Bim Bom Circus Stranded: Animals Languish in N.Y.

HSUS investigators Lisa Landres and Bob Reder traveled to Newburgh, N.Y., where the welfare of over 60 circus animals was in question.

The 3 lions, 5 bears, 5 primates, 1 rooster, 1 goose, and 12 dogs were found confined in circus traveling cages that grossly limited their ability to move and exercise properly. Nearby in the same facility were 13 show horses, in standard stalls, and 18 parrots.

All of the animals belong to the Russian "Great Bim Born Circus." When the circus’s California promoter could not maintain the show’s bookings after their backers withdrew financial support, the entire circus was left stranded in Atlanta, Ga., without funds. The Alex Nichols Agency, contracted to transport the circus livestock, transferred the animals, along with seven Russian trainers, to their horse import/export facility in Newburgh. Concerned citizens provided food and bedding for the animals.

Landres, a captive-wildlife expert from HSUS headquarters, called for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make an immediate inspection of the facility and take appropriate action. That agency, continued on page 2

Gallo Supports Spay/Neuter Resolution

Since his days in the New Jersey State Assembly, Rep. Dean Gallo (R-11) has been a good friend of The HSUS and our Mid-Atlantic office. The now famous New Jersey spay/neuter bill was his legislative brainchild. To date, more than 28,000 animals have been neutered and dozens of states have fashioned legislation after this bill.

Early this year, Regional Director Nina Austenberg contacted Gallo to introduce a resolution to the U.S. House of Representatives naming April 1990 as "National Prevent-A-Litter Month." While he normally shies away from introducing resolutions, Gallo responded positively, noting that, "After careful consideration, and because of my long-standing interest in educating pet owners on the importance of spaying and neutering their animals, I have decided to make an exception to my policy."

The rest is now history. Thanks to the efforts of many groups and individuals continued on page 4
High Schoolers Get Involved in Animal Issues

High school science teacher Gregory Borman’s class from Adelphi Academy in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, N.Y., celebrated Earth Week by touring the wetlands around MARO Director Nina Austenberg’s home. The students identified the tracks of deer and raccoons, examined crawfish and snails, and glimpsed a snake as it slipped into the brush. As Austenberg led the students through the marshes, she explained the effects of uncontrolled development, protection of habitats as it relates to wildlife, and endangered species. “As the Mid-Atlantic office has grown,” said Austenberg later, “it has been difficult to give student groups this kind of time and attention. I enjoyed working with this enthusiastic group of young people.”

In Old Westbury, N.Y., Annette Ehmer’s 10th grade biology class at the Wheatley School regularly holds in-depth discussions every other Friday on different animal-rights issues. These discussions and the students’ concerns for the protection of animals led to their holding a bake sale to raise funds. The 12 students sacrificed their own free periods to man the tables, and the sizable proceeds were donated to The HSUS. In thanks for their time and efforts, MARO sent several copies of the Home Person-Al Action Guide and The HSUS’s lovely “Animals... It’s Their World Too!” poster for use in their classroom.

Circus continued from page 1

along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is currently investigating. Through the labors of the HSUS staff and with the cooperation of the Alex Nichols Agency, the Russian Moscow Circus, and Space Farms, larger cages were brought to the site. This allowed the lions and bears to have some additional room in which to exercise.

The HSUS is strongly opposed to the use of endangered species for frivolous purposes such as human entertainment. We believe, based on our own investigations, that circuses are inherently cruel to animals, portray inappropriate messages to the public, and do nothing to promote conservation or education. Now these stranded animals are enduring an even more stressful situation due to human manipulation.

HSUS Launches "Beautiful Choice" Cosmetics Campaign

The HSUS and spokeswoman Ana-Alicia have launched a nationwide campaign to promote cosmetics and personal-care products that are not tested on animals.

The campaign advocates that consumers make “The Beautiful Choice” and shop for products that are nonanimal tested.

Actress Ana-Alicia, former star of the television show “Falcon Crest,” said she joined the campaign to let people know that these products are available and glamorous. “As an actress, it’s important that I always feel and look my best,” Ana-Alicia said. “As a member of this planet, it’s important that I respect and have compassion for all forms of life. That’s why I use cosmetics and personal-care products that have not been tested on animals. It’s the beautiful choice.”

Ana-Alicia spoke at a news conference at the Greater Los Angeles Press Club. The campaign was launched in conjunction with an HSUS exhibit in Anaheim, Calif., at a national convention attracting an estimated 20,000 retailers, distributors, and manufacturers in the natural foods industry.

The campaign invites manufacturers to “take the pledge” not to test on animals. In return, The HSUS allows the manufacturers to use the “Beautiful Choice” logo on their products. The HSUS will target the natural foods industry, beauty-salon and beauty-supply-store products, premium department-store lines, and mass retail brands.

“People are becoming increasingly concerned with the message they send when they buy products. We want to give these consumers something to look for when they buy cosmetics or personal-care products,” said Patricia Forkan, HSUS senior vice president. “This logo will tell people that these products are made with conscience.”

Forkan said the logo would help “cut the confusion” because The HSUS, a credible third party, would be assuring consumers that these products have been pledged to be nonanimal tested.

“Consumers trust us because we’re not interested in promoting a specific product—we’re interested in assuring them that the ‘Beautiful Choice’ products haven’t been developed at the cost of animal suffering. We’re telling our more than one million constituents that these are the products to go for,” Forkan said.

Several manufacturers have already indicated that they will “take the pledge.” Product displays for the campaign should appear in stores by October 1990.

"Prevent-A-Litter Month" Observed

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office is very proud to announce that the governors of all four states in the Mid-Atlantic region signed State Proclamations observing April 1990 as “Prevent-A-Litter Month.”


Gov. Michael N. Castle (Del.) issued a statement in response to a request from Mary Michael of Animal Lovers Unlimited, Inc., and Delaware Action for Animals, Inc.

New York Lt. Gov. Stan Ludine displays the signed “Prevent-A-Litter Month” Proclamation in the concourse of the Empire State Plaza; Samantha Mullen (center) and Sondra Woodvine are from the New York State Humane Association.

Top: The 10th grade Wheatley School biology class with teacher Annette Ehmer (front). Inset: Nina Austenberg (left) with Gregory Borman’s Adelphi Academy class.

HSUS/LANDRES

Get Involved in High Schoolers

The Beautiful Choice

Top: The 10th grade Wheatley School biology class with teacher Annette Ehmer (front). Inset: Nina Austenberg (left) with Gregory Borman’s Adelphi Academy class.

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

by Nina Austenberg

My family and I want to thank our members and friends for the hundreds of calls, notes, and cards about Shanna. I promise not to always fill the Director’s Comment with sad stories, but I feel I must tell you what I’ve learned with our new, “highly spirited” dog, whom we call “Rusty Bob” and adopted from a local shelter. Many people who saw Rusty Bob’s picture with me in the New York Times wrote bred golden retriever. The first two weeks we had Rusty Bob, he would bolt from the house like a bullet. My husband went to the local medical center twice to be treated for injuries sustained while trying to keep the dog from being killed. Rusty Bob also chewed on everything—there was no shelf or table high enough to protect shoes, socks, or paychecks, especially when Mouse, our cat, would collaborate by pushing things down to the dog’s waiting teeth.

After several months of bonding and hard work with Rusty Bob, my husband finally made him a good citizen and family member. One night in early May, my son Leif put Rusty Bob’s leash on and took him outside where, suddenly, the dog fell down. Leif shouted that Rusty Bob wasn’t breathing. His body was l imp, his teeth clenched. Our oldest son, Craig, picked Rusty Bob up and, thinking he might be choking, performed the Heimlich maneuver three times: Rusty Bob began to breathe. Within ten minutes, Rusty Bob was his old self, almost as if nothing had happened.

I called the shelter to get the dog’s history and the name of his previous owner (this information is normally not given out). I found out to my horror that Rusty Bob had been bought at a local pet store chain in the Rockaway Mall. Rusty Bob was a puppy-mill dog, and his poor health and nervous behavior were typical. (Many of you probably saw HSUS Investigator Bob Baker’s puppy-mill report on ABC’s “20/20.”)

Rusty Bob is my constant reminder of the horrors of puppy mills, and we at MARO will re dedicate ourselves to rid our region of such breeders who make their money on the suffering and blood of innocent animals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 6-8 and January 10-12 – Come attend the annual protests of hunting at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. Call the Mid-Atlantic office for further information.
- April 25-27–The Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference and Exhibits will take place at the Headquarters Plaza Hotel in Morristown, N.J. Call the Mid-Atlantic office for registration and program information.

The Regional Report is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Bartley Square, 270 Route 206, Flanders, NJ 07836; (201) 927-5611. Nina Austenberg, Director. The HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office serves the states of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The office operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. © 1990 by The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved.