

NEW ENGLAND NEWS

The New England Federation of Humane Societies Newsletter August 2001



NEFHS Sponsors Humane Education Workshop

Have you ever struggled with a humane education presentation for a particular audience? Have you wanted to contact local schools or tried in vain to adapt one lesson plan to another age group?

If you answered "yes" to any question above, then we have a workshop for you!

On October 2, 2001, the NEFHS will be sponsoring a humane education workshop conducted by members of the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania's Education Committee and the Women's Humane Society (brochure enclosed). This one-day workshop will leave participants with a sense of confidence, new skills, a 224-page *Humane Education Guidebook*, and a clearer knowledge of what it means to be a professional humane educator. Humane educators can look up what they need to know on a specific topic in the Guidebook, or, if they are over-achievers, read the whole book!



The Guidebook is the result of an ambitious plan, five years of tireless work, and a generous grant of \$5000 from the ASPCA. It is the brainchild of

Janice Mininberg, Director of Education at the Women's Humane Society in Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

Seven years ago, when Janice was selected to serve on the Education Committee of the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania, she was surprised to learn what little was known about humane educators around the state. She designed and sent a survey to all animal shelters in Pennsylvania. The results

revealed many things:

- There was a very high employment turnover in humane education departments.
- The educators had a variety of backgrounds.
- A low percentage had formal training in education.
- Many worked alone and would welcome assistance.

She recalled her own experience becoming a humane educator. In her favor was a degree in education and enthusiasm for a challenge as she worked alone. With these memories and the results of the survey, she soon realized the acute need for written guidelines that would aid all humane educators in their quest to establish productive, professional education programs at their organizations.

With the knowledge that professionalism and sharing are the basis for any successful humane education department, the concept for the Humane Education Guidebook was born. In 1994 Janice obtained the assistance of several talented and experienced educators. With Janice, they designed, wrote, and edited a "how to" guidebook for humane educators. It was then decided that a workshop was needed to introduce educators, particularly those with limited resources, to the Guidebook.

Humane education workshops are rare. It is a pleasure for the NEFHS to bring this program to our members and friends in New England and beyond. Please join us for this exciting educational experience.



THE NEW ENGLAND
FEDERATION OF
HUMANE SOCIETIES

provides
education,
training,
information,
and
networking
opportunities
to support
animal
protection
organizations'
missions
toward
creating a
more humane
world.

Legislative Update

CONNECTICUT: S. 1011 (now public act 01-87), An Act Concerning the Animal Population Program, was signed by the governor. This law will streamline the administration of the state-subsidized spay/neuter program for municipal animal shelters and will ultimately reduce program expenditures.

H. 5832, known as the Rocky Memorial Bill, was proposed in response to the tragic death of a German shepherd who was bludgeoned to death by an acquaintance of the dog's owner. Unfortunately, this bill, which would have allowed people to sue for non-economic damages (emotional suffering) in cases such as this one, died in committee.

MAINE: There were some significant victories for animals in Maine, including the passage of a bill to substantially increase the penalties for animal cruelty and require psychological counseling for convicted juveniles. The legislature also passed a bill to criminalize bestiality.

L.D. 628, a bill to ban the use of elephants in displays such as circuses, parades, petting zoos, and traveling exhibitions, prompted a great deal of excitement among local activists. Although L.D. 628 generated important dialogue about the welfare of performing animals, the Senate voted against it.

The passage of L.D. 1435 corrected a

longstanding loophole that left shelters without legal ownership of the cats they accept, and the new law also creates an incentive for owners to put identification on their cats by mandating a longer holding period for such animals.

L.D. 1170 and L.D. 1695, both enacted as emergency legislation, provide the framework for improving the state's Animal Welfare Program, including increased funding, a revamped Animal Welfare Advisory Council and better tracking of cruelty cases.

MASSACHUSETTS: H. 508, which would have generated funds for subsidized spay/neuter programs in the Commonwealth, was sent to study committee.

An omnibus racing bill passed the House. Although H.4261 includes nearly \$7 million in state subsidies to the greyhound tracks, the legislation also includes greyhound-friendly amendments that require stronger, publicly available records and the creation of a \$500,000 greyhound adoption trust fund. Also, a section of the bill that would have called for a study of Off-Track Betting (OTB) parlors was defeated.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: S.B. 416, An Act Requiring a Permit for Ownership of a Pit Bull, Rottweiler, or Doberman, was strongly and

swiftly defeated by animal advocates, who all testified to the inadvisability of breed-specific legislation to address issues surrounding dangerous dogs.

In a victory for greyhounds, the legislature decided to increase business taxes to solve their education funding crisis instead of granting racetracks slot machines this year.

RHODE ISLAND: One of the most hotly debated topics during this past legislative session was the use of carbon monoxide (CO) chambers by shelters to euthanize animals. H. 5853 proposed an outright ban on the use of CO chambers, while H. 5420 recommended further regulation of the use of this equipment by the Department of Environmental Management. H. 5420 passed both chambers and went into effect on 7/13/01.

H. 5242 would have prohibited the use of elephants, lions, tigers, or bears in live performances and displays, with the exception of accredited zoos. Despite a hearing that was well-attended by animal protection groups, H. 5242 died in committee.

VERMONT: S. 176, which would establish a training and certification curriculum for humane officers, create a position for a state animal welfare director, and add civil enforcement measures to the existing animal

NEFHS Newsletter

The HSUS New England
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New
England
News

A Message From the President

I was a weird kid – a bit of a bookworm, fearless around even the most fractious of animals, and I hated video games. (Of course, when I was seven, “Space Invaders” on the family’s Atari system was considered sophisticated.) Now, I know what you are thinking: I was a geek. Well, guilty as charged. But the real clincher of my geekdom was this: I loved math. Yup. Numbers were cool. I actually *enjoyed* word problems, and thought algebra was fun. I simply appreciated and enjoyed the relationships between numbers and their application to real-life situations. And when I realized at an early age just how powerful pure hard numbers could be in presenting my case for a coveted item or service, I was hooked. Rarely could my parents or other adults refute my arguments when supported with the logic of numbers by this skinny little blonde kid. (I may have been a geek, but darn, was I cute, too!)



By Stephanie Frommer

Fast-forward twenty-some years, and I still love numbers. And more than ever, I appreciate how important they are in the work we do in animal welfare. But it also saddens and frustrates me when colleagues fear numbers too much to see how valuable they can be. The keeping of even very basic statistics of the work we do is so incredibly crucial for a number of reasons. First of all, it helps justify the work we do. By knowing how many animals our shelters re-

ceive each year, or how many calls our Animal Control or Law Enforcement Officers make in the field, we are able to respond objectively to those who may not share our same passion and value for our jobs.

Numbers can also help us adjust our programs and policies in ways that utilize our resources most effectively. For example, assume our records told us that the majority of the animals our shelters received were intact female cats with kittens, and that more than half of the dogs in our shelters were neutered adolescents. This might help us decide where to dedicate our limited sterilization subsidy money in order to get the most bang for our buck. Statistics also give us perspective, and help us see the progress we’ve made over the years. For those of us still embroiled in kitten season, it may be hard to think we are making a difference until we take a step back, look at the statistics from 15, 10, or even five years ago, and realize how far we’ve come. Perhaps most importantly, though, numbers can help us counter some of those myths, which run rampant in our field but have become counter-productive in our efforts to engage the public in our struggles. Do our shelters really receive more rabbits a month after Easter? Do more black cats mysteriously disappear from their yards during the last week of Halloween? Maybe, maybe not. But let’s look at the real numbers

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Sandy Monterose

National Resources

Keys to a Great Shelter: A Guide to Starting and Improving a Humane Organization is a new publication from the ASPCA. The 253-page book is chock full of tips on how people can help their shelter be all it can be—addressing everything from incorporating as a nonprofit to managing financial concerns, to developing good staff relations and preventing diseases in shelters. The book retails for \$30 and can be ordered by writing to ASPCA National Shelter Outreach, 424 E. 92 St., New York, NY 10128, 212-876-7700, ext. 4403.

Shelter Partners is a new program of The HSUS, which provides participating nonprofit and municipal shelters with new sources of revenue, savings on products and services, and discounts on HSUS publications and training events. By negotiating on behalf of the hundreds of organizations that choose to become Shelter Partners, The HSUS can use shelters' collective economic clout to make the kind of deals that an individual entity couldn't swing on its own. For more details, visit www.animalsheltering.org to access a downloadable application form, or call coordinator Carolyn Wandless at 202-452-1100, or e-mail shelterpartners@hsus.org.

Shelter Talk is a new e-mail discussion list serve launched on the AHA's website. This forum allows agency staff from all over the country to ask questions and share ideas, and allows animal welfare and control professionals to network and find support. Topics include animal housing, animal enrichment programs, staff/volunteer management, board recruitment, fundraising, spay/neuter programs, and exotic animal care. To join, go to www.ahasheltercentral.org/shelbertalk.

Legal Forms and Agreements: Special Edition for Dog and Cat Shelters and Rescue Groups contains legal advice and sample legal documents for almost every shelter procedure imaginable. The 295-page book, which sells for \$26.95 (including shipping), also provides advice on finding a lawyer, developing contracts, and safeguarding signed agreements. For more information about the book, check out www.legalformsforpetrescue.com. It can also be ordered by sending a check or money order to author M. Ellen Dixon, Esq., 234 Canterbury Court, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Board Cafe is a free electronic newsletter exclusively for members of non-profit boards of directors. Short enough to read over a cup of coffee, the Board Cafe offers a menu of ideas, opinions, news and resources to help board members give and get the most out of board service. Simply go to www.boardcafe.org to subscribe, or fax your request to 415-541-7708 and write "Subscribe Board Cafe" somewhere on the page.

The National Animal Control Association's (NACA) **2001 Training Guide** boasts many new authors, updated materials, an added chapter on disaster planning and a whole new look. This excellent resource book includes topics on the legal aspects of animal control, safety and health issues, and handling of humans and animals. The guide is available for \$35 (NACA members) or \$50. Send checks to: NACA, PO Box 480851, Kansas City, MO 64148. Order forms can be downloaded at www.nacenet.org.

Useful Websites for Animal Care & Control



www.vetcentric.com—Run by a company in Annapolis, MD, this site offers interesting information for everyone from the pet owner to the veterinarian to the animal shelter employee. Every week,

staff reporters bring site visitors the latest news in animal care. The site includes information about causes and treatments of pet diseases and provides a Q&A forum for users.

www.fundsnet-service.com—Although many links on this site are tailored toward nonprofits that help two-legged creatures, Fundsnet Online Services also offers a wealth of resources for any organizations trying to raise funds and attract donors.

www.acofunstop.com—This humorous web site features anecdotes, fun products, and chances for ACOs worldwide to connect with each other. The most popular section of the site is the "Officer Chuckles" page, where ACOs post examples of the best excuses and complaints they've heard from the public.

www.library.petfinder.org—This library for shelter professionals offers a wide array of materials designed to help shelters and rescue groups operate more effectively, economically, and humanely. The site has over 200 articles written by experts in animal protection, which make superb handouts, and it even features a shelter veterinarian who offers lots of shelter health information.

www.suesternberg.com—This site from renowned dog training expert Sue Sternberg contains a wealth of information about her programs at Rondout Valley Kennels in New York, as well as listings of the dates and locations of her behavior workshops. You can order Sternberg's publications and videos, read about her training programs, and take a virtual tour through her shelter.

www.governmentguide.com—Whatever sort of government information you're seeking—whether it's regulations from the Department of Agriculture or names of local or federal officials—you can find it here. From tax and passport information to Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards, from inclement weather to auctions of cheap furniture for your offices, if it's government-related, this site will probably have what you need.

<http://humanelink.vview.org>—Are you an adoption counselor? A humane educator? A member of your shelter's board of directors? Or do you do it all? Whatever hat you might be wearing, HumaneLink has information for you. From euthanasia stress to housing protocols, this site contains material about almost every aspect of the sheltering field, along with a chat forum, a bulletin board, lists of training opportunities, and links to other sites about animal activism.

www.onlyhumane.com—Looking for a new Executive Director? Supervisor? Shelter Manager? Do you have a recruitment plan in place? You can find the first in a new series of articles on "Hiring a new CEO" on this website, specifically designed by Kate Myers for people who work with animals. Among the subjects it explores are mental fitness, euthanasia stress, compassion fatigue, communication, board and staff development and strategic planning.

2001-2002 Training Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	FOR MORE INFO CALL
September 9-12	AHA Conference	Washington, DC	AHA: 1-800-227-4645
September 10-14	National Animal Control Academy (NACA) Level I	Rochester, NY	Michael Gillingham: 1-800-825-6505
September 20	Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers' Association Conference	Cromwell, CT	Linda Wenner: 860-423-7195
September 28	Chemical Capture	Boston, MA	AHA: 1-800-227-4645
October 7	NH Pet Expo	Manchester, NH	Dori Whynott: 603-888-8088 www.nhpetexpo.com
October 10-13	Tufts Animal Expo	Boston, MA	Tufts Animal Expo: 978-371-2200 or www.tuftsanimalexpo.com
October 18-19 October 20	Euthanasia By Injection Compassion Fatigue	Boston, MA	AHA: 1-800-227-4645
November 1	First Strike Conference	Hancock, MA	Lorna Grande: 413-499-4600 x 572 LornaG13@aol.com
April 3-6, 2002	HSUS Animal Care Expo	Miami, FL	Dina McDaniel: 1-800-248-EXPO or www.animalsheltering.org
April 15-19, 2002	National Animal Control Academy Level I	Hartford, CT	Michael Gillingham: 1-800-825-6505
April 22-24, 2002	NEFHS Annual Training Conference	Vermont	The HSUS New England Regional Office: 802-368-2790
June 13-15, 2002	NACA Training Conference	Reno, NV	NACA: 913-768-1319 or www.nacanet.org

2002 Conference Scholarships Now Available

The New England Federation will once again be offering full and partial scholarships for the upcoming 2002 NEFHS Annual Meeting and Training Conference to be held in Vermont, April 22-24. Scholarships will be awarded to employees or volunteers from non-profit or government agencies, or to individuals who are sponsored by these groups. The NEFHS Board wants to extend scholarship opportunities to as many animal care and control professionals as we can, so don't be shy! We've enclosed an application so you can send it in right away.

Applicants from New England will be given preference, but residents from other areas are also welcome to apply. Individuals who have applied in the past may reapply, but preference will be given to those who have never attended a conference, or who have not received a scholarship within the last three years.

"All of the 2001 applicants were from Mas-

sachusetts," said scholarship committee chair, Linda Huebner. "So we're hoping to have representation from the other New England states as well this year."

This is a working scholarship, so all recipients will be asked to assist the NEFHS Board with conference activities, such as monitoring workshops or collecting

and distributing workshop materials.

"These activities won't take up too much of your time, and they promise to be good networking opportunities," said Huebner. "As in past years, we will coordinate applicants' duties with their desired conference schedule."

"I met a lot of new people as they approached me to ask questions and introduce themselves," said 2001 scholarship recipient and New Bedford, Massachusetts ACO, Emanuel Maciel. "The work was fun and easy, and I was able to attend the workshops that I wanted."

The NEFHS reserves the right to request recipients receiving lodging scholarships to share a room with another recipient, unless other arrangements can be made.

For more information on NEFHS scholarships, contact Linda Huebner at The HSUS's New England Regional Office at 802-368-2790 or lhuebner@hsus.org. The **deadline**



2001 NEFHS Scholarship Winners (from left to right), Guinn Friedman (Animal Advocates), Paul Murphy (Cohasset/Norwell, MA ACO), Sue Webb (Wellesley, MA ACO), Emanuel Maciel (New Bedford, MA ACO), Ananda Lennox (Dakin Animal Shelter). Not pictured: Yvonne Borsody

Ernie Cutter New England Federation Conference Scholarship Application

Deadline for Application: *Must be received by March 8, 2002*

The New England Federation of Humane Societies has a limited number of scholarships available to individuals from organizations in financial need. Scholarship money covers conference registration fees and/or reimbursement for hotel lodging only. Scholarships do not cover meals, transportation or personal expenses. Scholarship recipients may be asked to assist with some clerical duties at the conference as part of the scholarship.

Name: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Job Title/Responsibilities: _____

PLEASE ATTACH ONE PAGE DESCRIBING:

- Why you are interested in attending this program
- How you hope to use what you learn at the conference
- An explanation of your need for financial assistance

In order to attend I am willing to accept:

Free Conference Fee only Hotel Room Reimbursement only I must have both

Requesting waiving of conference fee for:

Monday, April 22 Tuesday April 23 Wednesday, April 24 Full Conference

Requesting lodging costs for Sun., April 21 Mon., April 22 Tues., April 23

I am willing to share a room with another scholarship recipient

I already have plans to share a room with _____ other roommates.

If I am awarded scholarship money for hotel lodging, I understand that I must provide documentation of hotel room fees to be reimbursed and the scholarship will not pay in advance for room fees.

Reimbursement should be made to myself my organization.

Applicant's Signature required _____

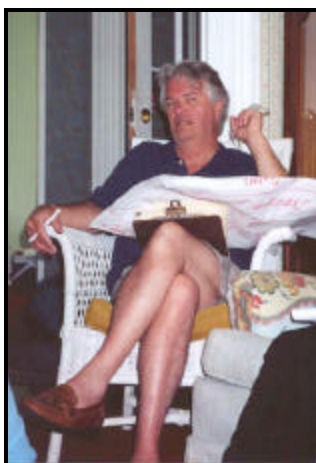
Supervisor's Name _____ Supervisor's Signature _____

Scholarship Applicants Only: Return application *and conference registration* to:

Board Retreat Brings Upcoming Programs Into Focus 5

Beautiful Boothbay Harbor, Maine provided the backdrop for this year's annual NEFHS long-range planning board retreat in mid-June. A relaxed setting and an ambitious agenda set the stage for this two-day event, which is funded by each board member's own organization or at their own personal expense. The retreat allows board members and advisors the vital opportunity to meet and discuss the previous year's conference, and to lay the groundwork for the upcoming conference and other pertinent Federation business. You can mark your calendars now for April 22-24, when Vermont will serve as the host state for the 2002 training conference (location to be announced).

The establishment and work of committees to address several areas of concentration for the NEFHS in the coming year always takes up a great deal of time during the retreat. Committees broke into their respective groups and were charged with creating both key work and specific guidelines for completion of the tasks created for them, as well as an accompanying budget.



Peter Saunders listens as a committee proposes its

As usual, the focus centered on planning for the annual conference. The comments of conference participants were carefully considered, showing once again that this event is truly influenced by the needs of all attendees.

Key for the first day of the retreat was discussing the merits of having a first-ever conference planner in 2001, who attended to details that the all-volunteer board from six states has found difficult to juggle. While all agreed that having a planner made the event run more smoothly, scheduling conflicts have made it impossible for the same planner to participate this year, forcing the Plan-



YOUR NEFHS BOARD AND ADVISORS: (1st row, from left to right): Sandy Monterose, Stephanie Frommer, Anne Lindsay. (2nd. row): Peter Saunders, Rob Fennessy, Steve Jacobsen, Suzanne Onos, Zita Macinanti, Carmine DiCenso. (3rd. row): Neysha Stuart, Tom Browe, Joanne Bourbeau, Linda Huebner, Cheryl Ann Fernandes, Angela Nickerson, Dee Boyle-Clapp. (Not pictured): Kris Jewell, Ray

ner Hiring Committee to either find an equally qualified candidate, or take on the full conference responsibilities once again.

Finding a date and location for any large scale event is always difficult. In order to avoid a conflict with this year's HSUS Animal Care Expo in early April (see Training Calendar on pg. 3 for details) the NEFHS board decided to push back the conference dates to later in the month. The Logistics Committee will be charged with determining the site and hotel pending final word on finances and the assurance that the space will adequately fit the needs of a group our size. Special consideration will be given to a location that offers a blend of night life, affordable lodging, and excellent restaurants.

One of the needs overwhelmingly identified by NEFHS members was a web site. Internet "chat rooms"—where members can post a problem and receive help from others in the field—were also mentioned



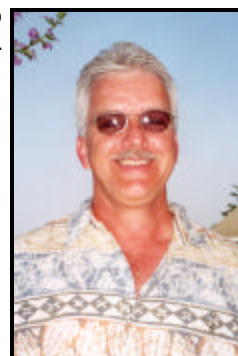
Steve Jacobsen and Suzanne Onos pour over financial statements and notes from last year's retreat.

as being important. A Website Committee will create a plan for a NEFHS-hosted site and will present the costs and design at the September board meeting for a vote.

The Treasurer's report showed that the NEFHS remains financially secure. The board decided to use available funds to both bolster the scholarship fund and to update and maintain the NEFHS mailing list, which is sorely outdated. The daunting task of the newly created Mailing List Committee will be to clean up the existing list and to create a recommendation to the board for the purchase of a new database program and/or the hiring of a mailing service that could maintain the growing list.

In addition, two new board members were elected at the retreat—neither of

whom is a stranger to the work of the Federation. Tom Browe, Executive Director of the Rutland County Humane Society in Pittsford, VT, is a long-time NEFHS member, and served as its president in 1979. Anne Lindsay is Director of Public Relations and Special Projects for the Northeast Animal Shelter in Salem, MA, and serves as president of the Massachusetts Animal Coalition. She has been serving on the NEFHS Advisory Board for the past year and filled a board seat vacated by Ann Gruden.



Newly elected NEFHS board member, Tom Browe.

Board members all agreed that the retreat was a great success—allowing them the opportunity to re-energize their commitment to the Federation and its important work of supporting the missions of animal care and control agencies from throughout New England.

We hope to serve you well in the coming year.

