Ohio Group Seeks Trap Ban

Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman Jr. is working with a group of Ohio humanitarians determined to get the steel jaw trap banned in their state.

The group, named the Ohio Committee for Humane Trapping (OCHT), was formed to educate the public about the need to pass Ohio House bill 685, a proposal to ban the steel jaw (or leghold) trap.

The group is co-chaired by Mrs. Dean Rowland of Bowling Green, a representative of Fund for Animals, and Col. Rodney L. Cron of Rockbridge, a member of the Hocking County Humane Society.

Rep. Pete Crossland (D-Akron), who introduced the bill, also met with OCHT to discuss the future of the proposal.

Trapping is big business in Ohio. The Ohio Wildlife Div. estimates that more than 20,000 trappers sold 839,000 pelts during the 1972-73 trapping season, earning $3.3 million, $1 million more than the previous season. Sixty-three percent of the pelts sold by Ohio trappers were muskrat. Another 30% were raccoon, opossum, gray fox, red fox, mink, beaver, skunk, weasel, and badger.

Although profits from trapping are large, most trappers insist that they trap largely for the “sport” of it. Many of Ohio’s trappers are teenage boys who set a dozen or so traps to earn winter spending money.

HSUS is totally opposed to use of the steel jaw trap in any situation. “The steel jaw trap is one of the cruelest devices invented by man,” reads the HSUS Special Report on Trapping, still available from the HSUS regional office.

“When triggered by an animal’s weight, the heavy steel jaws spring shut over a paw or a leg with such force that bones are sometimes broken,” the report states. “Some leghold traps contain sharp steel teeth that pierce all the way through flesh and muscles.”

A year ago, the Ohio Wildlife Council ruled that trappers must check their traps.

Large Animal Seminar Held

The Great Lakes Regional Office and the Indiana Federation of Humane Societies conducted a provocative and informative workshop devoted to problems that threaten the welfare of large animals on June 8 and 9 in Lafayette, Ind.

The program was designed to enable volunteers to adopt a more professional approach toward solving large animal problems when confronted with them in their own communities.

Keynote speaker Billy E. Hooper, D.V.M., associate dean for academic affairs of Purdue University’s School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, addressed the workshop on the subject “The Spectrum of Our Responsibility.” In his remarks he said, “Not only are you humane individuals in the sense of compassion for lower animals, but you are willing to act on that compassion by evaluating the various alternatives, understanding the problems presented, choosing among those which are most reasonable, and last, but not least, accepting the responsibility to act upon those particular choices.”

Other speakers, selected by the Indiana Veterinary Medical Assn. through Vice President Dr. Galen Krill of Boswell, Ind., included: Dr. Richard Herschler, Indianapolis; Dr. Dwight Cochran, Boswell, Ind.; Dr. John Dunbar, Purdue Extension Service; Dr. Gerald C. Richardson, Normal, Ill., representing the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; and Dr. Everett Fleming, Indianapolis, immediate past president of the Central Indiana Veterinary Medical Assn.

Dr. Fleming presented the banquet address on “The Humane Society and Your Local Veterinary Medical Assn.” Discussing the unwanted dog and cat problem, he said:

“How can we get along with each other; we can and we will. And, as leaders, and understanding this problem (surplus animals) and that it does exist, we want..." (Continued on page 4)

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Societies in Illinois
Revive Federation

Representatives from Illinois humane societies have taken steps to revive the state Federation of Humane Societies at organizational meetings held since the first of the year.

Humanitarians from throughout the state agreed that a unified approach to animal welfare education and humane education programs would be advantageous.

At the first meeting, held in Springfield, Dr. Charles O. Lombard, D.V.M., staff veterinarian for the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, discussed the new Illinois Care for Animals Act, the first effective law to be made for licensing pet shops. Under the direction of Dr. Lombard, the state has cracked down on pet shops that have relied on fraudulent or unsatisfactory methods to sell their animals.

The new law would also permit local humane societies to nominate investigators who would then be trained, examined, and licensed by the Dept. of Agriculture.

A by-laws committee was appointed, to be chaired by Stuart Kroesch, chair, Michigan Animal Control Officers and a member of the board of directors of the Peoria Humane Society.

At the second meeting, held in Peoria in June and chaired by Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., the following people were elected to the board of directors: Lindsay M. Anderson, Peoria Humane Society; Sid Davis, Animal Protective League, Springfield; Helen Groezl, assistant to the executive director of the Will County Humane Society in Joliet. A nominating committee will be chaired by President William Kroesch and a member of the board of directors of the Peoria Humane Society.

The group, with Inman’s assistance, has been working with the Meigs County Humane Society in Pomeroy to improve the county dog pound, which Inman found badly in need of repair. Inman said the county pound, located on the county fairgrounds, “has the potential to become a good animal shelter.”

Early this year Inman met with the Cass County Humane Society at Logansport, Ind., to improve the county dog pound, which Inman found badly in need of repair. He urged the society to seek assistance from the county government in order to improve HSUS standards. The group, with Inman’s assistance, has been working with the Meigs County Humane Society in Pomeroy to improve the county dog pound, which Inman found badly in need of repair. He urged the society to seek assistance from the county government in order to improve HSUS standards.

Two Ohio Societies Improve Shelters

The Great Lakes regional director has assisted two Ohio humane societies in improving and organizing their animal shelters during the past year.

Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., has been working with the Meigs County Humane Society in Pomeroy to improve the county dog pound, which Inman found badly in need of repair. The group, with Inman’s assistance, has been working with the Meigs County Humane Society in Pomeroy to improve the county dog pound, which Inman found badly in need of repair. He urged the society to seek assistance from the county government in order to improve HSUS standards.

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Regional Briefs

After the Storm

Xenia, Ohio, nearly drowned in its sleep when a violent April tornado ripped through that town washing out homes and, more often than not, whatever was in or around them.

Still, the Montgomery County Humane Society, based in Dayton, was able to rescue hundreds of animals from the storm’s debris. Executive Director Fred Stroop dispatched 2 rescue vehicles and 11 personnel to the scene of the disaster. They rescued 155 dogs, 16 cats, 9 rabbits, 16 wild birds, 1 parakeet, 1 monkey, and 3 hamsters.

Twenty of the dogs were taken to veterinarians for medical care and to date 59 others have been returned to their owners. Three loads of dog food were delivered to the storm victims and more was on the way. The Humane Society of the United States salutes the Montgomery County Humane Society for its valiant response to this disaster.

Low-Cost Neutering

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Assn. has announced that low-cost neutering of pets will be available in most Ohio cities within the next 3 months.

David Drenan, D.V.M., president of the association, announced that veterinarians have agreed to provide neutering for a $20 contribution to the Ohio Animal Health Fdn. The money will go toward researching non-surgical birth control methods for dogs and cats.

Local veterinary associations will work with community humane societies and public health facilities in setting up the neutering, Dr. Drenan said. The service will be offered primarily to the poor.

A Fashion First

The government class of Douglas MacArthur High School in Saginaw, Mich., has discovered a unique way of educating the public on the serious problem of the surplus pet population—a fashion show.

At a local shopping mall, the class not only modeled clothes but showed dogs and cats that were available for adoption from the Saginaw County Humane Society's animal shelter. A narrator explained to the audience the problems that are caused by surplus breeding.

As a result of this effort, many of the animals found homes.

HSUS salutes the government class of Douglas MacArthur High School, its teacher, Robert Fitzgerald, and the Saginaw County Humane Society.

Trapping Continued

traps at least once every 30 hours. Although humanitarians saw this move as a positive one, they point out that 30 hours is still a long time for any creature to endure pain.

“Our goal is to completely ban the steel jaw trap,” Inman said. “Neither HSUS nor the Ohio Committee for Humane Trapping will rest until that goal is realized.”

This is Your Region

The HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office has two primary objectives: (a) to assist individual humanitarians and local animal welfare groups in the four-state region as they work to prevent cruelty to animals and (b) to implement national HSUS programs in the region.

The staff of your regional office is eager to serve you and other Great Lakes Region humanitarians whenever and wherever they can. But this service can continue only if humanitarians in the region provide the financial support necessary to pay salaries, travel expenses, and costs of office support.

I invite you to use the enclosed return envelope to make a contribution to this most important undertaking.

John A. Hoyt, President
The Humane Society of the United States

Workshop Continued

to do something about it, because we love animals. We all love animals very much. We really like them. And we want to see something done about it. The idea of putting animals to sleep in the millions is just sickening to think about. It really is!”

Great Lakes Regional Director John W. Inman, Jr., served as general chairman of the workshop. Addressing the 80 individuals representing 24 communities and 19 local humane societies from Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio, he cited the recent National Conference on the Ecology of Surplus Dogs and Cats held in Chicago as an example of constructive cooperation between the veterinarians and humane groups. The American Veterinary Medical Assn. and HSUS were among the sponsors of that conference.

The HSUS Great Lakes Region serves Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Requests for assistance or information should be addressed to John W. Inman, Jr., Great Lakes regional director, 927 S. Harrison St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46802 (219-743-6242).