New Shelter Urged For Oklahoma City

An HSUS Gulf States Regional Official visited the Oklahoma City Animal Shelter recently and concluded that the city needs a new shelter in order to care for dogs and cats properly and humanely.

Regional Field Representative Bernard M. Weller praised the city's animal control employees for their conscientiousness during his visit early in the spring.

Although Weller found that employees were not always using the most humane techniques in handling animals, he said they were eager to learn improved methods. Weller demonstrated how lifting stray dogs by the back of the neck and the underside at the same time hurts the dogs less and protects the employee more than other methods.

"Most importantly, the public treats animals more humanely if the dog war-[Continued on back page.]

Gulf States Staff Aids In Education Efforts

Regional Director Douglas M. Scott has been working with HSUS education officials in recent months to apprise state officials of HSUS activities in humane education and to seek new sources of funding for humane education projects.


Officials of both agencies expressed interest in the projects progress in developing new materials and methods for teaching kindness and requested that their states be included in the next phase of field testing scheduled by HEDEP. Westerlund, who is a professor of education at the University of Tulsa,

(Continued on back page.)

TEXAS ZOO SETS BAD EXAMPLE—The Midland, Texas, zoo is a good example of how not to run a zoo. HSUS Gulf States investigator Bernard M. Weller visited the zoo earlier this year and found no professional staff, no trained animal handlers, improper diets, poor maintenance, small and crowded quarters, and lack of any valid objectives. In the photo above, an ocelot lives in a barren pen with an open drainage ditch running through it and only a plywood box for shelter. Since his visit, two cougar cubs, a badger, and a chimpanzee died of improper diet and exposure to the elements. A few months earlier, two adult tigers died.
Rattlesnake Roundups

By Douglas M. Scott, Director
HSUS Gulf States Regional Office

Texas rattlesnake roundups are in full swing again, but not without the concerned and watchful eyes of HSUS Gulf States regional officials, herpetologists, and wildlife biologists, and individuals concerned about respect for life and environment.

The justification and validity of rattlesnake roundups have been questioned increasingly since HSUS conducted a widespread investigation of the activity a year ago. HSUS investigators, assisted by herpetologist Pat Burchfield, curator of reptiles at the Port Aransas Zoo in Brownsville, Texas, concluded that the roundups were “sideshow’s of torture and bloodshed.”

Although the announced purpose of the events is to rid the Southwest country of dangerous reptiles and to provide anti-snake-bit serum to medical and research facilities, the investigators concluded that the activity appears to be attractive to tourists for the purpose of spending money.

“Somewhere or other, probably in the Southwest, have come to think of the rattlesnake as a worthless creature to be tortured and killed at their whim,” I said at that time. “Nothing could be further from the truth, since the rattlesnake plays an important role in the ecosystem of the country, especially the Southwest.”

One of the greatest hurdles we have faced in changing the nature of these roundups is the fact that many of them are sponsored by local Jaycees. A copy of the HSUS investigative findings was sent to the national Jaycees office. As a result, Bud Langer, national programme manager for environmental improvement, issued a statement, which read in part:

“It is my understanding that the hunt (roundups) will not be conducted by the Jaycees this year and that the Texas Jaycees will not participate, in the event that they are held or sponsored by other organizations.”

“... Further, I have asked that the carnival atmosphere be dropped and that the Jaycees use their influence to be sure that those who participate, in the event hunts are actually held, are not allowed to gain a realization that the rattlesnake, whatever his reputation, should be made to suffer the sort of abuse already ministered during the roundups.” Emphasis has been placed on the fact that children who participate assume an ethic conducive to continuation of abusive practices, and are thus not allowed the opportunity for appreciation of the advantages of certain species to the natural balance of our life system. Simplistic terms, children will maintain the ethic throughout life that killing of certain creatures is fun.”

Although HSUS is pleased by this statement, we have as yet no indication that this thinking has been transmitted to the local Jaycees level. We do encourage, however, that the statements from local sponsors that humane treatment will be part of this year’s program:

-“HSUS, assisted by herpetologists, will be observing this year’s roundups thoroughly. I urge all humanitarians in the

Roping Jack Rabbits for Fun

In spite of the efforts of Texas humanitarians for many years to teach their fellow-man respect for all life, some Texas communities continue to look on wildlife solely as a source of amusement and revelry. The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office was instrumental last fall in getting city of Odessa, Texas, to cancel a jack rabbit roping contest scheduled for its “Son-of-a-Gun Weekend.”

The event, which was being billed as a rabbit rodeo, was brought to the attention of the regional staff by officers of the Midland, Texas, SPCA. The chairman of the event had announced that any method of capturing the rabbits, which were to be turned over to local non-profit groups, the Posse Area, would be permissible.

Regional Director Douglas M. Scott worked with officials of the Odessa city officials and to officials of “Son-of-a-Gun Weekend” warning them that the animals would undoubtedly be subjected to torment and injury and that such actions might violate the Texas Anti-Cruelty laws. With the assistance of the Midland SPCA, Scott succeeded in getting the event canceled.

The regional staff is now in the process of investigating an armadillo hunt scheduled in Victoria, Texas.

HSUS Demands Zoo Make Improvements

The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office has been working with Nueces County, Texas, officials to make drastic improvements to the county zoo. Regional Field Representative Bernard M. Weller visited the zoo in early April and reported that it failed to meet minimum standards of care for animals and had no valid objectives. Among his specific findings were these: (a) improper diets, (b) poor maintenance, (c) shelters for individual animals too small, and (d) poor sanitation.

County officials welcomed Weller’s offer of assistance in finding means of correcting the deficiencies. The first step the county took was to contract for the services of a veterinarian to provide adequate medical care for the animals. Officials are also considering a completely new concept for housing the animals.

County Commissioner Carl Bluntzer told Weller that the county wants to make the Nueces County Zoo as attractive as possible to bring the zoo up to HSUS standards.

Region Assists Town With Animal Control

The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office is working with citizens and officials of New Braunfels, Texas, to develop an animal control program. Chief of Police Burney Boeck requested assistance from the regional office.

Roger Nuhn, editor of The San Anto­nios Herald, editorially criticized the shooting. Many individuals citizens offered their assistance in developing a humane animal control program.

Regional Director Doug Scott and Regional Field Representative Ber­nard M. Weller met with Chief Boeck, Mayor Jack Kyle, City Manager Bob Nohrn, City Manager Tim Hester, and other community leaders last summer to propose an animal control program. As a result of the meeting, concerned citizens agreed to form a humane society.

The fledging New Braunfels Humane Society has already paid for numerous reports of cruelty and has hired a part-time animal control officer to assist the single full-time officer.

This Is Your Region

The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office has two primary objectives: (a) to assist individual humanitarians and local animal welfare groups in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas 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 Gulf States 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

An official of the HSUS Gulf States Region investigated the Nueces County Zoo in Texas recently and found that it failed to meet minimum standards of care for animals and lacked any valid objectives. Zoo exhibits were primitive (above), with no attempt to simulate the animals’ natural environments. He concluded that the zoo suffers from all the problems common to zoos in small communities.

Zoological Societies

Honor Douglas Scott

HSUS Gulf States Regional Director Douglas M. Scott has been made an honorary member of the Zoological Society of San Antonio, Texas, and associated their meeting in March.

Scott received a warm reception from the members of ZFA, many of whom accepted HSUS’s philosophy on zoos. The Humane Society believes that zoos must be educational, as well as humane, and has successfully fought this goal during the past several years.

On another occasion, Scott was made an honorary member of the Zoological Gardens. Zoo director Don Watson and Zoo Supervisor and General Curator Tom Buchanan are currently involved in the fight against rattle­snake roundups in Texas and the better predator control, Scott reported.

Progress at Houston Science Fair

The Science Engineering Fair of Houston has adopted many of the HSUS Guiding Principles for Use of Animals in Elementary and Secondary Schools.

The new principles were used for the 1974 science fair held in the Houston Astrodome in March. The fair is sponsored by the Houston Post and the Engineers Council of Houston. Credit for adoption of the principles should go to Krystina Anseev, Ph.D., professor of biology at Rice University and a humanitarian, according to HSUS Regional Director Douglas M. Scott. Dr. Anseev serves on the committee that created the guidelines for the fair.

Free copies of the HSUS principles are available to humanitarians in other communities from the HSUS Gulf States Regional Office, 1800 S. Staples St., Corpus Christi, Texas 78404.
agreed to include schools from both states in his plans for the 1974-75 school year.

Scott, Westerlund, and Eileen S. Whitlock, Ed.D., associate project director, were guests of the Humane Society of Amarillo (Texas) in January. They were invited to meet with local society leaders, other civic leaders, and area educators to discuss HEDEP and the National Assn. for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE), an organization founded by HSUS to disseminate ideas and materials on humane education.

In February Scott and Westerlund met with several New Orleans residents who are interested in humane education to discuss HEDEP and NAAHE.

"I am impressed with the enthusiasm with which news of our humane education projects is being met," Scott said. "I look forward to taking this information to humanitarians throughout the Gulf States Region."

**OKLAHOMA CITY Continued**

Inadequate Quarters—The shelter provided for these two bobcats at the Midland, Texas, zoo is no better than that at the worst roadside zoo. In spite of many problems equally as bad as this one, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has ruled that the zoo meets the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act of 1970. HSUS, however, has notified Midland city officials that radical changes must be made. The city has already appointed a professional zoo director and begun a new feeding program.

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE), has been created for teachers and other persons interested in humane education issues. A quarterly journal and newsletter will report developments in methodology, materials, and evaluation. For further information contact your regional office.

Lee Addresses Churches

HSUS National director Amy Freeman Lee, Litt.D., addressed the annual meeting of the San Antonio Council of Churches earlier this year on the humane ethic and its relationship to basic religious ethics.

HSUS Gulf States Regional Director Douglas M. Scott, who attended the meeting, reported that the attendance was the largest in several years. "The large turnout can be attributed to one thing," Scott said. "And that is the respect and affection that the people of San Antonio have for Amy Freeman Lee." Dr. Lee is a resident of San Antonio.

Accompanying Scott was State Rep. Lyndon Olson, Jr. of Waco.

The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office serves Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Requests for assistance or information should be directed to 1800 S. Staples St., Corpus Christi, TX 78404 (512-883-2513).