"A concentration camp for dogs." That was a comment of Marc Paulhus, HSUS Investigator, when he accompanied Sandy Rowland, Great Lakes Regional Director, on an investigation of an Illinois puppy mill which was operating under the name of Sundown Kennels.

The kennel is licensed to operate by both the United States Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and therefore should comply with the minimum standards set by the Federal Animal Welfare Act and the Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act.

Ten different small breeds are raised at the kennel and their offspring are sold to pet stores and individuals across the United States.

The kennel was brought to the attention of the Great Lakes Regional Office by an Illinois woman whose neighbor has purchased a puppy there. The puppy had to be treated by a veterinarian with antibiotics.

In early November, Rowland visited the kennel and found deplorable conditions. After this preliminary investigation she contacted Dr. David Bromwell of the Illinois Department of Agriculture to apprise him of the situation. Since the State Department of Agriculture could not offer an immediate remedy to the problem it was decided HSUS must continue its involvement if the animals were to be helped.

Later that month Rowland accompanied Paulhus to the kennel. Even though the Illinois Department of Agriculture was now aware of the situation, conditions continued to be, in Rowland’s opinion, cruel and inhumane.

Outside were approximately 50 dogs housed in cages similar in appearance and structure to rabbit hutches. This did not constitute adequate protection from the elements for the small breeds of dogs forced to live in the poorly constructed cages.

Inside a building measuring about 15' x 30' approximately 150 dogs and pups were housed. The odor inside the building continued, page 2
was almost unbearable. It was so strong that the airborne ammonia from the urine and feces was irritating to the eyes of humans as well as the dogs.

Food dishes were contaminated with feces, urine, insects, and soiled newspapers. Cages were stacked one upon another, as many as four layers high, allowing for contamination of lower cages by feces and urine from upper cages. Waste materials were piled in heaps both inside and behind the building. Water was supplied to the pups from containers too high for them to reach. Dangerous objects such as nails, bent wire, and sharp edges of watering containers intruded into many of the cages. Some pens had wire floors with mesh larger than the puppies' legs and feet, making it painful for them to walk and stand in the cages. Cages were of unsound construction, and some cage doors were not fastened, thereby creating the danger of dogs pushing on the doors to escape and falling onto the hard concrete floor.

The findings of Rowland and Paulhus were reported to Dr. Dale Schwindaman, senior staff veterinarian of the USDA and the regional animal care specialist, Dr. Grant Terrell. Dr. Terrell inspected the facility the following day. In addition, the two HSUS representatives visited the office of Assistant State's Attorney J. D. Hula and reported their findings to him and their belief that the kennel was in violation of Illinois anti-cruelty statues.

At press time, we are still awaiting the results of the findings of the USDA and the state's attorney.

This is only the beginning of the road for HSUS in correcting conditions at this kennel. We are keeping on top of the situation and are prepared to go further to help the animals at this kennel if the USDA and the State of Illinois fail to ensure the welfare of the animals there.

We are fully prepared, in fact, to expose our findings to the media if conditions remain unsatisfactory and uncorrected. Many animals had feces matted to their fur.

In addition to the unsanitary conditions, the animals were obviously overcrowded. They could not find clean bedding or a place to lie down. Water was supplied to the pups from containers too high for them to reach. Dangerous objects such as nails, bent wire, and sharp edges of watering containers protruded into many of the cages. Some pens had wire floors with mesh larger than the puppies' legs and feet making it painful for them to walk and stand in the cages. Cages were of unsound construction, and some cage doors were not fastened, thereby creating the danger of dogs pushing on the doors to escape and falling onto the hard concrete floor.

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One final and sad note: we have told you the story of one kennel in Illinois. We are sorrowful that our investigations have revealed that there are other similar kennels, which also require our attention, in very near proximity to the Sundown Kennels. The good news is HSUS is ready to go after them, also.

Workshop Held in Region

Great Lakes Region
Legislative Round-Up

The Legislative Committee of the Indiana Federation of Humane Societies reports that the Federation is working on the establishment of an Animal Control Plan Commission of Indiana. The proposed bill would establish an Animal Control Plan Commission to hold hearings, identify the animal control needs, identify the resources, and propose ways the resources and state legislation can be used to meet identified needs. The committee is to serve one year and report to the governor and the legislative council before October 1, 1980.

The Michigan Federation of Humane Societies has taken on a new and challenging project this year. After months of hard work, the Federation has drafted a comprehensive set of animal protection laws which hopefully will be introduced soon in the Michigan legislature. The laws call for new and reasonable licensing fees for breeders and retailers of animals, mandatory spaying and neutering of all animals being adopted from Michigan pounds and shelters, and prohibition of live animal giveaways.

Representatives of the Federation met with veterinarians, animal control officers and breeders to get their impressions of the legislation. Michigan residents interested in working toward passage of this important piece of legislation should get in contact with Wanda Nash, 265 Arthur, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

 Lt. Eaton of Eaton County Animal Control demonstrates first aid kit at workshop.

The Eaton County (Michigan) Humane Society has cooperated closely with the Eaton County Animal Control Department this past winter to sponsor a working seminar for representatives of the animal control staff of Eaton County and four adjoining counties.

Bill Smith of the Animal Control and Sheltering Department of The HSUS and Regional Director Sandy Rowland conducted the two-day workshop.

In Your Will

The Humane Society of the United States is committed to the goal of ending animal cruelty and suffering. Your membership increases the society’s ability to stamp out cruelty through legal, legislative, and educational avenues. Unfortunately, man’s cruelty and irresponsibility will not end in your lifetime. But a bequest through your Will would be a lasting contribution to the fight against these abuses.

The HSUS will send you without obligation an informative booklet describing the best use of your animal welfare bequest.

Your request for information about Wills will be treated in the strictest confidence by our General Counsel. Please write to Mr. Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President and General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

We've Moved!

The new address of the Great Lakes Regional Office is:

Great Lakes Regional Office
Fairwood Office Building
739 Haskins Street
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
From The Director's Desk

John Hoyt, President of the HSUS, is well-known for his joke telling abilities. One of my favorite jokes is one which he recently told:

It seems there was a particular chicken and a pig who resided on the same farm and who were quite good friends. One day the chicken inquired of the pig, "How would you like to join me for breakfast tomorrow morning?"

"Sounds great to me," replied the pig, "but what would you like to have for breakfast?"

"Bacon and eggs," answered the chicken.

"No way!" responded the pig, "For you - that's only a contribution, but for me it's a total commitment."

I think that's a cute little story, and I think there is a lot of hidden meaning in the tale. 'It leads us to think about the difference between a contribution and a total commitment. I find, in this movement, there is little room for anything other than total commitment. I'm proud to say, I feel the Great Lakes Office contributes to The HSUS' total commitment to the humane ethic and to the principles for which we stand. We have worked diligently this past year to show our dedication to the humane cause in this region and we look forward to even greater effort in 1979 to aid the animals and people working with them in this area.

We ask you and the society which you represent to take a good look at your philosophies and actions and ask if you are making a contribution or a total commitment to the cause for which you are working. I feel confident most of you will find you indeed are giving your all. With that in mind, it makes the tasks ahead easier to tackle and an end to animal problems more of a reality.

Sandy Rawland

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