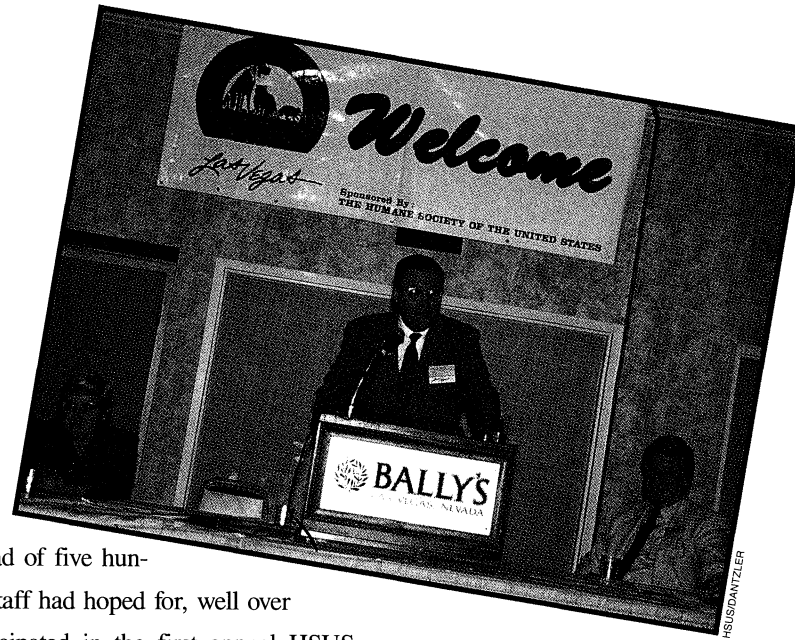


# Animal Care Expo '92

## A Big Hit in Vegas

By Nicholas P. Gilman



On February 2, 1992, the doors opened on one of the largest animal-care gatherings ever. Instead of five hundred attendees the HSUS staff had hoped for, well over one thousand people participated in the first annual HSUS Animal Care Expo. Animal-care workers, administrators, and exhibitors convened at Bally's Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. Expo '92, the vision of HSUS President Paul G. Irwin, proved to be an exciting, educational venture. "The animal-care community needed a clearinghouse for ideas, resources, and materials," said Mr. Irwin. "The HSUS had the wherewithal to bring all that together under one roof."

### *Clockwise from above:*

*(From left to right) K. William Wiseman, chairman of the HSUS board of directors, Patricia Forkan, executive vice president, Phyllis Wright, senior consultant, and Paul G. Irwin, president, enjoy Animal Care Expo '92.*

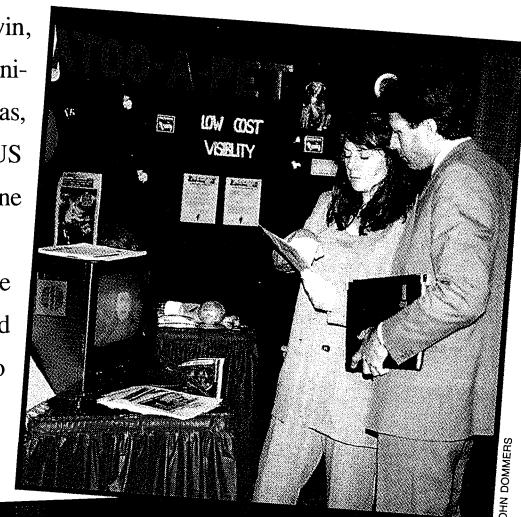
*Paul G. Irwin welcomes Expo '92 exhibitors and attendees to Bally's Casino Resort in Las Vegas.*

*Trina Romea of Tadoo-a-Pet explains her company's services to an attendee in the exhibit hall.*

*HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Nina Austenberg (left) admires the Expo '92 tote bag held by Joe and Maria Kwiatkowsky, who came to Las Vegas from New Jersey.*

At the welcoming remarks, HSUS Chief Executive John A. Hoyt officially announced that Mr. Irwin would succeed him as president of The HSUS. Mr. Hoyt also announced that he would step into the role of president of The HSUS's Humane Society International (see the President's Perspective).

Mr. Irwin recounted how he had asked Phyllis Wright to be the Animal Care Expo '92 keynote speaker. Recently retired from the position of HSUS vice president, companion animals, she had responded, "No way. Let Marc Paulhus loose on them!" Ms. Wright has been a primary mentor of the animal-care and animal-welfare communities for nearly three decades. It was fitting that so many of her protégés were present when she passed the





**Clockwise from above:** HSUS Vice President, Companion Animals, Marc Paulhus scored a big hit with Phyllis Wright and Paul G. Irwin during his keynote address.

New England Regional Director Arnold Baer is surrounded by Expo '92 attendees examining HSUS materials at the "Choose a Pal for Life" booth.

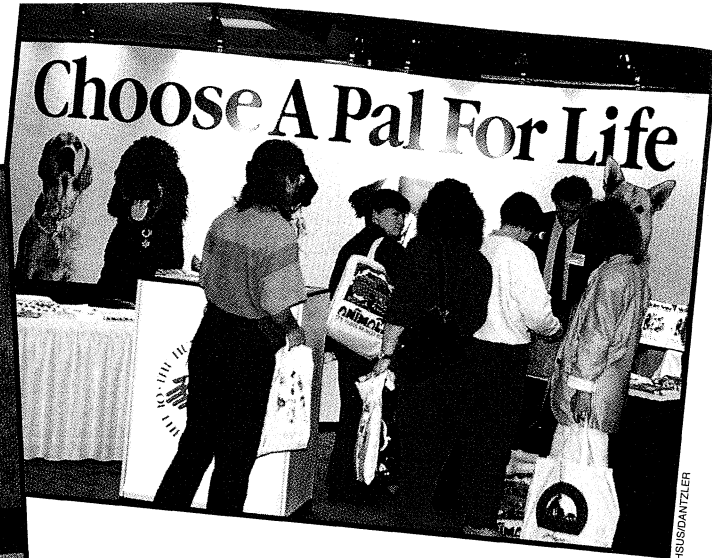
HSUS Vice President, Investigations, David Wills (center) pauses to reflect on the success of the Expo.

Over a four-day period in February, approximately 1,000 people visited the first "animal-care expo"; 100 exhibitors took part as well.

Mr. Paulhus's keynote address challenged the audience to find, and pursue, their life's purpose: *Your purpose is that most important lifelong theme against which you measure your daily actions. Your purpose should be simple but have broad applications to your everyday choices. . . . Most of all, it should be rather difficult to achieve. The unifying purpose of the animal-care-and-control movement is to promote reverence for life and responsible stewardship.* The address set the tone for the next three days.

Although originally envisioned as a trade show, Animal Care Expo '92 was much more to its attendees. Participants crowded into conference rooms to hear seminars conducted by nationally recognized experts. Sessions offered practical advice on such topics as computers, the use of videotape in cruelty investigations, fundraising, nutritional needs of shelter animals, and animal first-aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Workshops addressed such ethical issues as cat overpopulation, resources for humane education, and ways to advance animal welfare. Fifty-six classes were held over a three-day period.

One hundred companies dealing in animal-care equipment and resources had booths at the Expo. Two exhibitors brought full-size trucks into the



torch to Marc Paulhus, the new vice president,

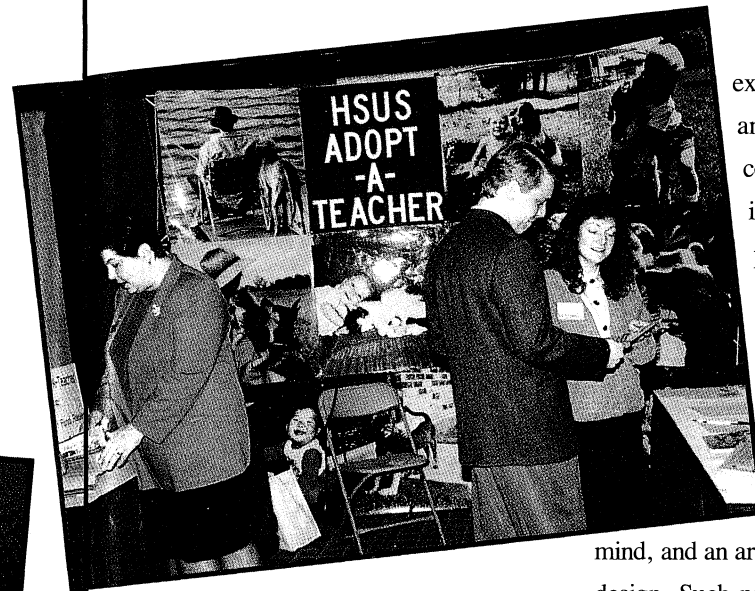
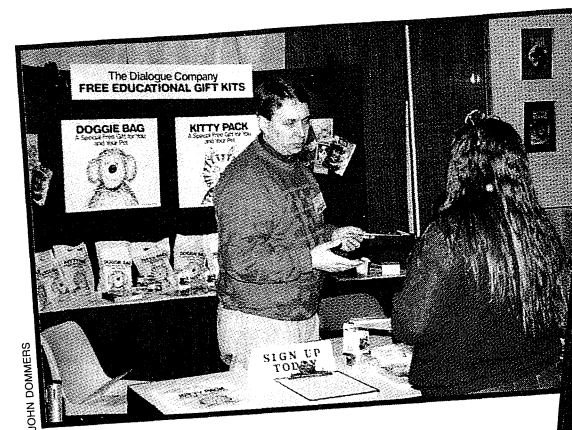


exhibit hall as part of their display of emergency animal-care vehicles. Microchip-identification companies demonstrated how microchips, when implanted beneath the skin of a dog or cat, can provide pertinent information about the animal when an electric "wand" is passed over the pet. Microchip identification may prove to be invaluable in reuniting lost pets with their owners.

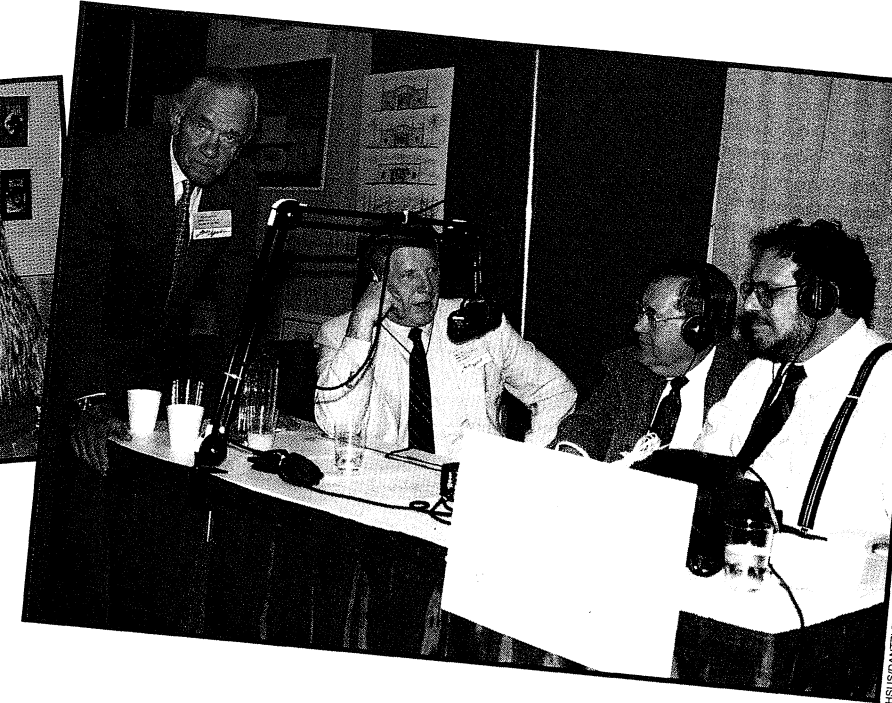
An architectural firm displayed work chosen to highlight how animal shelters should be designed with the animals' well-being in mind, and an architect conducted a workshop on proper shelter design. Such presentations helped animal-care leaders identify means by which they can improve their communities' assistance to animals.

The HSUS solicited the comments of exhibitors and attendees. The evaluations were overwhelmingly favorable. Especially appreciated were thoughtful critiques that will help The HSUS tailor Animal Care Expo '93 to the animal-care community.

As the animal-protection movement leads us to a more humane society, it will continually face new challenges. Mr. Paulhus commented in his keynote address, "This movement is about change. 'Expo' is about change. And certainly The Humane Society of the United States is changing to meet the challenges of the '90s." ■

**There will be an Animal Care Expo '93! Look for details in future HSUS publications.**

*Nicholas P. Gilman is The HSUS's field coordinator, animal sheltering and control.*



**Clockwise from below:** The HSUS's Ann Joly (left) and Karen Higgins enjoy some booth time.

The HSUS's Dorothy Weller (left) and NAHEE's Cindy Stone explain the HSUS Adopt-A-Teacher program.

Exhibitors had ample opportunity to explain their products and services to attentive Expo '92 attendees.

(From left to right) K. William Wiseman listens as HSUS Chief Executive John A. Hoyt, Paul G. Irwin, and The HSUS's Guy Hodge take to the airwaves at Expo '92.

