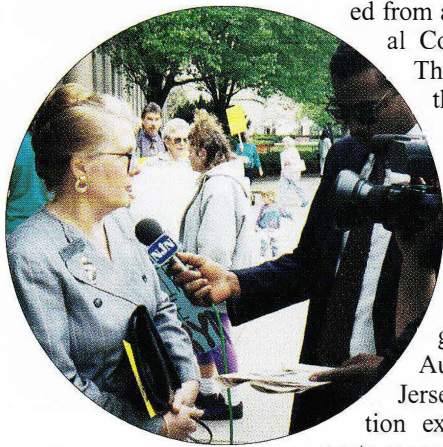


A DAY IN THE LIVES

OF THE HSUS
REGIONAL OFFICES



THE TEN HSUS REGIONAL OFFICES ARE THE eyes, ears, and hands of The HSUS, providing the organization with its grass-roots perspective. Regional staff members are often the first to hear of a developing issue or animal-protection crisis. Each day the regional offices respond to more than 300 phone calls and post more than 150 pieces of personalized correspondence.

We asked the regional staff to log their activities on a single day in April. Compiled from more than fifty pages of logs, here is an account of a typical day in the lives of the HSUS regional offices.

9A.M. (EDT). Great Lakes Regional Director Sandy Rowland arrives at her office in Bowling Green, Ohio, to find an urgent message that a bill allowing the hunting of mourning doves has been introduced in the state legislature. "The message hit me like a ton of bricks. First, it hurts so much to think that in 1993 people want to add another animal to the long list of those that can be killed. Second, my plate is already full for April, with a full workload scheduled, plus eight separate court dates this month alone to testify as an expert witness on dogfighting." She immediately begins contacting area animal-protection groups to plan a response.

At the New England Regional Office, director Arnold Baer is arranging to produce an *Action Alert* to inform constituents of a Rhode Island bill mandating the spaying/neutering of all animals adopted from animal shelters. He calls several Connecticut legislators to voice The HSUS's opposition to a bill that would allow turtles to be sold as pets. Program coordinator Frank Ribaldo calls local cruelty investigators regarding an apparent cult-related mutilation of a dog in Connecticut.

In the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, director Nina Austenberg contacts the New Jersey Department of Transportation expressing concern that inadequate measures have been taken to prevent collisions between cars and deer on a new interstate highway. Investigator Bob Reder gets an update on a Pennsylvania puppy-mill investigation, receives a call about a suspected dogfight, and prepares testimony for a dogfight trial.

In the Southeast Regional Office, director Laura Bevan has received several calls from humane groups and individuals in Alabama seeking support for legislation that would restrict the ownership of wolf-

dog hybrids. After discussing the matter with HSUS headquarters, she makes plans for an *Action Alert*. Ms. Bevan also receives several press calls regarding a fire that killed at least sixty dogs at a Florida humane-society facility. There had been reports of overcrowding and other problems prior to the disaster, and Ms. Bevan contacts HSUS headquarters to review the most recent information on the incident. Southeast investigator Ken Johnson talks with prosecutors in the Florida state attorney's office to review the possible charges against a man who suffocated a dolphin.

The Midwest Regional Office has not yet opened for daily business, but director Wendell Maddox is preparing a report on animal-cruelty penalties throughout the Midwest at the request of Missouri State Senator Pat Dougherty, who is sponsoring a bill to make animal fighting a felony offense.

11A.M. (EDT). At the Gulf States Regional Office, director James Noe gets a call for assistance from a Rockport, Texas, animal-control officer who says that a restaurant that housed exotic big cats (and other captive wildlife) as an attraction has burned down; four of the eight cats have been killed. Local animal-control staff has taken custody of the survivors. Mr. Noe and Gulf States investigator Rick Evans leave for Rockport.

Northern Rockies Regional Director Dave Pauli has traveled to Rupert, Idaho, and calls the city attorney to confirm his plans for the day. Following the investigation of an animal collector harboring more than 100 animals in crowded and filthy conditions, local authorities have ordered her to reduce the number to 15 and house them in a humane fashion. The HSUS has organized a cleanup of the site with twelve volunteers from area agencies and will supervise the animals' relocation.

In the other offices, the stream of calls requesting information and assistance becomes heavy. The North Central office responds to calls from Illinois requesting information on pet-adoption guidelines and differential-licensing fees for neutered and unneutered pets; the office also receives a report on puppy-mill operations in North Dakota. The South Central office gets a tip about an upcoming dogfight in the region and informs local law-enforcement officials. Several regional offices respond to requests for information about starting up a local humane society.

Late morning provides some opportunity for long-range planning. The North Central, Great Lakes, and Midwest offices are planning a joint conference to be held

By RANDALL LOCKWOOD, PH.D.

near Chicago in September. Staff in all three offices spend part of the morning coordinating workshop titles, schedules, and speakers. The Mid-Atlantic office makes arrangements with New Jersey's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to have HSUS flyers on the danger of leaving animals in cars distributed at each DMV office. At the New England office, Mr. Baer prepares for a presentation on animal regulation to be given before the Animal Control Officers of Massachusetts.

12 Noon (EDT). In the Great Lakes office, Ms. Rowland tries to grab lunch between phone interviews with the press on the dove-hunt issue. She is interrupted by a call from an Ohio state representative trying to update that state's antiquated dog-control laws. Program coordinator Robin Weirauch is contacted by the West Virginia state veterinarian about a cattle cruelty case; she reviews the relevant state statutes with him. Ms. Rowland continues to contact activists in the area to organize a quick response to the hunting bill.

In Texas, Messrs. Noe and Evans photograph the scene of the restaurant fire. They are unable to get much information at the scene since it has been blocked off by police conducting an arson investigation. They proceed to the local shelter to check on the large cats who have been rescued. One female cougar is badly burned. Mr. Noe contacts a Texas sanctuary to arrange for housing for the animals if needed and gets the names of veterinarians knowledgeable in burn care for big cats.

In Rupert, Idaho, Mr. Pauli meets with the mayor, city attorney, and public-works director to review the plan for the massive cleanup they are about to undertake at the animal collector's property.

At the South Central office, regional director Jim Tedford, who has been on the phone all morning, reviews mail before driving to Cherokee County, North Carolina, to speak at an evening conference. He will be stopping en route to investigate conditions at a roadside zoo that has been the subject of complaints.

The West Coast Regional Office is now open. Director Char Drennon discusses with representatives of the California Child Abuse Consortium a bill to allow humane officers to report child abuse without incurring liability. She then leaves for a meeting with the California Veterinary Medical Association to brief it on HSUS positions on feral-cat control. West Coast investigator Kurt Lapham heads out to an assembly program on animal issues for 115 eighth-graders at a local school.

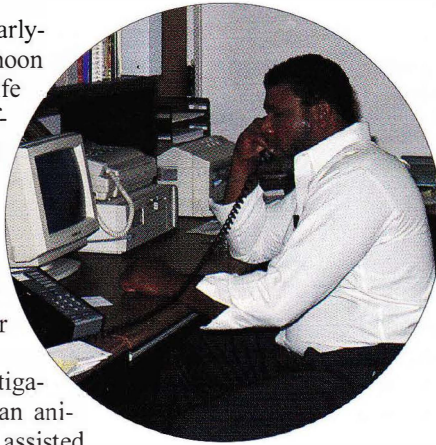
1 P.M. (EDT). This early-spring afternoon brings many inquiries about wildlife problems. In the Mid-Atlantic office, callers report a robin who has collided with a window, an injured pigeon, a trapped raccoon, and problem groundhogs and squirrels. Callers are given basic advice and referred to the appropriate local agencies or wildlife rehabilitators.

At the West Coast office, investigator Eric Sakach gets a call from an animal-control officer whom he had assisted in a search on the premises of a cruelty suspect. That search led to the discovery of several dead or starving pit bulls. The officer reports that the suspect has fled and a warrant has been issued for his arrest. The West Coast office also takes calls from local media about elephant handling, ferrets, and a plan to shoot ravens at the National Desert Tortoise Preserve.

Several offices tackle legislative issues. In New England, confirmation comes that New Hampshire has passed an HSUS-supported animal population-control bill. Ms. Bevan in the Southeast office drafts a letter to 104 state representatives in Alabama supporting proposed wolf-hybrid restrictions. North Central director Phil Snyder prepares his testimony supporting an Illinois bill to increase penalties in animal-cruelty cases.

3 P.M. (EDT). Messrs. Noe and Evans interview animal-control officers who were at the Rockport, Texas, restaurant fire during animal-rescue efforts. Many exotic birds were simply released to prevent them from being burned, and several large snakes were left behind in the fire. One tiger was shot and killed by park rangers. Mr. Noe said, "As the fire grew and the tiger failed to succumb to anesthetic, they shot the animal rather than watch him burn to death. His miserable life of constant confinement reached an equally miserable end." With local animal advocates, Messrs. Noe and Evans discuss steps to prevent such incidents.

In Rupert, Idaho, the cleanup of the animal collector's property is well under way. Dozens of ducks, pheasants, dogs, rabbits, and guinea pigs have been captured and



Above: Wendell Maddox works the phone in the Mid-west office. *Below:* At the Idaho home of an animal collector, a massive cleanup awaits Dave Pauli and animal-protection volunteers.



Above: At a Florida animal shelter, Laura Bevan spends time with a new canine friend. Regional offices receive many inquiries on pet health and care. *Opposite:* Interviewed by a New Jersey Network reporter, Nina Austenberg speaks for animals at a protest held on the State House steps in Trenton.

COURTESY: HSUS, THE PHOTOGRAPHY CENTER, CHERRY HILL, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

THE HSUS'S TEN REGIONAL OFFICES assist animals, the groups that seek to help and protect them, and you.

New England Regional Office, 67A Salem Road, PO Box 362, East Had-dam, CT 06423, (203) 434-1940; Arnold Baer, Director; Serving Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Ver-mont

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Bartley Square, 270 Route 206, Flan-ders, NJ 07836, (201) 927-5611; Nina Austenberg, Director; Serving Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania

Southeast Regional Office, 1624 Metropolitan Circle, Suite B, Tallahas-see, FL 32308, (904) 386-3435; Laura Bevan, Director; Serving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina

South Central Regional Office, 109 Northshore Drive, Suite 400, Knoxville, TN 37919, (615) 588-1843; Jim Tedford, Director; Serving Ken-tucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia

Great Lakes Regional Office, 745 Haskins Street, Bowling Green, OH 43402-1696, (419) 352-5141; Sandy Rowland, Director; Serving Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia

North Central Regional Office, 800 West 5th Avenue, Suite 110, Naperville, IL 60563, (708) 357-7015; Phil Snyder, Director; Serving Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin

Midwest Regional Office, Argyle Building, 306 East 12th Street, Suite 625, Kansas City, MO 64106, (816) 474-0888; Wendell Maddox, Director; Serving Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska

Gulf States Regional Office, 6262 Weber Road, Suite 305, Corpus Christi, TX 78413, (512) 854-3142; James Noe, Director; Serving Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas

Northern Rockies Regional Office, 490 North 31st Street, Suite 315, Billings, MT 59101, (406) 255-7161; Dave Pauli, Director; Serving Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming

West Coast Regional Office, 5301 Madison Avenue, Suite 202, PO Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220, (916) 344-1710; Charlene Drennon, Director; Serving California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington

will be distributed to area fa-cilities for adoption or care.

5P.M. (EDT). In Ohio the Great Lakes of- fice has received the official wording of the dove-hunting bill and begins to prepare for a mailing to HSUS *Action Alert* members. Ms. Rowland composes a letter to the editorial boards of all the major Ohio newspapers asking them to take a stand against the mourning-dove hunt. She also prepares copy for a separate *Action Alert* to be sent to local humane societies notifying them of the introduction of the bill.

In Montana a visitor comes to the Northern Rockies office with an injured duck. Arrangements are made to transport the duck to an area shelter.

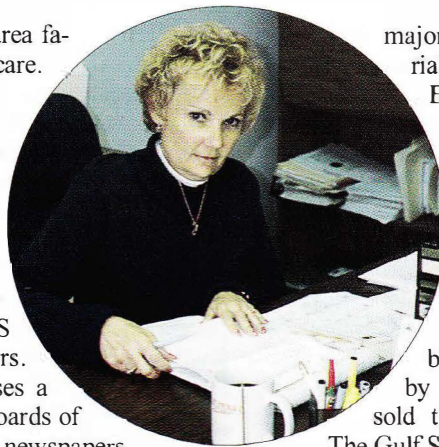
The West Coast office staff responds to requests from HSUS headquarters for in-formation on pigeon shoots and other killing contests in the region. Several callers who complain about conditions in pet stores in the region are briefed on the provisions of California's tough pet-shop laws and are put in touch with the appropriate authorities. Staff members also pre-pare testimony and background infor-mation in support of three bills to be heard the following day dealing with "downer" livestock, humane-officer reporting of child abuse, and horse roping.

7P.M. (EDT). In North Carolina Mr. Tedford meets with twenty-five people from area humane groups to discuss HSUS assistance for local societies. Many other issues are covered, including public relations, fund-rais-ing, adoption screening, and the voluntary moratorium on breeding of dogs and cats.

In Idaho the collector cleanup contin-ues. Ten dumpsters and a truck have been loaded with refuse and removed. Only fif-teen animals remain on the property, as ordered by the court. (Their welfare will be carefully monitored.) At 10 P.M. (EDT). Mr. Pauli calls it a day. "It is exhausting but very exciting to be part of HSUS field ac-tivities. We are really making a difference for animals and people in the community."

EPILOGUE

In Ohio the mourning-dove bill was rammed through the Ohio House of Rep-resentatives by pro-hunting forces. Our 60,000 *Action Alerts* to HSUS Ohio con-stituents resulted in calls and mail running three to one against the bill. Nearly every



major Ohio newspaper edito-rialized against the bill. Even with this public outcry, the bill passed in the house by two votes and, in May, awaited action in the senate.

Following the Rock- port, Texas, restaurant fire, the four surviving big cats were reclaimed by the breeder who had sold them to the restaurant.

The Gulf States office expressed its concern that the animals had been allowed to live at the restaurant to the U.S. Depart-ment of Agriculture, which had granted business permits to exhibit the animals. On April 27 Aransas County commissioners heard testimony from Mr. Evans and others and passed an ordinance banning private ownership and exhibition for profit of wild or exotic animals in the county.

In Rupert, Idaho, the cleanup of the collector site continued for eleven days; more than seventy volunteers removed more than fifty dumptruck loads of old animal cages, debris, and contaminated top-soil. So far, more than half of the 100 ani-mals removed from the property have been placed in new homes. ■

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D., is HSUS vice president, Field Services, and oversees the activities of all regional offices.



Top: Sandy Rowland tries to stem the tide in favor of an Ohio bill to permit dove hunting. Pro-hunting forces later rammed the bill through the Ohio House of Representatives. Above: A cougar badly burned in a Texas restaurant fire awaits treatment.