



The Director of Technical Services Department Patrick Parkes during 1960 inspection of an animal shelter.

— HSUS

Branches and Affiliates

A program to organize and open a self-supporting branch in every state was started in October 1957. It was the goal of the branches to help local societies with their problems and spread HSUS influence across the country. Each branch was to have a separate board of directors and would follow the policies of the national HSUS. Branches were incorporated in Connecticut, New Jersey, Utah, Minnesota, Virginia, California, Northeast Texas; Champaign County, Illinois; and Montgomery County, Maryland. Over the years, however, it was discovered that the Society's growing influence had created an ever-increasing demand for HSUS activity outside those states with branches and there was a pressing need to expand the work into other states while maintaining central control from the Washington headquarters office.

Thus it was that the current HSUS President, John A. Hoyt, conceived the idea of regional offices spread across the country to cover several or more states. The Society now has seven regional offices covering thirty-six states. It also has an office in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; a Humane Education and Nature Center in East Haddam, Connecticut; and an active state branch in

New Jersey. All of them with the exception of the New Jersey Branch are under the direct control of the Washington, D.C. headquarters. All are doing aggressive and effective work in carrying out a wide variety of animal welfare programs. It is probable that other regional offices will be opened as the need arises and funding is available.

Regional Directors meet frequently to discuss common problems. Pictured (l. to r.): John Inman, Jr., (New England), Ann Gonnerman (Midwest), Douglas M. Scott (Rocky Mountain), Sandra Rowland (Great Lakes), Charlene Drennon (West Coast), Donald K. Coburn (Southeast).

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In the summer of 1960 HSUS bylaws were amended to allow local humane societies to affiliate with the national organization. Minimum standards of operation which applicant societies had to meet were established. A thorough inspection was made of all societies applying for affiliation and approximately 30 were eventually accepted. The program required, however, that each affiliate be inspected at least once a year and, in addition to the many other activities in which the Society was engaged, it became impossible to maintain the staff and funds necessary for these frequent and often expensive trips.

It was decided therefore to discontinue the affiliation program and substitute a new program in which local societies and animal control agencies could be accredited by HSUS if they met established standards. This program is now in effect and has produced excellent results. Currently, 13 organizations have been accredited by The HSUS with approximately 26 more in various stages of the accreditation process. In all, more than 100 applications have been received since the program began.