Dommer Receives Connecticut Award

John J. Dommer, director of education of the HSUS New England Regional Office, received one of Connecticut’s first Environmental Awards from Gov. Thomas Meskill.

The award was presented for “significant contributions to the improvement of the state’s environment.”

The citation read in part, “Many individual citizens have been involved in environmental education for several years. Without extensive physical and financial resources, these teachers have made a significant impact on the children of our state. One of these teachers is John Dommer of Madison. He has done extensive work with children in our state by developing environmental programs which have received national recognition.”

Dommer said the nature education programs he developed while with the Madison school system were built around a nucleus of humane education, which he defines as “helping children develop sympathetic and protective attitudes toward wildlife through direct experience involvement activities.”

HSUS Office Opens In Nature Center

The HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center near East Haddam, Conn., is completed and in use.

The Center is serving as headquarters for the HSUS New England Regional Office, as well as a meeting place for workshops, regional meetings, and other humanitarian functions. It houses a humane education resource library, a special projects area, and an animal artifacts museum.

A wildlife sanctuary with nature trails and a pet cemetery will be located on the 30 acres.

The Center will be formally dedicated on Sept. 21.

A featured speaker at the dedication ceremonies will be HSUS President John A. Hoyt. Other speakers will include Connecticut state officials, representatives of New England animal welfare, ecological, and conservation groups, and stage and screen star Norma Terris, who donated the land for the Center.

A balloon ascension and buffet luncheon are also scheduled on dedication day.

HSUS members and friends are invited to visit the Center at any time. Motel accommodations are available near the Center, which is located between Interstate Hwys. 91 and 95.

HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center

Living Memorials

The new HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center offers an ideal opportunity for humanitarians to memorialize deceased friends, relatives, or pets in a manner that will serve animal welfare on an ongoing basis. Write for MEMORIAL INFORMATION, Box 98, East Haddam, Ct. 06423.

In the Legislatures

Connecticut

Environmental Education—bills are being enacted requiring that environmental education be incorporated in elementary and secondary school curricula. HSUS has been assured that the humane ethic will be included in such education.

Hunting—bills to legalize Sunday hunting, hunting with primitive weapons, and bounties on raccoons have been defeated.

Dog Racing—legalized by the Con-

(Continued on next page.)

The HSUS New England Regional Office has a new phone number. It is (203) 434-8666.
HSUS Spurs Zoo Improvements

Pressure from HSUS has resulted in a proposal by the mayor of Springfield, Mass., to make $2 million worth of improvements in Springfield's Forest Park Zoo.

HSUS investigators threatened this spring to charge Mayor William C. Sullivan with cruelty to animals unless he took immediate and drastic action to correct unsatisfactory conditions at the zoo.

A few weeks later, Sullivan proposed that the city provide $1 million for improvements if the Forest Park Zoological Society can provide an equal amount.

One of the zoo's most serious problems has been the existence of a bovine strain of tuberculosis among the hoof stock. The strain was discovered after a Barbary sheep died from tuberculosis last January.

HSUS-wildlife specialist Sue Pressman blamed the zoo's problems on the apathy of municipal officials and Springfield residents, who had failed to demonstrate the concern and financial support necessary to transform the zoo into a viable animal exhibition.

Mrs. Pressman visited the zoo at the request of John Dommers, education director of the HSUS New England Region, who found little improvement in conditions on several successive trips. She agreed with Dommers that the zoo is in flagrant violation of the Animal Welfare Act of 1970, which established standards and a licensing system for zoos. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's veterinarian charged with enforcing the law in Massachusetts refused to issue Forest Park Zoo a license and recommended to his superiors in Washington that it be charged with violating the act.

HSUS believes the first objective of any zoo must be to educate people about the habits and traits of animals.

LEGISLATION Continued

nectedicut legislature and signed into law, in spite of protests from humanitarians.

Maine

School Experimentation—a bill to permit the vivisection of animals in secondary schools was defeated. HSUS New England Regional Director James C. Shaw appeared by invitation before the legislature's Education Committee to present HSUS's opposition to such activity.

Bounties—a bill to place a bounty on the Northeastern coyote was defeated.

Hunting—a bill to permit hunting of moose was defeated.

Rhode Island

Dog Racing—bills have been introduced to legalize it, and HSUS believes they can be defeated only if all animal welfare, conservationist, community preservation, and anti-gambling groups work together.

New England in General

Several states are exploring means of establishing a veterinary medical school in New England. Connecticut has appropriated money for a study of feasibility.