

NEW ENGLAND NEWS

The New England Federation of Humane Societies Newsletter February 2002



www.NewEnglandFed.org



The NEFHS Board is finally embracing the 21st century with the development of a web site. Under the domain name of www.NewEnglandFed.org, the site is scheduled to launch on January 1, 2002!

After researching and interviewing three web site developers, the Web Committee chose Flyte New Media, located in Portland, Maine, to create the federation's site.

NEFHS Website Committee Chair Suzanne Onos says "Flyte provided the best value for our dollar. Their experience and knowledge as well as their creative sense has made them a pleasure to work with and the site very user

friendly and attractive."

The long overdue web site is one of many services that the board is developing for NEFHS members in response to a survey conducted last year.

"The goal of our site is to create awareness of the NEFHS and our mission and to disseminate information regarding workshops and conferences that we sponsor," said Onos.

The site will consist of a home page, a page with links to regional and national animal welfare organizations, as well as a "Meet the Board" and "Events" section. The NEFHS newsletter and conference brochure will also be on-line, making it even easier for our members to keep up-to-date with important programs and training workshops being offered by the regional federation.



**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.

NEFHS Commits \$10,000 to Scholarship Fund

The board of the NEFHS is committed to offering affordable, professional training to animal care and control agencies throughout New England. The recent decision to allocate an additional \$10,000 to conference scholarships is just another example of the *seriousness* of that commitment. The additional money brings the total scholarship fund to over \$12,000!

"Each year the NEFHS Annual Meeting & Training Conference has increased in attendance and in major sponsorships," said NEFHS Treasurer Steve Jacobsen. "The result of this growth has meant the opportunity for the board to consider an expansion of the conference scholarship program."

With a goal of providing professional training to as many animal care workers as possible, the renewed program will attract many whose circumstances would otherwise not allow them to attend.

"Every year it is reconfirmed that one of the primary goals of the federation should be to provide training opportunities to those in our profession," continued Jacobsen. "Many may not have had an opportunity to attend other training programs in other parts of the country due to budget, travel, or time limitations."

The scholarship program can help organizations send staff to the New England Federation Conference (see brochure). Hotel fees, conference registration fees and travel costs all impact the ability of many to attend. A conference scholarship can help offset some or all of these expenses. All shelter staff from member organizations are urged to apply.

For information regarding the scholarship program, contact Linda Huebner at The HSUS New England Regional Office at lhuebner@hsus.org or call 802-368-2790.

Legislative Update

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

There are literally hundreds of animal bills in various stages of development in New England right now. If you would like a full listing of state legislative "animal bills" being tracked by the HSUS's New England Regional Office—along with their current status—log on to <http://regions.hsus.org/nero/legactivities.asp>. For a printed list of your state bills or bills for the entire region, call (802) 368-2790 or e-mail nero@hsus.org. You can also track bills through your own state legislative branch Internet home pages at the following sites:

- CT: www.cga.state.ct.us/default.asp
 MA: www.state.ma.us/legis/legis.htm
 ME: www.state.me.us/legis/
 NH: www.state.nh.us/gencourt/gencourt.htm
 RI: www.rilin.state.ri.us/
 VT: www.leg.state.vt.us

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE NEWS

We'd like to take this opportunity—and limited space—to update you on an important piece of federal legislation that recently passed Congress.

The Agricultural Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2002 has many components, but most significant are several funding in-

creases which will significantly improve the enforcement of laws designed to provide basic protections to millions of animals.

The legislation includes:

***Increased funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act.** Under this law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for ensuring minimum humane standards at about 10,000 sites, including research laboratories, puppy mills, zoos, circuses, airlines, and other enterprises. The animal care budget stagnated throughout the 1990's at about \$9 million per year, resulting in just 64 inspectors to cover the entire country. This new law will add \$5.15 million to the Department's budget for this program.

***Increased funding for enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act.** This law, which mandates that livestock be rendered insensible to pain before slaughter, has been on the books since 1958, but has suffered from weak enforcement, inadequate staffing, and the agency's decision a few years ago to stop tracking humane slaughter violations, compounded by increasingly intense corporate pressure to speed up slaughterhouse assembly line practices.

***Funding to promote humane farming practices.** \$200,000 was designated to promote the use of "hoop barns" as an alternative to the factory farm system of housing pigs and other animals. Hoop barns are inexpensive, easy-to-install, open-ended structures that allow animals freedom of movement and access to pasture. Because they are not tightly confined in overcrowded, high-stress conditions, animals in hoop barns tend to be healthier than their counterparts in factory farms. Hoop barns are also better for the environment, because they use solid manure composting rather than lagoons typically used by factory farms. The funds will enable the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Iowa State University to develop a "how-to" manual for farmers to use hoop barns in different regions and climates; establish demonstration sites around the country; and work with farmers, processors, retailers and community groups to encourage this sensible and humane alternative.

***Extended protections for birds, rats and mice under the Animal Welfare Act.** These species compromise more than 90% of animals used in research, yet they aren't currently covered under the AWA. Last year, the USDA agreed in a court settlement to begin covering these species, recognizing

2002 Training Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	FOR MORE INFORMATION
April 3-6	HSUS Animal Care Expo 2002	Miami, FL	Dina McDaniel: 1-800-248-EXPO; expo@hsus.org; www.animalsheltering.org
April 22-24	NEFHS Conference	Killington, VT	Christie Kilgus: 401-245-5562
April 29-30	Euthanasia By Injection	Enfield, NH	AHA: 1-800-227-4645
May 29-June 1	National Conference on Animals in Disasters	Fort Worth, TX	HSUS Disaster Services Department: 301-258-3063; disaster@hsus.org; www.hsus.org
July 15-16; July 17	Shelter Operations School (SOS); SOS for Managers	Enfield, NH	AHA: 1-800-227-4645
July 22-26	New England Animal Control/ Humane Academy	Durham, NH	Jeri Zezula: 603-862-1025; zezula@christa.unh.edu; www.unh.edu/neacha/
August 22-24	Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy (CHAMP) (formerly No-Kill Conference)	Reno, NV	Tammy Kirkpatrick: 516-883-7767; info@petsavers.org; www.champconference.org
September 12-15	Tufts Animal Expo 2002	Boston, MA	Susan Brogan: 508-887-4723; www.tuftsanimalexpo.com
September 19	Connecticut Municipal ACO Association Conference	Cromwell, CT	Linda Wenner: 860-423-7195
September 19-22	AHA Conference	Denver, CO	Debby Altendorf: 1-800-227-4645; www.ahasheltercentral.org

A Message From the President

I've decided it's time for me to make a confession: I am a carnivore. Yes, folks, you read right. I actually just admitted to making a dietary choice that is considered by many in this business to be the wrong one. I have taken much criticism in recent years for this choice. In fact, a classmate of mine from graduate school once flat-out told me that I couldn't possibly have thoughtfully considered the issue and still made the choice to eat other animals. I have been told, directly and indirectly, that I can't be omnivorous and still consider myself a humane person.



By Stephanie Frommer

It amazes me that my personal food choice inspires such anger and a need to evangelize by people who disagree with me. I have no interest in changing other people's minds about what they eat. And I don't raise this issue because I want people to feel sorry for me. While I find comments about my eating habits disrespectful and just plain mean, I am comfortable with my choice (and the consideration it took me to make it).

However, I find this a perfect example of many of the disagreements we have within the field of animal welfare and protection. For so long, it has been OK for us to beat each other up over differences in philosophy. A recent trend toward collaboration has tempered this animosity to an extent, but a belief in one "right way" has created an environment in which we feel a need to change our colleagues' views and approaches.

The strength of the NEFHS is our diversity and respectful acceptance of diverging viewpoints. We are not a federation just for traditional shelters and ACO's; we find our membership growing to include advocacy groups, breed- and species-specific rescues, and even retailers and vendors. We all belong to this group because we have common ground where we can meet to work on behalf of the animals and communities we serve. Let's continue to respect each other's differences, and focus on our commonalities. Let's agree to dis-

New England Set to Launch Animal Fighting Task Force

In November of 1998, The HSUS New England Regional Office co-sponsored two well-attended day-long workshops on the investigation of animal fighting. There was a great deal of interest and discussion about establishing a regional animal fighting task force, and over the past several years, this issue has been revisited in an effort to organize this type of collaboration.

Despite increasingly strict laws regarding prohibitions against dog and cockfighting, these illegal bloodsports have continued to flourish in many parts of the country—including New England.

Our goal in establishing a regional task force that includes representatives from all six New England states is multifaceted: to improve cross-reporting and communication among law enforcement departments, cruelty investigators, animal control officers and humane societies

both within and across state borders; to provide needed training for those in the field; to educate the public; and to strengthen the laws that address this issue while also supporting their enforcement.

"With stakeholders throughout the animal protection community representing such a variety of interests and backgrounds, it has been a challenge to launch this task force," said HSUS program coordinator Hillary Twinning. "We realize the importance of soliciting a broad-based, representative membership and giving everyone an opportunity to participate and contribute."

With this goal in mind, the HSUS New England Regional Office, in conjunction with the New England Animal Control/Humane Academy, has designed a survey to assess the interest level in establishing a New England animal fighting task force. If you would like to be involved in such a task force,

Mobile Workshops Hit the Road Again

In response to the popularity of the mobile training workshops on customer service and euthanasia offered by the NEFHS a few years back, the board decided at its last long-range planning retreat to revive this great idea. Based on the premise that many shelters don't have the time or money to send staff to training workshops, the NEFHS brings these workshops to you . . . at no cost to your organization! Taught by expert teams, including veterinarians and shelter professionals, these workshops offer staff and volunteers personalized training in the comfort of their own shelter.

The NEFHS Mobile Workshop Committee has put together the following list of possible training workshops—based on responses from the NEFHS member survey as well as the availability of appropriate trainers. If you would like more information about these workshops and how your shelter can take advantage of this opportunity, contact Linda Huebner at 802-368-2790 or e-mail LHuebner@hsus.org.

- Small Animal Care
- Handling and Adopting Pit Bulls
- Disaster Planning for Animal Facilities
- Developing Protocols for Open Adoptions
- Dogs in the Shelter: Behavior, Handling and Placement
- Cats in the Shelter: Behavior, Handling and Placement
- URI and Other Common Shelter Diseases
- Breed Identification and Management (Dogs and Cats)
- Sanitation Protocols
- Euthanasia
- Shelter Stress Management

National Resources

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PET OWNERS REPORTING FOR DUTY. The HSUS, AHA, ASPCA and NACA are encouraging shelters to support military pet owners during this difficult time. A special section on the HSUS web site (www.hsus.org) includes a checklist for military pet owners, a sample foster-care agreement form, and a pet personality questionnaire designed to help temporary caretakers. It's also important for each shelter to determine how they can help pets and pet owners during this time, and the site contains several suggestions on developing appropriate programs.

ANIMAL SHELTERING MAGAZINE'S (ASM) 'HOW TO' SERIES BINDER NOW AVAILABLE. Readers of ASM often rely on its "How To" instructional pieces to help them train new employees and volunteers in everything from handling a control pole to setting up a cat cage. Now you can order a complete set of all the "How To" sheets the HSUS has produced since January 1996, when the first issue of ASM debuted. Compiled in one binder, "How to Do Almost Anything in the Shelter" sells for \$7.95 and includes 35 reproducible "How To's" that cover animal handling, animal health, cat care, dog care and training, basic operations, outreach and fundraising, small mammal care, and wild and exotic animal care. To purchase a copy, send a check or money order to Animal Sheltering/HSUS, Attention "How To Binder", 700 Professional Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

ANIMAL CONTROL MANAGEMENT: A GUIDE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. This popular resource for city governments on funding, structuring and running an effective animal care and control program has been expanded and fully updated. Written by The

HSUS and published by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the 108-page book covers everything from recommended animal control funding levels to the importance of disaster preparedness. It also includes simplified formulas for estimating your community's pet population and figuring out the size and cost of building a new animal shelter. The book is available from the HSUS for \$11 (half off the ICMA's list price). Send a check to HSUS, ICMA Guide - NEFHS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037, and specify order #AC4037.

PETFINDER DEBUTS NEW "EXPERT PAGE" ON SHELTER MANAGEMENT. The ASPCA's exhaustive, on-line library of articles on a variety of shelter topics now features a new section on shelter management, written by the NEFHS's very own past-president, Bert Troughton. Look for a new feature every six weeks. Some recent topics include "Managers: Use Your Dog Training Skills," which shows managers how to use the principles of humane dog training for effective management, and "Meetings with Merit", which illustrates how to effectively use staff meetings as strategic tools. Log on to www.petfinder.org for more information on these and other articles.

ASPCA UNVEILS HUMANE EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE FOR TEACHERS. This guide is a handy tool for teachers and humane educators wishing to incorporate humane themes into their lessons. Keeping pets in the classroom, guidelines for student projects involving animals, and students' rights concerning dissection are just some of the areas covered in the guide. It includes a calendar of important animal-friendly dates and months matched to corresponding

standards-based activities and lesson plans. Teachers will also find a wealth of information. For information on ordering the guide, which costs \$9.95, contact the ASPCA at 212-876-7700 x 4400 or e-mail education@aspc.org.

ASPCA ANNOUNCES WORKSHOP AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. The ASPCA publishes a list of workshops and seminars that it offers on community outreach and shelter operations. There is normally no speaker fee, and handouts are available for each seminar. Workshop topics include "Professional Animal Control: Back to Basics", "Pediatric Spay/Neuter", "The Pit Bull Dilemma", and "Long Term Animal Care: Challenges and Considerations". For a full listing of available workshops, contact Sandy Monterose of the ASPCA's National Shelter Outreach program at 860-274-4825 or email sandym@aspc.org, or check the web site at www.aspc.org for a full listing.

AHA OFFERS GUIDE TO HUMANE DOG TRAINING. Anyone can call themselves a "dog trainer". No competency test or practical experience is required. But pet owners sometimes incorrectly equate the title with expertise, and more importantly, compassion. AHA's "Guide to Humane Dog Training" includes sections on dog behavior, how a dog learns, training a dog, tools & equipment, and choosing a humane dog trainer. For more information about the book, see www.americanhumane.org. To order a copy for \$15, call the AHA's donor/member services at 1-800-227-4645.

ANIMAL NEWS CENTER LAUNCHES WEBSITE. Interested in what's going on in the world of animals? Animal News Center (ANC), a new nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting animal welfare news,



2002 Animal Celebrations

FEBRUARY

- 26: Spay Day USA (Doris Day Animal Foundation; www.ddal.org)

APRIL

- Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month (ASPCA; www.aspc.org)
- 6: Tag Day (AHA; www.americanhumane.org)

MAY

- National Pet Month (American Pet Products Manufacturers Association; www.appma.org)
- 5-11: Be Kind to Animals Week (AHA);
- 5-11: National Pet Week (AVMA; www.avma.org)
- 19-25: National Dog Bite Prevention Week (HSUS; www.nodogbites.org)

JUNE

- Adopt-a-Cat Month (AHA)
- Adopt a Shelter Cat Month (ASPCA)
- National Disaster Preparedness for Animals Month (HSUS; www.hsus.org)

SEPTEMBER

- 15-21: National Farm Animal Awareness Week (HSUS)

OCTOBER

- Adopt-a-Dog Month (AHA)
- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month (ASPCA)

NOVEMBER

- 3-9: National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week (HSUS)

