New Shelters Become Reality

One of the long-continuing, major cruelties in the Gulf States Region has been the existence of many substandard animal shelters. Although the Region has a number of excellent private and government-operated shelters, at the same time many poor shelters exist in small communities with limited finances.

In the winter of 1979, William Meade, HSUS Gulf States Regional Director, made a commitment to confront these problems with renewed determination. A front page story in the Gulf States Regional Report told about those substandard shelters and outlined Meade’s suggested plans to remedy the situation.

In the intervening two years many important changes and improvements have taken place. Two meaningful laws have been passed in Texas, setting standards for shelters and quarantine facilities. HSUS, along with the Texas Humane Information Network, humane groups, and the Texas Department of Health were the major forces behind these victories.

The Humane Society of the United States has also started distribution of its newly revised booklet on model shelter plans. This booklet contains plans for three new small shelters that can be built for as little as $20,000. The Gulf States Office is working with a number of cities throughout the region that are currently building or planning new shelters.

Robstown, Texas, is an excellent example of the progress being made by small towns. This town had a dilapidated exposed wire pen that was used for the animal shelter. Following an inspection by The HSUS Gulf States Director, they were notified of their responsibility under the new laws and help was offered in planning a new facility. The local mayor, Ricardo L. Rodriguez, responded in a positive way and, after a year of planning and guidance from The HSUS and the Texas Department of Health, they now have the modern shelter shown on this page.

If you are living in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, or Texas and your local animal shelter does not furnish the animals with proper shelter, food, and care, contact The HSUS at (512) 854-3142. We will advise you of what laws apply in your state and will furnish you a step-by-step program on how your local shelter can be upgraded.
Humane Euthanasia Method Available to All Texas Shelters

Texas humane societies and animal control agencies may now purchase denatured sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia. Under new state law Article 4476-15 Vernon’s Texas Civil Statutes, Section 1, Section 4.11, shelters can obtain a federal permit and order form to buy this drug.

Sodium pentobarbital is recognized as the most humane and simplest method of animal euthanasia. In the past, many shelters said they used undesirable methods such as shooting, unfiltered engine gases, succostrin, and decompression because sodium pentobarbital was not available to them. Now, the excuse that sodium pentobarbital isn’t obtainable can no longer be used to justify these other cruel killing methods. Shelters should write or call the Registration Clerk for the Drug Enforcement Administration Compliance Division, 1880 Regal Row, Dallas, Texas 75235, telephone (214) 767-7250, and request application form number 224. Just fill out the form and submit it with a $5 fee. You will then receive a packet of purchase forms number 222, which allow you to purchase directly from drug wholesale supply companies. You will be required to keep records of purchase and number of animals euthanized for a two year time period. It is also being recommended that a veterinarian instruct the shelter personnel in correct injection techniques.

Remember Animals In Your Will

There’s only one way to make sure you can help animals after you are gone...make a Will and provide for them in it. HSUS will send you an informative booklet without obligation about how to make the best of your animal welfare bequest.

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

Why Rodeo Is Wrong

People who defend rodeo as “good clean American fun” base their argument on several false premises. First, they contend that because good bucking horses and rodeo stock are hard to find and expensive to buy, the stock contractor and rider have an incentive to keep the animal alive. They argue that the rodeo man’s job is to catch the bull or rider and save the stock. Sure, that is true. But is “catching” the bull or rider a humane way to treat the animals?

Next, they allege that more cowboys are injured in rodeo than are animals. Even if this were true, it doesn’t dismiss the fact that animals are needlessly injured for entertainment. The cowboy has a choice of whether or not to risk injury. He also has the incentive of big money. The animals have neither a choice nor an incentive, only another rodeo to face.

The rodeo organization’s most vocal argument is that injury, torment, and death are not really cruel unless committed intentionally. When these things happen in an arena, the rodeo organizations say it is accidental and therefore doesn’t classify as cruelty. The sadistic irony of this position really hits home when you see injured animals being dragged on sleds from the arena, as they sometimes are.

The Humane Society of the United States opposes all needless misuse and abuse of animals. However, the two rodeo events we feel cause the most suffering are calf roping and steer-busting. Calf roping often results in neck injuries when the calf runs out of rope and is jerked off its feet and slammed to the ground. Other harassment is inflicted on the animals by the use of flank straps and misuse of electric prods.

The HSUS Gulf States Office has recently been on TV and radio speaking out in opposition to rodeo cruelty. We are urging all individuals and humane organizations to have the courage to take a public stand against rodeo abuse.
Arkansas Teacher Receives Award

Jacque Briley of Little Rock, Arkansas was recipient of the first "Humane Education Teacher of the Year" award. Also receiving the award was Joan Dawson of Leeds, Alabama.

This new annual award was established by The HSUS and The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education. It is in memory of Jacques Sichel, deceased HSUS board member and deeply dedicated humanitarian.

The award is designed to encourage more classroom teachers to become involved in humane education programming. Local animal welfare groups are encouraged to select a Humane Education Teacher of the Year and nominate their teacher for national competition.

It is hoped the award will help build a foundation for expanded cooperation and support between teachers and humane societies.

First year co-recipients of the "Humane Education Teacher of the Year" award are congratulated by NAAHE Director Kathy Savesky (center). Jacque Briley (right) and Joan Dawson (left) acknowledge the honor.

Around The Region

- Baton Rouge, Louisiana—the state wide Coalition of Louisiana Animal Activists (COLAA) is promoting three bills for state law. The bills include anti-dogfighting, general anti-cruelty, and licensing of pets.
- Galveston, Texas—The first cruelty case handled by the Animal Shelter & Adoption Center involved a 250 pound lion seized for lack of care. The cat is now living happily at a wildlife refuge.
- Little Rock, Arkansas—The Arkansas Humane Association announced they are available to help Arkansas groups start investigation and education programs. Write P.O. Box 5771, Little Rock, AR 72205.
- Plainview, Texas—Four abandoned dogs and a cat were seized from a trailer by the Plainview Humane Society. The court awarded custody to the society to find new homes for them.