

HSUS Helps in Katrina's Wake

As the National Guard entered New Orleans to quell civil disorder coming in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, members of the HSUS National Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) worked their way into the nearly obliterated regions of southern Mississippi and Louisiana. The situation could not have been more urgent in both areas, with reports of animals locked in homes, kennels, veterinary clinics, and other locations. It was a race against time for our first responders on the ground.

HSUS personnel in Gulfport, Mississippi, rescued more than 125 animals trapped in a flooded animal shelter, where some had desperately swum in their cages for hours before being saved. Tragically, not all survived. Those who did were rushed to nearby Jackson, where an HSUS team arranged to place them with humane organizations beyond the endangered area.

Meanwhile, The HSUS, in concert with animal protection groups throughout the *continued on page 3*

An airboat moves down a flooded New Orleans street September 5 with animal rescue workers, a rifle-toting guard, and several rescued dogs. With thousands of stranded pets in the city, HSUS rescuers were frantically trying to reach as many animals as they could.



KATHY MILANI/HSUS

Red Lobster Protest in Times Square

Nearly 50 enthusiastic protestors, led by MARO Program Coordinator Barbara Dyer, left their "negative" regards to Red Lobster in Times Square in the middle of a heat wave. Protests were also held at 94 Red Lobsters in 28 states and three Canadian provinces.

Members of The HSUS, as well as Caring Activists Against Fur, and individual protestors held signs reading: "Don't buy while they die!" which referenced the yearly spring seal hunt in Newfoundland that kills more than 300,000 defenseless pups who are just days or weeks old for their pelts. "Canada's commercial seal hunt has become the largest, most brutal slaughter of marine mammals on earth," states Dyer.

Educational information was distributed to passing New Yorkers and tourists from around the world, so that people could understand how an international boycott of Canadian seafood could help stop the seal hunt.

Canada exports two-thirds of its seafood to the United States, which brings \$3 billion annually into the Canadian economy. Red Lobster is the largest seafood chain in the U.S. and has the power to stop the Newfoundland seal hunts. Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans has declared that it would only stop the hunt if the fishing industry asked for it to be stopped. "So we are giving them an



TOM DYER/HSUS

MARO helped organize protestors who assembled before the Red Lobster in Times Square and voiced their opposition to the restaurant's selling Canadian seafood. In light of Canada's continuing its brutal seal hunt, The HSUS believes boycotting Canadian seafood will put pressure on the government to stop the hunt.

economic incentive to stop the hunt," adds Dyer.

What can you do? Please ask Red Lobster managers to stop serving Canadian seafood. Ask restaurant servers which seafood items on the menu are from Canada, and don't order them. Write to the company's corporate leaders and ask them to oppose the commercial seal slaughter and join The HSUS's boycott of Canadian seafood: Red Lobster/Darden Group; Joe E. Lee, Chair, and Clarence Otis Jr., CEO; 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive; Orlando, FL 32809; 407-245-4000; 1-800-LOBSTER (1-800-562-7837); e-mail from the corporate Web page at www.redlobster.com/contactus.asp.

For further information about how to protect seals, visit www.protectseals.org. If you are interested in participating in protests, please e-mail maro@hsus.org.



NY License Plate Reduces Pet Overpopulation

A growing number of states have followed the lead of New Jersey legislators who passed a law in 1993 allowing for the production of animal-friendly license plates. Three of the states covered by MARO now have similar legislation: Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania. The laws vary to some extent from state to state, but, in general, part of the proceeds from the sale of the plates is used to support subsidized spaying and neutering for shelter-adopted animals or for cats and dogs of low-income pet owners.

Celebrated artist Peter Max recently redesigned New York's Animal Population Control Fund license plates, originally authorized by a 1996 law. State government representatives asked a number of animal protection groups for recommendations for the plate's motto. The one selected was "Our Best Friends." Sondra Woodvine, New York State Humane Association's (NYSHA's) administrator, said, "Although NYSHA had hoped to see a spay/neuter message on the license plate, we are pleased that many of 'our best friends' will benefit from the funds its sales will generate for the Animal Population Control Fund, and we encourage every New York State animal protectionist to purchase one." Each plate sold adds \$20 to New York's Animal Population Control Fund.

The plates are available at any office of the Department of Motor Vehicles. To order them, call 518-402-4838, or visit www.nysdmv.com.

NJ Program Honored

Friends of New Jersey's Animal Population Control Fund (APCF) received a boost this past May, as members of New Jersey's General Assembly took time out from their busy schedules to recognize the award-winning program with a resolution sponsored by Assemblyman Reed Gusciora. The resolution, which also paid tribute to the work of the state's Domestic Companion Animal Council (DCAC), honored the innovative program, which has helped to alter more than 170,000 dogs and cats since its inception in 1984. The APCF and New Jersey's animal friendly license plate, which was developed to fund the program, are national models that have been copied in other states.

Nina Austenberg played a key role in developing the state low-cost spay/neuter APCF program and in establishing the concept and legislation for the animal-friendly license plate. She recently purchased the newest animal-friendly plate designed by "Mutts" cartoonist and HSUS board member Patrick McDonnell.

Assembly Speaker Albio Sires praised the APCF in a congratulatory letter to members of the DCAC. Sires noted that the program "has not only significantly reduced the number of stray pets across the state, but has also reduced the costs incurred by municipalities and non-profit humane agencies that are traditionally responsible for the care and sometimes euthanasia of these animals. It is wonderful that with the funding provided from the state's animal-friendly license plate program, individuals who wish to adopt a pet and cannot afford to spay or neuter the animal are able to do so."

Acclaimed actress Kelly Bishop, who joined last year as an advocate for the program, sent a message thanking Assembly members and others in her home state "who have worked to bring this wonderful recognition to such a worthwhile and necessary state program."

We at The HSUS wish to thank Assemblyman Gusciora, Kelly Bishop, Patrick McDonnell, and all the legislators and friends of animals who have given their time and energy to support the APCF. For information on obtaining New Jersey's animal-friendly license plate, visit the Motor Vehicle Commission Web site at www.state.nj.us/mvc/cit_plates/ani_friendly.htm.



On the set of "The Pet Stop" are host Brian Voynick, actress and New Jersey APCF spokesperson Kelly Bishop, MARO Director Nina Austenberg, and Dr. Arthur Baeder with the Domestic Companion Animal Council.

Paws Up for PAWS!

Let's hear applause for PAWS, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute that will, if enacted, strengthen the ability of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to oversee large commercial dog and cat breeding facilities.

Introduced in May 2005 by Sens. Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Reps. Jim Gerlach (R-PA) and Sam Farr (D-IL), PAWS is designed to help ensure the humane treatment of animals bred and sold by "puppy mills" and "kitten mills," many of which are operating under the radar of the USDA because they sell directly to the public instead of through another business such as a pet store. The bill also offers consumers a means to learn the source of the animals available for purchase, including those imported from abroad.

Although The HSUS recommends animal shelters and responsible rescue organizations as the best resources for obtaining companion animals, we understand that people still unsuspectingly acquire dogs and cats from far less reliable places. PAWS is designed to close some gaping loopholes in the Animal Welfare Act that have enabled inhumane breeding facilities to thrive. It does not regulate hobby breeders. Go to www.hsus.org/legislation_laws to obtain detailed information on PAWS (S.1139/H.R. 2669). This important legislation needs your support.

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country, was heading to Gonzales, Louisiana's, Lamar Dixon Expo Center to work with the Louisiana SPCA in its efforts to rescue countless thousands of animals stranded in New Orleans. MARO's Samantha Mullen and Barbara Dyer were deployed to the facility, as were regional DART members Jeff Eyre, Willie Cirone, Jim Osorio, and Bob Boyle. Louisiana State University's Veterinary Medical College treated animals in need of intensive care. "Both the scale and complexity of the New Orleans and Lamar Dixon operations are massive beyond description," said Mullen. "The sheer volume of the challenges has been daunting, but the agencies and individuals working together in this disaster have brought about some near-miraculous rescues and reunions of pets with their guardians."

The rescue in Gulfport occurred as dozens of HSUS relief workers extended their reach into devastated areas of Louisiana and Mississippi, working to establish pet-friendly shelters, coordinating animal relief activities with local partners in both government and the nonprofit sector, and improvising solutions to a host of animal-related emergencies.

But the devastated city of New Orleans was still waiting.

Answering the Call

Phones began ringing at The HSUS almost as soon as Katrina struck. The HSUS moved quickly to set up a dedicated Disaster Call Center at its headquarters in the nation's capital, and dozens of staff members suspended their normal duties to handle external communications, logging thousands of telephone calls and e-mails from around the country—many from people seeking urgent assistance as they tried to locate, recover, or keep their animal companions in the midst of the disaster.

Many of the calls came from the afflicted city of New Orleans: A man who couldn't contact a friend with whom he had left his cats. A woman who had boarded animals in a kennel, whose operators she could no longer reach on the telephone. The owner of the golden retriever Blue, saying he would grant permission to anybody he had to rescue his stranded dog "by any means necessary."

An Overwhelming Task

On their first foray into the embattled city of New Orleans on September 4, members of the

HSUS DART, together with animal control staff from the Louisiana SPCA, targeted animals stranded at the Superdome as their priority. There, they rescued dozens of animals relinquished or abandoned by evacuees who fled the city to escape Katrina's rage.

Once the base of operations was established in the city, animal rescue workers faced a grim and urgent challenge. Throughout the weekend, reports of animals in urgent need of rescue continued to pour into the HSUS call center and into other organizations mobilized in the region. "It's just overwhelming," Laura Maloney, executive director of the Louisiana SPCA, told a Knight-Ridder journalist. "There are countless thousands of abandoned pets in the city. And hundreds and hundreds are stuck inside their homes."

During the evacuation of New Orleans, rescue workers barred pets from buses, shelters, and other facilities. And the Red Cross does not permit animals in its shelters. The harsh and depressing fact remains: In most disaster scenarios, people and their pets are often forced to go their separate ways.

The Louisiana SPCA, whose shelter was located in New Orleans, had been able—well before the infamous levee gave way—to evacuate all of the nearly 300 animals in its facility to the Houston SPCA, some 250 miles to the west, thanks to the generosity and well-coordinated efforts of that shelter, whose executive director, Patty Mercer, continued to offer the invaluable assistance of her staff and volunteers to the Louisiana SPCA and The HSUS during the protracted rescue efforts. Many other shelters throughout the country accepted considerable numbers of evacuated animals in response to the need to make more space available at the Gonzales facility, which quickly reached its capacity of approximately 1,400 animals.

The Ongoing Mission

"This is going to require a massive, long-term effort to help the animals and the people impacted by Hurricane Katrina," said HSUS's Laura Bevan. But The HSUS is committed to doing all it can.

To support The HSUS's animal protection efforts, go to www.hsus.org/join.

"Off the Chain" Reveals Betrayal of Man's Best Friend

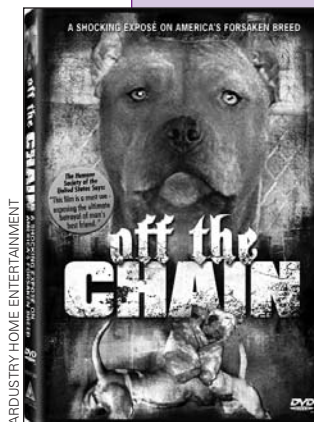
President Theodore Roosevelt owned one. So did Helen Keller. This breed of dog was the trademark of Buster Brown shoes and RCA Victor. Petey was the canine star of television's "Our Gang." And Stubby was the most decorated dog in American history, having received numerous medals and the honorary rank of Sergeant for his services during World War I. What do these famous dogs have in common? They were all American pit bull terriers.

How did such a beloved breed come to be feared as a "public enemy" that is now banned in more than 200 counties and the entire province of Ontario, Canada? That's what director Bobby J. Brown seeks to show in his new film

"Off the Chain," available on DVD from Ardustry Home Entertainment. The film explores the evolution of the breed and gives viewers a disturbing look into the minds of the dog owners and trainers who participate in the gruesome world of

dogfighting. Brown spent three years infiltrating the underground subculture of pit bull fighting, gaining the trust of well-established "dog men" who allowed him to film behind their veil of secrecy. But he also captured another side: the loving nature of the dogs and their brutal misuse by those who are supposed to be their caretakers.

Brown is donating to The HSUS one-third of the proceeds from sales of "Off the Chain" DVDs sold through The HSUS. To order, go to www.offthechainproductions.com/store and use the redemption code: HSUSOTC.



NJ Bear Hunt May Be Back

Last year New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley Campbell went to court to stop a black bear hunt. This year he has stated that he is open to a hunt. The New Jersey Supreme Court ordered a Management Plan for black bears to be written by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, and approved by the Commissioner. The plan was submitted to the Commissioner in March. At the 2005–2006 Game Code hearing, attendees were told that they could not bring up the bear hunt because the Commissioner had not yet approved the Management Plan, so opposition was effectively silenced. However, a hearing will have to be held on the plan, if it is approved by Campbell. Gov. Codey says he will defer the question of a bear hunt to Campbell.

A hunt in 2006 may occur on the watch of New Jersey's next governor, either Sen. Jon Corzine or Doug Forrester.

There is still time to stop the bear hunt this year. And your vote on November 8 may determine the future fate of New Jersey's bears. Please contact the following people:

Commissioner Bradley Campbell
 Department of Environmental Protection
 P.O. Box 402
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0402
 bradley.campbell@dep.state.nj.us
 609-292-7695 (fax)
 609-292-2885 (phone)

Acting Gov. Richard J. Codey
 Office of the Governor
 P.O. Box 001
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0001
 www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html
 609-292-6000 (phone)



Eleanor Hoffman of Rockaway, left, and Barbara Dyer of The HSUS, both opponents of a bear hunt, wait to speak at the state Fish and Game Council meeting.

Gubernatorial Candidates:
 Sen. Jon Corzine
 One Gateway Center, 11th Floor
 Newark, NJ 07102
<http://corzine.senate.gov/contact.cfm>
 973-645-0502 (fax)
 973-645-3030 (phone)

Doug Forrester
 29 Emmons Drive C-10
 Princeton, NJ 08540
www.doug.com/forms/ContactUs.asp
 609-452-0008 (fax)
 609-452-0101 (phone)

Send a Message to Trader Joe's

Unlike its competitors in the natural foods market, such as Whole Foods and Wild Oats, Trader Joe's still sells eggs from hens confined in "battery" cages so small they can't even spread their wings. These animals are so intensively confined that they never engage in many important behaviors, including nesting, perching, and dust bathing. Their lives are filled with immense suffering. In the past, Trader Joe's has been responsive to customer concern for animal welfare, but the chain is refusing to stop selling eggs from caged hens.

The HSUS needs you to ask Trader Joe's to can the cages and sell only cage-free eggs.

Call Trader Joe's at 781-455-7319 and ask the company to adopt a policy to sell only cage-free eggs.

During your next trip to Trader Joe's, talk with the store manager and request that the chain adopt a policy against selling battery cage eggs.

Please send us your Trader Joe's receipts. We'll send them to the company to show that their consumers care about the welfare of laying hens. Send receipts to: The Humane Society of the U.S., Factory Farming Campaign, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about

- Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
- Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency.
- Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

- Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.
- Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.



Promoting the protection of all animals

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE
 Bartley Square
 270 Route 206
 Flanders, NJ 07836

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

E-MAIL (OPTIONAL) _____



KEN AUSTENBERG

Celebrating Earth Day

An overcast sky and drizzle didn't keep hundreds of area residents from enjoying the Earth Day Festival in Edison, New Jersey. The May 2005 event, which was sponsored by the Edison High School Ecology Club, featured elaborate environmental demonstrations. Edison Mayor George A. Spadaro addressed the crowd and accepted an Earth Day 2005 T-shirt from the high school students.

Festival exhibits included a boardwalk with games made from recycled items, an extinction display featuring paintings of animals, and a composting demonstration. One biology classroom was transformed into a rainforest, using humidifiers, vines, rainforest sounds, and smoke machines to create a tropical environment. Students enjoyed organic snacks and juices, and younger visitors were given pictures to color. The HSUS table distributed thousands of informational pamphlets addressing issues such as gardening to attract butterflies and humanely resolving wildlife conflicts. Students and their parents seemed delighted to learn about the many ways they could help animals and the environment by making small changes in their homes and communities.

Everyone attending the fair was given a "planet Earth passport" outlining the information and activity stations. Passport stamps were offered at each display, to encourage participants to visit each of the 10 stations. Visitors with completed passports became eligible to enter a drawing with prizes that included HSUS T-shirts and a grand-prize dinner at the Rainforest Cafe.

MARO staff and volunteers join Edison High School students in celebrating Earth Day.

The Ecology Club students worked hard to make the event a success, and their creativity was rewarded by the interest and enjoyment of all who attended. Visitors, students, and their families had a wonderful time—as well as a memorable and valuable learning experience.

Deer Deterrents Work!

The gardeners of Hanover Township, New Jersey, were at their wits' end. No sooner did they set out their annuals and tend their perennials than the deer would appear and quickly nibble them to nubs. What's a plant lover to do?

MARO knows, and staff from the regional office and HSUS headquarters visited the township to show residents how to live humanely with deer—and save their daylilies, too.

Working cooperatively, MARO staff and township officials brought in deer proofing consultant Sandy Baker, author of "How To Deer-Proof Your Garden In Five Easy Steps," who joined the group on visits to deer-damaged properties in the townships of Hanover, Millburn, Morris, and Madison. The team was invited into gardeners' yards, where they could examine problems firsthand and best advise homeowners about what to plant and how to protect their

plants. Baker's suggestions were tailored to work in each garden.

MARO staff visited 39 homes and spoke to 45 residents in Hanover Township, most of whom were ready to learn new approaches to living peacefully with deer. "Most did not want the deer harmed, understanding that the deer are just trying to survive and adapt to the overdevelopment that has been thrust upon them," said MARO Program Coordinator Barbara Dyer, who organized the three-day string of visits.

Baker told the gardeners that there were two things that they could do if deer were eating their flowers, plants, and shrubs: First, plant what deer don't like to eat, and, second, protect the plants that they do like to eat. For those who won't get a personal visit from Baker, please see a list of deer resistant plants at www.fundforanimals.org/urbanwildlife and click on the "Coexisting with Wildlife Fact Sheet #7." For a list of manufacturers and suppliers of products used to resolve wildlife conflicts, visit www.wildneighbors.org.



BARBARA DYER/HSUS

HSUS Consultant Sandy Baker (left) helps Louise Mueller deer-proof her garden in Hanover Township, New Jersey.



WV Animals Win!

West Virginia's animals and people have good cause for celebration. Gov. Joe Manchin (left) recently signed into law bills requiring dogs and cats adopted from shelters to be spayed or neutered, increasing penalties in the animal cruelty code and implementing an animal cruelty early intervention program, and outlawing remote Internet hunting. Thanks to Gov. Manchin and the dedicated West Virginia activists, the 2005 session was a great success.

Director's Report



By Nina Austenberg
*Director of the Mid-Atlantic
Regional Office*

Are We Winning the Battles But Losing the War?

It is really encouraging to see that many new groups have joined the fight against sport hunting in the mid-Atlantic region. In the early 1970s, The HSUS—joined by Friends of Animals, the Fund for Animals, and DEER Inc.—began protesting the barbaric deer hunt in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, located less than an hour's drive from New York City. Our office led the protests for more than 25 years, until it became nearly impossible to draw participants or media attention. The lack of interest in the Great Swamp seems unbelievable at a time when practically every new area opened to sport hunting spawns another activist group and demonstration. Perhaps it was this splintering of the humane movement that caused the Great Swamp Protest to lose momentum. It's entirely possible that we are all fighting on too many fronts—trying to extinguish tiny sparks, instead of concentrating on the slow-burning embers that continue to start new fires everywhere.

When the Great Swamp Protest began, we were objecting to six days of sport hunting in the Refuge, which is managed by

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Meanwhile, the annual number of hunting days elsewhere in the state continued to grow—from 19 days in 1950 to more than 100 days in 2005. Slogans such as, “This is a Refuge?” and “Save the Deer”—commonly heard in the early days of the Great Swamp hunt—gave way to shouts of “Who's to Blame? Fish and Game!”—as the humane community began to recognize that the situation outside the Great Swamp was growing considerably worse.

New Jersey's deer population continued to explode despite the increase in sport hunting activity and horrendous methods used to kill deer. Eventually we revealed that the “management strategies” used by New Jersey's Division of Fish and Wildlife to maximize sport hunting opportunities and revenue were in fact the cause of this population increase. Most of our members are aware that wildlife populations are “managed” by such means as habitat and sex-ratio manipulation. Any high school biology text will tell you that a limited number of males can easily repopulate an area if the number of surviving females in that hunted population remains relatively high. This is the goal of sport hunting managers—to ensure enough “targets” to sell the next season's hunting licenses. This gruesome priority will not change in our state—or any other state—as long as the percentage of sportsmen on the policy-making Fish and Game Council continues to vastly over-represent the fraction of state residents who hunt.

To that end, The HSUS recently launched a litigation division to expand on a number of humane initiatives, including the wildlife



Protesters at the Great Swamp in the 1970s. Since then, hunting has increased amid dwindling protests.

litigation begun more than three decades ago when The HSUS filed its first lawsuit against the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Our focus must be on restructuring these management agencies, forcing them to represent the gardeners, homeowners, farmers, and ordinary citizens of our state. As long as this management imbalance exists, all the individual protests in the world will not make sport hunting a thing of the past.

The *MARO Regional News* is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 270 Route 206, Bartley Square, Flanders, NJ 07836; 973-927-5611. Nina Austenberg, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays.

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