GLRO Tip Leads to Dogfight Raid

State police and county officials stand guard outside a specially constructed building housing the pit used for fighting.

Participants at an August 27th dogfight lined against the wall await frisking before being taken to jail in Greenville, Illinois.

The morning of August 25th was expected to be another sweltering hot day in Bond County, Illinois, located just outside St. Louis. The temperatures were again expected to rise to 100° during the mid-day. Thus it was that organizers of a dogfight to be held in this rural area decided to begin their activity at 6:00 AM so the spectators could be a bit more comfortable.

That day, however, was not at all comfortable for the 65 persons from eight states who were startled when at 7:20 AM some 40 state police officers rushed into the specially constructed building which housed a dogfighting pit, and broke up a dogfight in progress. Close behind were about 40 more law enforcement officers and HSUS staff members Frantz Dantzler, Bob Baker, and Sandy Rowland.

The raid culminated a four-month investigation by former Great Lakes field investigator Tim Greyhavens and Bond County officials. Before noon, dogfighting enthusiasts from Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Arkansas, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Indiana, were packed into two school buses and taken to jail. Each was charged with a Class C misdemeanor for attending an animal fight. The owner of the property was charged with possession of illegal drugs. All posted bond later.

About 40 pit bull terriers were confiscated at the scene. Two pit bulls engaged in a fight at the time of the raid were so seriously injured they had to be euthanized.

As of January 1, 1984, dogfighting became a felony in Illinois. The Great Lakes Office helped significantly in accomplishing this by presenting strong testimony before the Illinois legislature.
The Great Lakes Regional Office will again sponsor The HSUS Animal Control Academy in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 14-15. This will be the third year animal-control personnel and humane-society employees have gathered to enrich their knowledge in areas such as disease recognition, chemical capture, crisis intervention, investigations, and professionalism in enforcement of animal control laws.

The Academy, under the directorship of Hurt “Bill” Smith, will also include an optional “Coping with Euthanasia” workshop on May 18 and 19. This one-and-a-half day session is designed to help the technician cope with the unique stresses associated with euthanasia and to deal constructively with public attitudes toward euthanasia. Approved methods will be discussed and there will be a demonstration of the correct equipment and procedures for injecting. However, a hands-on practice session will not be included.

For information on this session contact Sandy Rowland at the Great Lakes Regional Office.

Santa PAWS Visits Hospital

For the past two years the staff of the Great Lakes Office has shared the Christmas spirit with the patients and pets at Lima State Hospital. Instead of a Christmas party just for themselves, the staff takes Christmas to the hospital.

This year the office collected gifts for some 16 birds of various types, 3 deer, 4 ducks, 2 goats, and many other animals who are part of the pet therapy program at the hospital. The gifts were separately wrapped and labeled for each pet. This year the names included Daisy and Donald Duck and Thumper and Dumper Rabbit.

The City of Bowling Green, Ohio, has amended its animal-control ordinance to include a provision against the keeping of wild or dangerous animals within the city limits. This ordinance not only outlaws the possession of exotic animals as pets, but addresses the prohibition of domesticated animals which, because of their vicious propensity or other characteristics, would constitute a danger to human life or property if they escaped from secure quarters. Bowling Green’s Animal Control Officer is Diana Johnson, Bowling Green Police Department, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

“Euthanasia and Stress on the Animal Control Officer” was the title of a one-and-a-half day workshop sponsored by The HSUS Animal Control Academy and the Henry County Humane Society, New Castle, Indiana. The workshop, held January 20th and 21st, was designed to aid the animal-control worker and humane-society personnel in Indiana with the day-to-day stresses faced in the unpleasant chore of performing animal euthanasia. Dr. Kent Wisecup, DVM, assisted in the workshop presentation.

Ohio has a law that states “Animals from pounds must be euthanized in a method that immediately and painlessly renders the animal unconscious and subsequently dead.” When the Guernsey County (Ohio) Humane Society gained first-hand knowledge that animals were surviving the carbon monoxide chamber at their county pound, they sought an injunction to halt the dog warden from performing euthanasia in an inhumane fashion. A hearing was held on January 4, 1984, at which Regional Director Sandy Rowland gave expert testimony. The judge has taken the case under advisement. The address for the Guernsey County Humane Society is P.O. Box 422, Cambridge, Ohio 43725.

Great Lakes Regional Director Sandy Rowland was one of the speakers at a very successful workshop sponsored by the Michigan Federation of Humane Societies on November 10th. Approximately 135 persons gathered at Eastern Michigan University to learn about animal welfare in Michigan and how to strategize for changes.

The Humane Alliance of Northwestern Ohio is a newly organized group formed to assist one another with the problems and difficulties encountered in running an efficient local humane organization. This group is planning a one-day workshop on fund raising that will include tips on effective grant writing. It will be held on Saturday, April 5th, at the Toledo Humane Society from 10:00 until 3:00. For more information, contact Sylvia Liss at 1048 Bourgogne Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

Mark this significant event on your calendar and join us when we march in support of the Mobilization for Animals’ rally protesting the slaughter of millions of helpless animals in trapping and predator poisoning programs conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The animals need your participation and support!

Write or telephone The HSUS Great Lakes Office for more information.

Reflect for a moment... how can I help animals even when I no longer share their world...?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you’re gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material which will assist in planning a will.
GLRO Rallies in Support of Pound Seizure Repeal

Nearly 100 Chicago animal-welfare activists braved the cold weather of December 10th, and dedicated a busy pre-Christmas Saturday to rally in support of the repeal of their city's antiquated pound seizure law.

Approximately 2,000 pets are released by Chicago's animal-control facility to researchers each year. Alderman William Krystiniak (23rd district) has introduced an ordinance before the City Council to repeal the pound seizure law. The HSUS has actively supported the bill. Dr. John McArdle, HSUS director of laboratory animal welfare, gave testimony at a city council hearing. The GLRO has sent out an Action Alert requesting Chicagoans to write their aldermen supporting the effort to repeal the old law.

The December 10 rally was held in front of the Chicago Sun Times building where syndicated columnist Ann Landers has offices. Landers has publicly supported the use of pound animals in research in her newspaper column.

Even dogs carried messages demanding a halt to the release of pet animals from the animal-control facility to medical research.

Marchers brave the cold weather to rally in support of a bill that would outlaw pound seizure in Chicago.

Dr. John McArdle addresses crowd before start of rally outside Chicago Sun Times building.