the needs of the animals in their custody. “Having a house full of cats no more makes you a sanctuary than a house full of newspapers makes you a recycling center,” says HSUS’s Dr. Randall Lockwood, a psychologist and animal behaviorist who has studied, lectured, and written about the animal hoarding phenomenon for more than 20 years.

Samantha Mullen, MARO program coordinator, is one of HSUS’s representatives in a national group spearheaded by The HSUS in 2003 to consolidate existing resources and develop new ones to address animal hoarding. The group is focusing on animal hoarding as a complex societal problem that, to be dealt with effectively, must be addressed in each community by a task force comprised not only of animal care and control staff, law enforcement personnel, and veterinarians, but also psychologists, social workers, health agencies, fire departments, and zoning officials. Psychologists and social workers have critical roles in the intervention and long-term treatment of individuals who are seemingly incapable of recognizing their own limitations concerning the care of animals. Such people are often found in conditions of squalor and sickness as alarming as that of their animals.


The over-crowding, filth, and chaos typical of many hoarder cases is evident in this photo, taken by a humane agent called to the residence.

The overcrowding, filth, and chaos typical of many hoarder cases is evident in this photo, taken by a humane agent called to the residence.

Thanks to all of you who helped support the New Jersey veal bills. As the bills were not acted on last session, they have been reintroduced as A. 329 and S. 159. Please contact your representatives in the Assembly and Senate and ask them to support this legislation. Locate your representatives by calling the Office of Legislative Services Public Information Department at 800-792-8630, TDD 800-257-7490.

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, friend, or relative.
☐ Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency.
☐ Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.
☐ Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.
☐ Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

DAYTIME PHONE

E-MAIL (OPTIONAL)

Promoting the protection of all animals

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

Barley Square

270 Route 206

Flanders, NJ 07836

Spring 2004
for countless individuals interested in an illegal and widespread exploitation of animals. Those who enter their dogs in fighting matches, as well as spectators at such contests, often stake large sums of money on the outcome of bloody battles. Many also profit substantially from breeding dogs with bloodlines avidly sought out by other fighters. Ironically, Fricchione himself could not be charged as a breeder of fighting dogs because New York's statutes related to animal fighting—like those in most states—do not include a ban on such activities. It is critical that legislators close this loophole in their state laws against dogfighting. Paul Mullen, who credits New York Sen. John Bonacic and Assemblyman Paul Tonko for introducing bills that, if passed, would do just that (S. 5172 and A. 8586), said, "I am highly effective expert witness on animal welfare laws and to sentiment to animal fighting. Great strides have also been made on behalf of animals in laboratories, and I hope that some of our successes over the last 50 years can help to negate the many unhappy things humans have done to animals over the years. My goal is to think that Tabby, wherever he is, is having enough to reward his hard work with his forgiveness."

By Nina Austinberg
Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

Tabby Would Be Proud

I grew up in Brooklyn, New York, at a time that might be considered the Dark Ages of animal husbandry. In those days, animals were loved and, for the most part, treated well. But they were considered expendable, and no one knew whether the standards of care that are typical today. A trip to the vet was unheard of, and only lucky pets were spayed or neutered. My family’s cat Tabby, was never neutered, but otherwise led a very free life. That did not seem to inhibit his development. He lived nearly 20 years and weighed a pound for every year. He was very old for a city cat allowed outdoors. Tabby was let on as he desired, and when he wanted to come in, he would repeatedly lift a duffin hanging on the door—sort of a makeshift kitty door knob. Tabby lived that way until a stray female we called Penny started to hang around. Within a week or two, she delivered kittens in a haw room closet. One afternoon a few days later, my family was horrified to hear Penny crying, and we found out that all the kittens had been killed. Of course, everyone blamed Tabby. My grandmother and parents were furious with him—they declared that he was resentful, and that he killed the kittens out of anger and jealousy. I was convinced they were right, so when the ASPCA truck pulled up to retrieve the “nasty” Tabby, no tears were shed. He was mean, and deserved to be taken from his home of 20 years, they reasoned. Fifty years later, the memories of that day still haunt me. What does this have to do with the 50th anniversary of the HSUS? Well, it’s about how much our understanding of and attitudes toward animals, both pets and wildlife, have changed. I believe the campaigns of the HSUS have played a major part in this shift. Domestic animals are now considered part of the family. Owners are encouraged to keep them inside, to spay or neuter them, and to follow basic guidelines for their care and shelter. The HSUS and other groups were responsible for creating legislation to fund the Animal Protection Control Fund, as well as the animal-friendly license plate to finance the program. Animal welfare groups have brought mobile spay/neuter clinics to alter inner city animals, and have helped pass laws with higher fines for perpetrators of animal cruelty. Many years ago, the HSUS launched its First Strike campaign to publ...