Rodeo Problems Persist

In September, 1981, rodeo performances were held in the four New England communities of Hartford, Connecticut, West Springfield, Massachusetts, Wilmington, Massachusetts, and Portland, Maine. The New England Regional Office responded to these events with an output of public information designed to call attention to the animal cruelties that are inherent in rodeo. Working with the Connecticut Federation of Animal Welfare Organizations and the Maine Federation of Humane Societies, the New England Regional Office issued joint press releases that detailed the animal welfare community’s opposition to rodeo. These press releases were followed by letters to the editor written by many HSUS members. Television and radio interviews were arranged for visiting HSUS Field Investigator Marc Paulhus, who specializes in animal welfare concerns relating to horses and cattle. Also, letters of protest were sent to rodeo sponsors asking that they withdraw their support. Most sponsors indicated that they previously were unaware of the concerns expressed by the humane movement.

One rodeo sponsor, however, the Heublein Spirits Group, 330 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06101, responded to an HSUS letter describing rodeo animal cruelty by stating: “It has been our understanding that rodeo animals are among the best cared for and the best fed of any animals. We were informed by the rodeo authorities that horses, steers and calves are not harmed in any way. On the contrary, we were told that they are rewarded very generously for the few minutes of performing they do. However, because we have had several complaints from humane society members, we are looking into the possibility of cruelty to animals during performances.”

HSUS members may wish to write Heublein and express their feelings about rodeo events.

Bill Curran, Law Enforcement Director of the Massachusetts SPCA, stated that he hopes the state legislature will pass legislation to provide a more effective means for dealing with rodeo problems. Existing anti-cruelty laws in most states are not sufficient to cover anything except the most obvious of animal abuses. The HSUS supports stronger anti-cruelty legislation and will continue to promote public awareness of the issue.

Inman Resigns

After 10½ years of service as a regional director for The HSUS, Jack Inman resigned in December, 1981, to become the Executive Director of The Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago. John Dommers, a ten year veteran of The HSUS, who formerly directed The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education and most recently coordinated the Society’s multi-media development program, was appointed to the New England Regional Director’s post. Dommers noted that “Inman was HSUS’ first Regional Director. Before coming to New England, he served as Director of the Great Lakes Regional Office. We will miss Jack and we wish him much success in his new position!”
New England Conference Program Set

Roger Caras, ABC-TV’s correspondent on pets, wildlife, and the environment and a former vice president of The HSUS will be the featured banquet speaker at the New England Federation of Humane Societies Annual Conference, May 10-21, at the Framingham Motor Inn, 1600 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01701.

The conference program is offering a variety of interesting sessions including one on “Intensified Farming Practices,” Dr. Michael Fox, Director of the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, the scientific division of HSUS, will be a panelist. Several of the sessions will be held at the Massachusetts SPCA’s Macomber Farm, located a short distance from the hotel.

A full-day program preceding the Federation program will focus on humane education. Kathy Savelsky, Director of HSUS’s education division, the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, will hold a session on the newly-published national curriculum guide, for the Advancement of Humane Education, will hold a session on the newly-published national curriculum guide, People & Animals. HSUS Regional Director John Dommers will co-present a “hands on” photography session with Judy Star, Director of the American Humane Education Center. Participants will actually create a photo storyboard using Polaroid cameras while at the Macomber Farm.

For detailed information and registration forms, contact the New England Federation of Humane Societies, P.O. Box 255, Boston, MA 02117.

Annual Conference to Be Held in New England

It’s not too early to make plans to attend The HSUS 1982 annual conference scheduled for November 3-6, 1982 in Danvers, Massachusetts. We’d like you to join hundreds of your fellow members, humane society colleagues and new friends at the Raddison-Ferncroft, 20 miles north of Boston. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for an energizing and enriching experience. Details will be included in an upcoming issue of The HSUS News.

From the Director’s Desk: Getting the Word Out

Even when animal problems are obvious, at least to those of us who are involved in humane work on a daily basis, it isn’t always easy to get the immediate corrective action we seek. Why? Because most people have never been inside the local shelter, or to the problem area at the zoo, or behind the scenes at the airport animal holding area, to name a few examples. How, then, is it possible to break down the walls of public and political apathy in regard to animal cruelty problems? We do it by taking maximum advantage of the public media: television, radio, and newspapers. Through live appearances, news releases, public service announcements and films, and letters-to-the-editors, we continually inform and educate to eliminate and prevent animal abuse.

During the upcoming months, I will be appearing on several radio call-in programs and selected television interview shows. My topics will include The HSUS seal campaign (intensive livestock farming), the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, and animal overpopulation problems. I will also discuss animal cruelty situations of local interest in the viewing area. If you spot stories about animal problems or proposed laws in your local newspapers, please clip and send them to me. They are very helpful!

Despite the rising costs of goods and services, we are determined to keep our programming on behalf of animals at its quality level. Your continued concern for animals and support of our work are greatly appreciated.

Responding to listeners’ questions on Jerry Dunklee’s 3-hour “Telephone Talk” show on WELI (New Haven) radio, John Dommers explained the front-line battles against animal cruelty.

Coyote Protection Proposed

In an effort to learn more about the eastern coyote and its range, a bill (H1518) to give the shy, caninoid status as a nongame animal for five years was introduced in the Massachusetts legislature.

In testimony submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment, The HSUS New England Regional Director noted that “Just because there are a few coyotes in Massachusetts is no reason to shoot or trap them. The idea of systematically killing the only large predators in the state for their fur value is a very poor ‘management’ technique. Coyotes should be allowed to become, and function as, a viable part of the natural flora and fauna.”

Beyond Massachusetts, coyotes have been expanding their range in all of the New England states, apparently filling a niche which was vacated when the eastern timber wolf was exterminated well over 100 years ago.

New England Region Hosts Federation Meeting

Sunday, October 25, 1981, the New England Regional Office hosted a meeting of the Connecticut Federation of Animal Welfare Organizations at the Norma Terris Humane Education Center, a log cabin situated on 30 acres of woodland in East Haddam, Connecticut. The Center also serves as headquarters for HSUS’s National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education.

Inman distributed posters prepared by the regional office as part of a jointly sponsored HSUS/Connecticut Federation project to promote the message “A Trip To The Spay Clinic Changed My Life.” The posters, which provide details about the low cost services available at the clinic in Bethany, have been placed in high traffic areas such as supermarkets and shopping centers. Inman reported that despite the rising costs of goods and services, we are determined to keep our programming on behalf of animals at its quality level. Your continued concern for animals and support of our work are greatly appreciated.

Technical Update:

President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

We will be pleased to send “Your Will to Help Animals” and information about our animal protection programs.

Mail in confidence to: Murdagh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.
You’re Invited to a Whale Watch!

The New England Regional Office will sponsor a Whale Watch on Saturday, June 12, 1982 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. out of Plymouth, Massachusetts aboard the 94-foot steel-hulled vessel Cape Cod Princess. HSUS President John Hoyt and several national staff members will be aboard along with expert marine mammal and seabird biologists to identify whale and seabird species. Members and friends will have a unique opportunity to see the “gentle giants of the sea” up close as they migrate north past the tip of Cape Cod. HSUS staff members will supply updated information on the status of the Endangered Species Act reauthorization. The cost of the trip is $20.00 per person. Contact the New England Regional Office for additional details and reservations. Space is limited and fills quickly.

Shelter Design Slide Show Available

“Plans and Recommendations for Animal Shelters” is the title of a new, 20-minute HSUS slide/sound program available from the New England Regional Office. It’s designed for animal welfare organizations, architects, public officials, and others who are responsible for planning and constructing good animal shelters. The basic elements of functional design are shown and explained in detail. The rental fee for the program is $10.00.