

## Report of the President

by Mel L. Morse

The founders of The Humane Society of the United States, in their wisdom proven to be more extraordinary each year, also made it necessary for you to be subjected to the corporation meeting, in which you are participating right now. Among the procedures of such a meeting you are to receive a report from the President.

As the one who is honored by this office, I am going to take a few moments of your time to give you some insight into the activities, accomplishments and aspirations of the HSUS and to present some of the frustrations. I would also like to provoke you, and others who will be reading these remarks in the published digest of the conference, into analyzing some of the programs – present and future. I feel that as your President, together with more than 30 years of total involvement in the humane movement, I should not only report to you but point out to you some of the problems as I see them from this vantage point.

I wish to make a statement on which I will expand later. The organized humane movement is being used by groups, individuals and organizations, and corporations. This use satisfies either an egotistical urge, arrogant glory seeking, or the financial profits of corporations and organizations.

But before we go into some of that I want to tell you about the leading action organization in the national humane movement. I emphasize this word **action** as one of the things of which the HSUS is most proud and to which I was attracted. It *is* an action organization. If you have been reading the *News*, you will have read what steps are being taken to remedy and expose some of the terrible ordeals to which animals are being subjected.

First, of course, in a sense of priority and because of the tremendous numbers of animals involved, is the problem of the gathering of animals for laboratory use. You have read about the illegal procedures whereby animals were being obtained in Ohio.

Frank McMahon, upon being informed of dogs disappearing out of the public pounds in Ohio, worked with individuals and organizations in Ohio to determine just how an animal dealer could be allowed to have the keys to public pounds in Ohio and remove in the dead of night the dogs and cats, some of them household pets awaiting redemption by their owners. You have been reading additional material about this program and the HSUS prosecution of the individuals involved. Such a vast problem required action from the national office as it was beyond the scope of any single humane organization. This activity alone required many man hours and points up the crying need for expansion of the field service department of the HSUS. This is being done within the financial limits of the organization. The HSUS continues to protest loud and clear but also moves to achieve reform.

You have also seen that the HSUS has been active in trying to get better enforcement of Public Law 89-544. This has been necessary because I am convinced that without HSUS pressure on this program the effectiveness of this legislation would fall by the wayside. We have continued to urge that additional funds be made available to the Department of Agriculture for this program. We will continue to insist that the existing legislation be enforced. The cases that are being seen by HSUS personnel, and others assisting them, where animals are involved in the traffic for use in research laboratories, is absolutely shocking. I can't forget a telephone call from Herb Martin, the Executive Director of the California Branch, as he described to me the conditions he found in one such dealer's premises in California. Herb has been involved in humane work for many years but the conditions under which the animals were kept at this dealer's made him sick to his stomach and added to his, and my, sleepless nights as we became more and more involved in this animal neglect and abuse.

Individuals who work so hard to get legislation passed seem to believe that the paper on which the legislation is written is by itself a magic wand. The passage and the printing of the words that make certain actions illegal does little toward getting the matter actually under control. The passage of Public Law 89-544 has not eliminated the suffering and cruelty perpetrated upon animals enroute to the research laboratories, nor has the humane slaughter legislation eliminated cruelty in that field. We need to keep watching, exposing, and working with those whose job it is to enforce this legislation.

Those of us who are continually being exposed to this cruelty must say in a loud voice, as we see these animals disappearing beyond the laboratory doors, beyond the protection of any law or regulation, there *must be a law*. We must step up our program toward getting the protection needed. Humanitarians must support legislation that would give relief to these millions of animals. It would seem

that the cries of pain and suffering and, yes, neglect of these animals would penetrate the walls of these institutions where they are being held. But what is bothering us is why these cries do not penetrate the conscience of those who are confusing the issues, demanding unreasonable additions or deletions, even before a bill is considered in committee hearings. We need hearings on the Rogers bill and we then need all of those who are genuinely interested in animal welfare to bring their expressions and suggestions to the hearing table. Their voices must be heard where it will do the most good, where the matter can be resolved and then brought before the entire Congress for passage.

Another action program of the HSUS involved the mustang extermination in the Pryor Mountains. We reported this to you last year and at the conference you saw some of the evidence which led us to bring legal action against U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and other officials of the Bureau of Land Management. I am still convinced that if the HSUS had not taken this extreme action that we would not have the mustangs roaming the Pryor Mountain ranges on this day. As you know, there is at least temporary protection. We need support morally, physically, and financially to continue the fight to protect some of the wild creatures. We feel that some of our so-called wild creatures are being *managed to death*. I believe that we are going to have to quit calling these animals our "wildlife." In our explorations it becomes more and more apparent that man is our wildest animal.

Those of you who have been following the HSUS programs will have seen brief and continuing reports on our quest to eliminate cruelty in the taking of seals for the fur trade. Ever since the HSUS began its campaign to help the fur seal, either through a "Stop the Hunt" procedure or at least to bring some humaneness into the program, I have been amazed at the lack of understanding of the problem. We are involved in international treaties with at least four governments as well as internal United States interests and contracts. These unfortunate creatures are subjected to what I still contend to be barbaric killing methods. Incidentally, this is still called "a harvest of some of our natural resources."

In reality there is a very simple solution to this entire "harvest" and one that I am sure the seals would appreciate. People should stop buying sealskin coats and accessories. Probably this sounds too simple but that's all it would take—a refusal to purchase any product that was obtained by such cruel methods as clubbing or, as in other fur traffic, trapping. It would seem to me that such a fur or accessory would bring a chill to the wearer instead of warmth and it should bring shame, not pride.

Another of our programs has to do with the racing of lame horses. You will recall that over a year ago we mentioned in the

*News* the practice of doctoring a horse's legs so that it could run. We protested to the officials in all areas of the horse racing fraternity. A news release indicated that the trainer and the owner were not in agreement as to the ability or soundness of the horse. In the testimony *after* the Kentucky Derby one veterinarian stated that the "horse was the most butchered horse I ever saw—to take a horse and deliberately break him down just to win a race." An ordeal that needs much more attention is the housing of race horses in barns that are firetraps. Animals are dying torturous deaths because of a lack of adequate housing facilities at race tracks and fair grounds.

In the phase of our activities relating to the housing of animals we find that there is a greater need for advice and guidance to organizations and government authorities who are building animal shelters. Badly designed animal shelters are being built by cities, counties and humane societies that in a short time after completion are disease infested. Money has been spent on structures that are not adequate to house animals. They are classified as shelters only in the sense that the animals are indoors. Certainly in many instances they are not shelters providing the proper environment for the stray and unwanted animal. There is overcrowding with very little, if any, provision made for segregation or isolation. We must assist in this field by encouraging persons who have this responsibility to design shelters with sanitation and other provisions for the control of disease. We need to extend our field work so that this kind of assistance and guidance can be given and then be sure that we are prepared to help correct badly designed new shelters. Some shelters rebuild with new materials but encompass at the same time all the problems that were common in the old facilities.

In the United States we also see too many installations where the destruction of surplus animals is almost barbaric. We see ancient gas chambers without benefit of the engineering necessary to provide proper euthanasia. We need to do something about these things and just criticizing them is not the answer. Some of the persons involved just don't know any better. We need to educate those who are supposedly the last protector of the unwanted.

You have read of the wonderful progress of the National Humane Education Center at Waterford and I hope that you have noted that there are several innovative programs being worked out there.

A new experience has befallen me because I authored "Ordeal of The Animals." Strangely enough, quite a few people have read the book and I sincerely hope that more humane organizations will take advantage of its contents to inform the people with whom they come in contact, especially in government, where reforms must be made. All of us must take advantage of these exposures of the problems that animals face and the things that need to be remedied. However,

I want to mention the experience of having letters from all over the country forwarded to me from Prentice-Hall, publishers of "Ordeal of the Animals." People write, telling me about cruelties they have witnessed, inviting me to view animal abuses, some of which they feel that I am in the position to correct. I have seen and been shocked because I am not conditioned to accept cruelty of any kind and I don't intend to try to be so conditioned. I hope also that some of my fellow workers would feel strongly concerning cruel acts and performances.

What are hardest to read are the letters concerning cruelty in humane society animal shelters or public pounds. I will quote from a letter just to give you one example: "On my first visit to the \_\_\_\_\_ SPCA there were two dead animals still in cages with live animals. After I pointed this out to the employees, they were removed. Animals which were obviously sick (extremely thin, vomiting, with diarrhea, running noses and eyes, dehydrated)—all possible and probable symptoms of one or more very contagious diseases—were caged with healthier looking animals." The letter goes further: "I have been to other SPCA's and seen uncrowded pens, healthy animals, adequate facilities and staff, shots and vaccines given to all entering animals who need them. These conditions seem to be the rule there. The \_\_\_\_\_ SPCA has a long way to go before it can truly be considered a 'friend of the animals.'" Then this question: "I would happily welcome any additional information you might have as to how these conditions at the \_\_\_\_\_ SPCA may be alleviated."

What is the answer? Do we condemn this SPCA, its Directors, and its personnel? Do we expose it to the community as a blot on the name of SPCA? As you know, the HSUS has a number of societies who have asked to be affiliated with it. These have been accepted only after careful screening, visits to the society, and meetings with the Board of Directors. The HSUS withdrew affiliation from a society in this past year as the local organization's policies and practices did not qualify it for continued affiliate status. I am not advocating that all societies should be affiliated with the HSUS or with any other organization for that matter. I am just pointing out that we have problems within the humane movement that need to be resolved. The name of humane society, SPCA, Animal Welfare League, or other variation of the animal welfare cause, should be protected from misuse as the bad reputation of one organization reflects on them all.

We need our training program for individuals working with animals. The start that has been made at Waterford needs to be extended. Scholarships should be provided so that persons interested in becoming involved in animal welfare can get training and be placed in humane organizations. Societies are crying for competent help and

this pool of individuals is nonexistent. Humane organizations and animal control departments of government need competent, trained, humane-minded personnel involved. There is no place for callousness in an animal control function or in any phase of an animal control program. If you doubt the conditions exist to which I am referring, take a tour, visit a few pounds and humane societies; you might be as upset as I am.

Humane education has many facets, as you will hear at this conference. You will be exposed to the work of the Kindness Club, which the HSUS has taken on as a project following the tremendous beginning and development by Mrs. Hugh John Flemming. We feel that the inroads made into this age group will have far-reaching effects and will lead us into the program that is being developed that will be our national Junior program. Both of these programs need funds and are being extended by the Board of Directors as funds are available.

Never has there been a time in the history of the humane movement when it was more opportune to advance the cause of "humaneness." The rush for a scientific world and the emphasis to "beat the Russians to the moon" has been successful.

However, in so doing, our emphasis on the scientific has omitted the very basic teaching of the humanities. If you have doubt about our success in the scientific field, you have only to read some of the projects displayed at the science fairs. Some of the things happening to animals because of this "scientific drive" you will hear about at this conference. You won't be pleased.

The success of this teaching is also quite evident in our mental institutions, in the increased case load of those working with the emotionally disturbed. The youth have the message. They can manufacture their own drugs — and they can purchase them freely. If they do not have the funds immediately available, they can kill for them — and they do.

We can give the youth of our country a goal and a cause. They could exert themselves into two tremendous humanitarian efforts: eradicate cruelty and promote humaneness. Our youth, who are inheriting the earth, must themselves fix the goals. They are more intelligent, have more opportunity and more technological advances from which to project.

They could make a campaign out of the Pribilof seal clubbing. They could concentrate on the tremendous cruelties attached to surplus breeding. They could bring reform to the use of animals in entertainment. Use without abuse. They could direct their attention toward the mad rush that is bringing extinction to our wildlife. They could crusade toward the preservation of our natural resources — which include our wildlife — a goal that would see our animals protected for *all* the people and not for the few whose motivations

are directed toward conservation for killing. You will hear of the more sophisticated phases of humane education when the work of The National Humane Education Center is discussed.

I mentioned earlier that the humane movement is being used. This use is making it difficult to achieve reforms. However, the retardation of advancement of the humane cause is due in some respects to the gullibility of some of those in the humane movement. Other problems that keep us from advancing are the personalities that seem to plague our movement. We realize that we have strong-willed people—and that is fine—but sometimes the fact that the goals are the same but the directions different makes us achieve nothing but confusion for those who are inclined to help.

I am sure that if we had presented a united front, we would have reform for the animals in the laboratory process now. Perhaps we would not have had all the reforms that we seek but how can you compromise with degrees of cruelty. You can stop what you can and work for more.

I am convinced that the rodeo programs would not contain bucking horse events or bull riding if the rodeo did not have “humane supervision.” If you wish to see the results of the supervision and then view a rodeo without the supervision, you will see no difference. There is still the use of the torturous bucking strap, and the requirements in the rules of the rodeo promoters are there for all to read and to observe in the action in the arena. This supervision has extended rodeo and in some instances placed it on television even though the Television Code forbids it.

We find it difficult to stop absolutely the abuse to animals in the entertainment field. In fact there is more and more use and even more and more abuse. We see increased activity as we now have the traveling zoos to shopping centers. The small menageries with the miserable animals in piano crates, packing boxes, wire cages, all packed into too tight compartments and carted from shopping center to shopping center. Some of these capitalize on the description, “children’s petting zoo.” This is to give it an aura of respectability so that parents can show their children the animals—show them in perhaps the most miserable conditions possible in most instances. Just another point about the continuation and expansion of the rodeo. Have you noticed the respectability of an animal event, depending upon who is sponsoring it? For instance, the Junior Chamber of Commerce groups across the country do a great job for their communities. The funds raised by them help a variety of needs. However, when they stage a rodeo, as do some other service clubs, does this alter the fact that animals are brutalized the same way they are in any rodeo arena in “Anyplace USA”?

While I am at it I would present you with another frustrating thought from this vantage point—and one I think will provoke you to

thinking. This has to do with spaying programs to relieve that tremendous problem that has faced the humane movement for the past 50 years. Have you seen any figures that would indicate to you that surplus breeding programs have been truly effective? Have you seen any figures that would indicate that the thousands and thousands of dollars spent by humanitarians — humane societies or special action groups — have really affected the numbers? Have you given any thought to the fact that the organized humane movement is the only segment of this vast population that has done anything about the problem?

Yet is the problem only that of the humane movement? Where are all those organizations who purport to have a great regard for animals? Have you seen any campaign on the part of kennel clubs, breeder organizations, specialty clubs, to look beyond their own breed and assist in the total problem? Have you seen any organized effort of the American Veterinary Medical Association in taking a real look at what they might do to assist? Now I realize that there are groups, individuals connected with all of these activities who do care and do help, but what I am saying is that the humane movement cannot ever hope to solve the problem by itself. Communities looking to the humane society or a few individuals are shirking their responsibility. After all, animal welfare is the responsibility of everyone.

We at the HSUS are seeking answers; we need to expand the horizon. Each of you can recite to me the work done by dedicated groups or individuals in many areas, including the efforts of humane societies in raising funds to subsidize persons who wish to own a spayed female cat or dog, making up the difference between what the veterinarian charges and the amount of money available from the individual with matching funds from the humane society. Doesn’t this seem a little out of order? Are these funds needed for other vital programs? Let me ask you another question. Can you tell me of any dog food manufacturer that has contributed any money to this tremendous community problem?

Now I don’t wish to show that I am completely naive to the extent that I don’t know that if the surplus breeding curtailment program were widespread there would be less animals to eat food and possibly to be treated. I doubt that in my lifetime or yours we will see any significant drop so that this should not be a factor.

The use of the humane movement to sell food is widespread. Each of you is deluged with pet food promotions, with societies being enticed with leaflets, pamphlets, animal care information. In one case now a dog food manufacturer is even holding meetings of animal shelters workers on how to do their job. Premiums of food for the shelter and, in some instances, give-away programs are ours for the acceptance only.

Nowhere in this propaganda is there a mention about the cruelties perpetrated upon animals. There is no mention of the problems created by the surplus, about programs geared to make it possible to see an end to building more and more dog pounds, animal shelters or additions to the dog runs. Aren't we really working at cross purposes? Do you think we are being used?

If the AVMA as a policy matter doesn't wish to become involved with low cost spay clinics, then what *is* their answer? We can't believe that it is any program just to patch up the injured who are being smashed by cars, treat the wounded who are being shot, or administer to the poisoned.

If surgical spaying is too costly for them to make concessions, then what are the substitutes? Where is the perfected oral contraceptive? Where is the sterilization injection?

In other words, where is the profession that is to prevent the suffering of animal life? They are very noticeable by their absence. Have you ever attended a conference of animal control workers where spaying was on the agenda and the food manufacturers were the sponsors?

We find dedicated humanitarians – singly or in groups – advocating that *they* will have *no* part in animal destruction. This type of program is worthy and yet those of us who have been in this movement very long have seen the results – an accumulation of animals either imprisoned for life in kennel runs or running at large where disease is rampant.

Many of us investigating such premises see miserable animals – some tied to trees, others chained to dog houses, many with sores, some dead among the living – the usual pattern. Then where do you say no to the next animal when all the facilities are full? Again, tremendous veterinary bills just to keep the animals alive. For what? How about the hundreds to follow? There comes the time inevitably when the decision has to be reached – euthanasia.

Have the conditions changed in the last 25 years? The answer is obvious. It is getting worse. The HSUS is seeking answers. Should all segments of the humane movement pool their resources to find the solution? Are we content to follow the present course – expending thousands of dollars, enormous amounts of time and utilization of facilities, just to keep pace – knowing we are only dropping behind the surplus?

We need to zero in on some of the problems of this movement – concentrate on the ordeals to which animals are subjected – focus attention collectively on a great cruelty. How about the absolute banning of the use of the bucking strap on rodeo animals? Can't we all agree as humanitarians that it is a barbaric, torturous device? Are there persons attached to the humane movement who can, in

good conscience, accept this device? Those who profit by cruelty shouldn't have the humane movement aiding and abetting them.

If humanitarians united in one crusade, devoting their time and finances to eliminating just one cruelty – like the bucking strap – wouldn't we finally be achieving a goal and desire of the organizations that were incorporated to eradicate cruelty?

How is it possible for promoters of rodeos to go blandly on their way, attaching to an animal a device which can be seen by any spectator? Its very presence and use causes the animal to buck and fight to dislodge it. Obviously, when it is loosened, the animal quits bucking. The animal is trying to tell the spectators something. Why are they so blind?

One individual, admonishing me for talking about rodeo cruelties, called in on a radio talk show on which I was being interviewed. He mentioned that he had been a rodeo performer for 20 years – riding bucking animals – and he hadn't seen any such cruelty as I described. I suggested to the caller that the next time he left the bucking chute that he ride backwards so he could get a view of what was happening. He could then see the hot shot (electric prod). He could then see the men viciously tightening the bucking strap, and then he could see the bucking strap itself and know that the action of the animal he was riding was actually in protest.

Again let me say that I know there are exceptions and many individuals are making their contribution to the program. But where is the power and the money that is being taken from the pet owners and humane societies? Shouldn't it all be directed in a common cause, to eliminate cruelty? There must be some additional thinking given to animal welfare as a whole by those who evidently are hiding their heads in the sand. Who decreed that the humane movement only was to be saddled with this problem? Is not this responsibility to be shared by all of those who are profiting by animal use, either as a manufacturer or a professional? I would say that it is and I would hope that you people here and others would challenge those involved in these fields to begin to give some consideration to the problem.

I had a strange feeling during this past year as I was standing on San Miguel Island off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, among some thousand or so elephant seals and sea lions. I was there as an observer, thanks to Senator Alan Cranston. These creatures were stretched out in the sun sleeping—just a sea of them. Some were motionless; others were moving slightly, throwing sand over their backs. The majority looked as if they were dead and only roused as we walked among them, some only really being aware of our presence as we touched them. Then they would rear up and caution us to go away. We found this placid scene even though within a couple of hundred yards were the oil slick beaches and oil soaked

debris. This menace could cause death and in some instances had done just that.

I thought how like ourselves this scene was, those of us in the humane movement, those in the humane movement who profess to be humanitarians, those who would utilize creatures such as this even to the point of total elimination; all of us basking in the sun when nearby is the great disaster that faces us all; the exploitation, the use, the abuse, the utter disregard for tomorrow; the reason for my being there due to man's drive for prosperity, for worldly goods, for the development of our country, and man's involvement in the disruption of the natural balance.

We in the humane movement have witnessed many such disasters – man-made and others, such as the hurricanes that are attributed to an act of God. All of them are disasters and disasters usually draw people together during the time of the actual disaster. Then as the crisis lessens, we draw apart and the personalities emerge again, the accusations, the self-seeking moves to achieve personal ends beyond that of fellow human beings. Humanitarians are sometimes the most cruel of them all, as you can witness each week as you see correspondence, as you read printed materials, as you see their actions.

A very good friend wrote the other day, and I am sure she won't mind if I quote her: "There are enough pitiful unwanted animals in the world to fill all the shelters that all of us can build. And enough problems to keep all humane-minded people busy. Anyone who attempts to frustrate efforts on their behalf is not a humanitarian. He violates all humane ethics. 'To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards out of men,' said Abraham Lincoln!"

Like the sleeping seals, with death lurking nearby, we must not be unaware. We have the power and the ability to stop cruelty and suffering and neglect. It is there for all to see and we must see that more and more become aware and that they participate. The ordeals to which animals are being subjected should haunt the conscience of every man, woman, and child in our country. Animal and human neglect and suffering needs the attention of more persons now than ever before.

Someone has to sound the alarm. We at the HSUS are doing that but it takes thousands of really interested people. We need action – not lip service, not sham. I would challenge all who hear me or read these words to start making sounds – and constructive ones. Time marches on and the purposes for which this organization was founded and those of all humane organizations must be fulfilled. The obligation to realize the dreams and aspirations of our predecessors is our challenge and the job is still before us.

## Report of the Treasurer

by William Kerber

To accomplish all of the wonderful work of our humane society, we are dependent upon the generosity of our members and our friends. They are our earning power; they are our goodwill. The HSUS has progressed in its great work year after year through generous contributions and bequests. Be they small or large, they are necessary and appreciated. Even the smallest gift would look mighty large to just one single animal if he could realize it as the source of kindness or humane treatment to him. And large contributions would bring a chorus of happy gratitude. The thought of that is part of the reward to the giver.

True, without some unusually large gifts we would never have been able to build such an active and dedicated organization to carry on our humane program; nor could The National Humane Education Center have been built as a tool; nor could we look forward to the continuation and expansion of program on all fronts of the humane movement. Thankfully, a gradual expansion in the budget each year has been possible.

We have no Endowment Fund. The policy is to spend our cash currently to help suffering animals. Perhaps some day bequests may come faster than currently needed and we could then create an Endowment Fund. Or, persons may contribute large sums for this special purpose. I only mention this as it would best assure a steady flow of income to augment the voluntary contributions received throughout the year.

It is not customary to read the financial report in detail in these meetings; however, I will mention some figures as we go along. For those who are interested, details can be discussed later with our able assistant treasurer, Mrs. Moneta Morgan.

The year 1968 ended with income of \$406,000 and expenses of \$392,000, resulting in income over expenses of \$14,000, which did not add much to our working funds. The October-November period