

# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

## Until There Are None, Adopt One!

**T**his fall The HSUS will launch one of the most challenging campaigns it has ever undertaken. In that effort, dubbed the "Adopt One" campaign, we will aggressively seek to enlist the participation of the American public in helping to bring to an end the killing of millions of healthy puppies and kittens, cats and dogs that languish in the animal shelters of our nation.

Encouraged by the enormous success of the antifur campaigns waged by organizations throughout the United States, including our own "Shame of Fur" campaign, we once again shall enlist the help of the American consumer to turn the tide in favor of animals that need and deserve loving companionship.

We shall call upon the same public that forced the tuna-fishing industry of this nation to abandon the practice of setting its nets on dolphins to help reverse the tragic killing of animals that are the victims of our own neglect, greed, and irresponsibility.

There are far too many companion animals being bred and born in our society—millions too many! Almost everyone is to blame—the pet owner who neglects—or refuses—to have his/her animal spayed or neutered; the pet industry, which capitalizes on the impulse buying of consumers charmed by "that puppy in the window"; the backyard breeder, whose primary motivation is to recoup the expense of owning a pet, generally a purebred, in the first place; and the hobby breeder, who, though generally more conscientious and caring than other breeders, is also adding to the vast population of cats and dogs that end their lives in animal shelters.

Ours will not be a campaign in isolation. Various efforts on the part of other organizations, agencies, and individuals are beginning to take shape alongside those of The

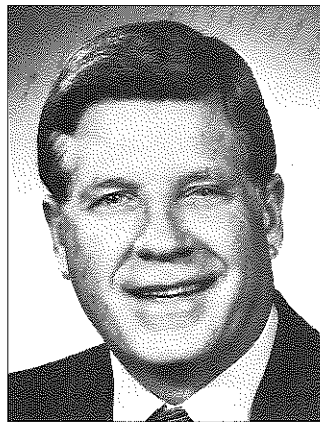
HSUS. In a spirit reminiscent of that with which we greeted the antifur campaigns that swept this country during the past five years, The HSUS welcomes such efforts and encourages as many as can and will to develop and carry out their own campaigns or programs to help end the tragic cycle of too many births followed by too many deaths. No organization can win the battle alone, but many addressing it can surely make a difference.

It is inconceivable that anyone—breeder, seller, or purchaser—could desire the suffering and death of abandoned, neglected, or unwanted animals. We are calling on the pet industry, registration agencies, and governments to join this initiative. No effort will be spared to enlist everyone's support in this campaign to put an end to a national disgrace, the tragic surplus of animals intended to be someone's companion.

On page 23 of this issue of the *HSUS News* you will find the speech that I gave on April 26 announcing this new campaign. I urge you to read it and commit yourself to helping to make this enormous challenge a historic success.

Whatever The HSUS has done up until now to address the tragedy of too many animals, it has not been enough. Whatever The HSUS has done to educate the American people to become more responsible owners of pets, it has not yet made a significant difference. Whatever The HSUS has done to secure the participation of others in finding solutions to the never-ending cycle of too many births, too many deaths, it has been woefully inadequate.

The time has come for a new approach, a new call to action, and a renewed commitment and resolve to end the suffering and death resulting from too many unwanted animals. "We try to be kind—but most of our kindness is killing." ■



John A. Hoyt, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Hoyt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.