

NEW ENGLAND NEWS

The New England Federation of Humane Societies Newsletter February 2004



“SAFE CATS” CAMPAIGN WILL DEBUT AT FEDERATION CONFERENCE

The HSUS is pleased to announce that its new Safe Cats Campaign will make its official New England debut at this year's NEFHS training conference in Westborough, MA.

Through Safe Cats, the HSUS aims to help cat lovers better understand the very real dangers cats face when they walk out the door alone, and how to make the great indoors just as thrilling as the outdoors they may already know and love. Whether your adoption policy is already “indoors or forget it” or if you're just looking to offer stronger suggestions and information to adopters, Safe Cats provides ideas and materials that will work for you.

The HSUS hopes the campaign will increase awareness about the threats cats face when allowed outdoors unsupervised, shatter the myth that an indoor cat is an unhappy cat, and spread the word that shelter professionals and veterinarians alike advocate against allowing cats to roam.

“With the theme of Tuesday's day-long program focusing on cat issues, the HSUS New England Regional Office felt the timing and location could-

n't be better to debut our campaign,” said director Joanne Bourbeau.

A press conference will be held at the end of Tuesday's lunch, from 1:00 to 1:30. Representatives from the fields of sheltering, veterinary medicine, wildlife and state government will be on hand to speak to the press about the positive benefits of keeping cats safe—indoors or outdoors. The local hockey team, the Worcester Ice Cats, will also be on hand, along with their mascot, “Scratch”.



a safe cat, including the pictured “Pet Cart”, which provides a cozy, safe outdoor retreat for cats.

There will also be some exciting raffles for products geared toward making the outdoor cat

Some New England shelters, like the Animal Welfare Society in W. Kennebunk, ME, are already using the cart to display adoptable animals at their own and off-site adoption sites. It retails for \$1,695 but deep discounts and promotional specials are available to shelters. In addition, Especially for Pets, a state-wide pet supply store in Massachusetts, will be displaying indoor cat products and raffling off prizes from their store.

The HSUS is also looking for local animal welfare and animal control agencies to partner with them during this year-long campaign. Among the projects planned are creating a book of testimonials from the sheltering community, which will highlight the very serious problems associated with free-roaming cats. Partners will also receive free HSUS Safe Cats materials to distribute to their clients, sample press releases to highlight the good work they do, and links to their website on the HSUS's Safe Cats website, www.SafeCats.org.

If you haven't already received a mailing with all the details about this exciting promotion, contact The HSUS at 802-368-2790 or nero@hsus.org.

📄 SCHOLARSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2004 CONFERENCE

The New England Federation of Humane Societies (NEFHS) will once again be offering full and partial scholarships for attendance to its annual training conference (see enclosed brochure for more details on the program).

Scholarships will be awarded to employees or volunteers from non-profit organizations or government agencies, or to individuals who are sponsored by those groups. Applicants from the New England states 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 applicants who have never attended a conference or who have not re-

ceived a scholarship within the last three years. Full scholarship recipients will be expected to share a hotel room with other recipients. All recipients will be required to assist the NEFHS Board with activities such as assembling conference packets and goodie bags, selling T-shirts, distributing/collecting workshop evaluation forms, etc.

For more information on NEFHS conference scholarships, contact Linda Huebner at the HSUS's New England Regional Office at 802-368-2790 or lhuebner@hsus.org. **The deadline for receipt of scholarship applications is March 12, 2004.**



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.*

Have Clinic. Will Travel.

It's 7:00 a.m. on a November Sunday and the frost is thick across the Dakin Animal Shelter's big dog play yard. Larson the office cat greets me with a grumpy head butt against my leg then marches back to his bed on my chair. He knows I'm only here to throw the six baskets of clean laundry, the box of newspapers, and the two folding tables into the back of my truck.

I'm the first to arrive at the Sunderland Animal Hospital. I unload my supplies near the front door and move my truck to the farthest parking spot, making way for other volunteers and cat people to come and unload. I don't have to wait long before the first team leader volunteers arrive—Annette from surgery, Kim from anesthesia, and Whitney from post-op. Mary arrives with her station wagon filled with twenty cats in covered traps.

Promptly at 8:00, Dr. Ellis arrives to unlock the hospital. Karina swings in to the driveway, her station wagon bursting with the makings of a mobile spay/neuter clinic—surgical instruments, gloves, vaccine. We grab a box and begin toting. With 23 clinics under our belts, we have the system down. We dig through the admissions box at the front table, scrawl out our nametags, and set about preparing for the first cats.

As Mary unloads the twenty cats from her station wagon, more cats begin to arrive. Ruth has driven the last of her ten-cat dairy farm colony all the way from Warren. Cindy has one lone feral from her place in Whately. Sue, who has been slowly working on her colony in Easthampton, brings in one more. Steve and Mike, beside themselves with the exploding cat colony in their Northampton cul-de-sac, score five cats and one kitten on their first attempt trapping. Others begin to trickle in—their stories all echo one theme: we need to get these cats neutered before things get out of control.

Things got out of control long ago at a large dairy farm in Hadley. Sheila, a dedicated volunteer, has been trapping cats and kittens for months from the many barns and outbuildings on the farm. This time, she brings in ten more. Dozens of cats have been neutered at previous clinics. Dozens more wait to be done.

Yvonne, Melissa, and Carol Anne arrive with a load of ten cats from Berkshire County. Without access to free spay/neuter for ferals, these three cat lovers have been plugging away, one cat at a time, as their budget allows. They are thrilled to have access to a clinic that can do ten at once. We promptly put them to work laying out newspapers, writing out rabies certificates, and cleaning traps.

With 80 cats already in the small waiting room,

things are starting to smell a little ripe. Finally, the Homeless Cat Project contingent arrives. Debbie and her volunteers unload vans filled with 31 cats trapped from all over Hampden County. They stack them in the hallway until the admissions volunteers can check them in. The smell thickens.

With anesthesia underway, cats begin to trickle out into the prep area. The prep team at Feral Spay Sunday usually consists of the same three friends. Their jobs include expressing bladders (a nice way of saying “squeezing the pee out of the cat”) and shaving and scrubbing the surgery site. Prep technicians also measure, clamp, and then cauterize off the last ¼ inch of each cat's right ear. This “eartipping” procedure helps us identify cats who have already been neutered. For trappers working with large colonies, this little procedure is a godsend.

Strapped onto a plexiglass spay board, upside down, spread eagle, her belly shaved and glowing orange from the surgery scrub, a cat is carried to one of five waiting veterinarians. Two vets are working on one table in the surgery room. Two others work on makeshift tables. Another, the Neuter Vet, lines up male cats and neuters them on a fourth table. The veterinarians are volunteering this day, just like everyone else—from students to computer programmers to animal shelter workers. Every vet here today has worked at other Feral Spay Sunday clinics. Many of them several times already this year. For some, Sunday is their only day off.

Her surgery complete, her dissolvable sutures set, the little cat is unstrapped from her spay board and tucked into the waiting arms of another transport volunteer. Today, students from the Holyoke Community College veterinary technician program came to observe the clinic in action. They came with notebooks and good listening skills. But several family emergencies made us shorthanded. They were told to put their notebooks away, grab some latex gloves, and start working. The students helped in recovery, trap cleaning, admissions, discharge, transport, and post-op. One darted around with a camera, snapping shots in between her trap cleaning duties. Many volunteered to return for future clinics.

Unfortunately, more than half of today's 111 cats will need to be treated for fleas and earmites. This means a cursory ear cleaning and a quick dose of Advantage. All the while, Kyle, the volunteer in charge of recording every bit of medical treatment, chimes into the chaos, confirming treatment for each cat, insisting on information that has been overlooked. Every bit of data becomes a statistic...64 cats treated for fleas, 2 ingrown claws removed, 4 lactating cats, 109 rabies vaccines administered. The numbers mean little on paper, but they will build our

budget. They will make our case.

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A second post-op table is hastily assembled outside the exam room. I work with two Holyoke Community College students, Judy and Pam, to speed through the surplus cats. We get a 13-pound tomcat with a neck like a pro wrestler. He is followed by a fluffy 4-month old kitten who barely tipped the scale at 4 pounds. Both will wake up in their covered traps in the waiting room.

The cat caretakers are beginning to arrive for their charges. Thomasina digs her cats out from the carefully arranged rows in the waiting room. I group the caretakers together and go over recovery instructions—no food or water tonight, keep them in their covered traps for their own safety, keep them warm, look for complications.... Catherine checks them off as they leave. I promise to mail them their rabies certificates. Carol Anne can't write fast enough to get them all ready ahead of time.

Diane, a colony caretaker from East Brookfield, squeezes my upper arm and says “thank you.” Another smiles and shyly slips me \$40.00 in cash as a donation. Not everyone who brings a cat to the clinic can afford to pay. Some choose to pay more than their share, realizing that it all goes to help the cats.

The anesthesia rooms are empty, the soiled newspaper cleared away. The Post-op team is checking off their inventory sheets and packing up their supplies. The volunteers in each area hustle to put things back the way they were when we arrived.

As I head home, back up Montague Road, the sun has long since set over the hills to the west of the shelter. I smell like the dickens and my sweatshirt is stained with something suspiciously yellow. My feet are killing me. I know I'll go home to my own cats and remind them how lucky they are to have me. There are other cats out there, I'll tell them, for whom it's going to be a long, cold night.



Leslie Harris is the executive director of the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett, MA. You can learn more about their Feral Spay Sunday program at the NEFHS conference's cat program on April 27th (see enclosed program for more details).

Why Do We Need the Fed?



By Anne Lindsay

meet others in the field, where they can all learn and share ideas.

In New England, we are fortunate to have several state organizations for both animal welfare and animal control professionals – The Maine Federation of Humane Societies, the Maine Animal Control Association, The New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations, The Vermont Humane Federation, the Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers' Association, the Rhode Island Animal Control Association, the Animal Control Association of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Animal Coalition. Discussions to start a federation for private shelters in Connecticut have also begun.

These associations meet regularly and provide an opportunity for peers to keep in touch with each others' activities throughout their respective states. Most of them also hold regular training conferences to help broaden the knowledge and expertise of their members.

New England also boasts two regional associations. The New England Animal Control/Humane Academy holds a week-long training academy in July for ACO's throughout New England. The New

England Federation of Humane Societies (affectionately known as "The Fed") provides education, training, information and networking opportunities for animal protection organizations throughout the region.

While state organizations work on issues particular to their own states, The Fed hosts an annual conference which brings us all together from all over New England – and from New York, New Jersey, and even Colorado and New Brunswick! At the conference, which will be in Westborough, MA this year, we promote the sharing of ideas by creating an environment for making connections. Each year, attendees look forward to coming back to The Fed conference to see old friends, make new ones, and to get charged up with great ideas so they can go back to their organizations and try the new things they learned.

So if you are looking for a connection between your daily responsibilities and the more global terrain of animal welfare, look to The Fed for that connection. We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

If you are involved in day-to-day activities that result in saving animals' lives, you may not get much of an opportunity to reflect on the bigger picture. In fact, you might not have time for LUNCH, let alone what's going on in the larger world of animal welfare! To help you stay in touch, federations and coalitions are there for you.

Federations and coalitions can help animal professionals by providing opportunities for them to

2004 ANIMAL CELEBRATIONS

Every dog (and cat) does have their day. Did you know that March 3rd is "What if Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs Day" and April 30th is "National Hairball Awareness Day"? Or that "National Scoop the Poop Week" is April 24-30? Here's a list of some of the more "recognizable" (and relevant) animal celebrations for 2004!

- JAN **ADOPT A RESCUED BIRD MONTH** (ASPCA/Petfinder)
- FEB **ADOPT A RESCUED RABBIT MONTH** (ASPCA/Petfinder)
- 2/24 **SPAY DAY USA** (Doris Day Animal Foundation)
- MAR **ADOPT A RESCUED GUINEA PIG MONTH** (ASPCA/Petfinder)
- 3/14-20 **NATIONAL ANIMAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK** (ASPCA/Petfinder)
- APRIL **PREVENTION OF ANIMAL CRUELTY MONTH** (ASPCA/Petfinder)
- 4/18-25 **ANIMAL CRUELTY/HUMAN VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK** (HSUS)
- 5/2-8 **BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK** (AMERICAN HUMANE)
- 5/16-22 **NATIONAL DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK** (NAHEE)
- JUNE **ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH** (ASPCA/Petfinder)
- 8/21 **NATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS DAY** (ISAR)
- 9/19-25 **NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL AWARENESS WEEK** (HSUS)
- OCT **ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH** (ASPCA/Petfinder)
- NOV **ADOPT A SENIOR PET MONTH** (ASPCA/Petfinder)
- 11/7-14 **NATIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER APPRECIATION WEEK** (HSUS)

MEET OUR CONFERENCE COORDINATOR



Attendees at this year's NEFHS conference will have a chance to meet the board's recently selected conference coordinator, Sandy Trapasso.

Sandy's background consists of extensive meeting, conference, incentive and events planning. She has been involved in different facets of the industry for over seven years. She is the mother of 4—

Vanessa (3 and 1/2), Victoria (1 and 1/2), Jazmine (her first born 7-yr old black lab) and Jewel (a six-month old tortoiseshell cat). She really enjoys her life as a stay-at-home mom with a sprinkle of work and adult interaction added to the mix.

"I'm thrilled to be part of the NEFHS conference and their mission: providing animal professionals world-class education and cutting edge technology. This conference was developed to help make a real difference in the lives of innocent animals, and the tracks were carefully designed to provide the tools to do just that. I hope to meet you in April!"

PRINT & VIDEO

Best Friends Forgotten is a video that follows two animals, a cat and a dog, from two large animal shelters in Chicago and Los Angeles. The film focuses on the realities of pet overpopulation, and is going around to film festivals throughout the country. PetFinder is working with shelters that may be interested in bringing the film to their local community and have a booth explaining their agency's programs. Go to www.givevoicetoanimals.org to find out more.

Meet Your Match: The Canine-ality Adoption Program Guide is an upbeat program developed by Dr. Emily Weiss and the Kansas Humane Society. Looking for a way to make adoptions more engaging and educational for the public? This takes dog adoptions to the next level and gives adopters a more active role in finding their match. Potential adopters will gain insight into each dog's preferences, develop more realistic expectations and appreciate what each dog has to offer. Cost is \$15. Contact outreach@aspca.org for ordering information.

The State of the Animals II: 2003 is an all-new volume in this series. Internationally known scholars and distinguished experts examine the challenges facing farm animals, shelter animals, and wildlife worldwide from religious, legal, educational and strategic perspectives. For more information on this 260-page resource, log on to www.hsus.org/ace/20088 or send \$38.95, plus \$3 shipping and handling to Office Services, HSUS, 2100 L. St., NW, Washington, DC 20037. The book is also available on amazon.com.

PROGRAMS

The Benji's Buddies Fund is an exciting new effort from American Humane, Benji, and Bayer Animal Health to help offset the costs of treating the homeless animal victims of abuse. Financial assistance will be provided to the animal welfare organization responsible for the temporary care of the animal, as the animal is prepared for adoption into a permanent, loving home. There is no application process, and funding is awarded on a case-by-case basis by American Humane's Shelter Services staff. Check www.ahasheltercentral.org for more details.

A Co-Op Buying Program for Animal Shelters was recently launched by the Pet Savers Foundation, which entered into an agreement with several companies to provide discount prices on their products to humane organizations. Shelters can receive discounts on items ranging from pharmaceuticals to cages to collars and leashes. Membership is free, and there are no minimum order requirements to join. Groups interested in learning more and signing up should contact Pet Savers at their toll-free number 1-800-233-7544.

The Hill's Science Diet Shelter Partners Feeding Program provides HSUS Shelter Partners with enough Science Diet premium pet food at little or no cost to meet in-shelter feeding needs. Hill's also provides shelters with free small bags of food for distribution to every adopter. Shelters are only responsible for the cost of shipping the food. You must be a member of the HSUS's Shelter Partners program to participate. To learn more or to enroll, call 1-866-283-1217 or send an inquiry to shelters@hillspet.com.

Sharing the World with Animals & Compartiendo el Mundo con los Animales are new humane education programs from the ASPCA. Developed for Grades 3-5, these programs feature 30 classroom-ready, reproducible activities with easy-to-follow lesson plans. *Sharing the World with Animals & Spanish language Compartiendo el Mundo con los Animales* support the national standards in science, language arts, mathematics, social studies, technology and art. Cost is \$9.95. Contact education@aspca.org for ordering information.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Earn a **Certificate in Executive Leadership** without leaving your shelter. This new on-line program costs only \$89, and is conducted by Humane Society University, the training division of The HSUS. Students are required to take a total of four on-line courses, and can expect to spend 2-4 hours per week on each course, reading the "lectures" and completing the assignments on the Discussion Boards. Check out the Nonprofit Management section of the course directory on www.HumaneSocietyU.org to find out more.

Finding Foundation Support for Your Education is a free on-line course from The Foundation Center, the nation's leading authority on philanthropy. This free e-learning tutorial is designed for students seeking financial support to pursue their education. It offers a step-by-step approach to securing scholarships and covers facts about foundations and other sources of student financial aid. Visit their virtual classroom at <http://fdncenter.org/learn/classroom/index.html> to sign up.

The HSUS Pets for Life Behavior CD-Roms are now available free to shelters, veterinarians, trainers, boarding kennels, and anyone who is a pet care professional and gets questions about pet behavior. With solutions to nearly 50 of the most common behavior complaints that dog and cat caregivers have, these CD Roms are sure to keep pets in their homes. Organizations can customize the sheets with their own contact information and print them out in beautiful 4-color designs, allowing even small groups to present highly professional looking materials. To order this free resource, send \$3 for shipping and handling to c/o

HSUS/PFL CD Rom, 2100 L. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

NEWS

President Bush signed the **Captive Wildlife Safety Act** into law in December, barring the interstate and foreign commerce of dangerous exotic animals for the pet trade—including lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and cougars. An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 exotic cats are kept as pets in the United States. Recent high-profile animal attacks highlighted the need for this law. The Act provides exemptions for legitimate wildlife sanctuaries and licensed exhibitors with the USDA.

The American Partnership for Pets (APP) was thrilled to announce that the US Postal Service's (USPS) **Neuter/Spay stamps achieved "blockbuster" status and have sold out**. Given the extraordinary 250 million print run, this is a notable accomplishment. The average issue for a social awareness stamp is 150 million, with other commemoratives averaging 80 million. The "king" (Elvis Presley) still holds the record at 517 million. Since fans of the stamps learned they were sold out, APP has been bombarded with reprint inquiries. The USPS almost never reprints these types of stamps, which are intended to remain on sale for a year or while supplies last. Animal professionals are hoping the post office will make an exception in this case. If reprinted in sufficient quantity and sold out again, Neuter/Spay could be headed for a record as the best selling commemorative stamp in modern day USPS history! Please visit the APP website at www.americanpartnershipforpets.org for more information.

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians recently published their **2004 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control**. One change affecting animal shelters is an exception to the recommendation that vaccines be administered under the direct supervision of a veterinarian for animals held in animal control shelters. Although the new language allows for non-veterinarians to administer rabies vaccines, it still must be under the authority of a supervising veterinarian who can be held accountable and who can insure that the persons administering the vaccine are appropriately trained. The Committee saw this change as an opportunity to increase vaccination rates without jeopardizing accountability, especially in areas that are underserved by veterinarians, according to a memorandum published by the chair of the committee, Dr. Suzanne Jenkins. For a copy of the new compendium, visit www.hs.state.az.us/phs/oids/vector/rabies/pdf/compendium.pdf.

Connecticut

The Connecticut Department of Corrections and the Department of Transportation have worked cooperatively with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in the building of the low cost "Second Chance Animal Rescue Facility". Built and maintained by Gates Correctional Prison inmates under the supervision of Gates and DOA staff, the facility cost only \$21,000 using recycled materials. "The department can take action on abused animals, but unlike dogs and cats, there is no rescue group or humane society for large animals," explained DOA Commissioner Paul Gresczyk. "We had no place to put them, especially multiple horse seizures." The Department of Administrative Services and the University of Connecticut are currently assisting the DOA in an auction effort to find new homes for two dozen horses that were seized as part of a year-long investigation. In all, twenty-seven horses, a mule, cow, and sixteen birds found dehydrated and exhibiting varying levels of starvation were rescued by the DOA.

Maine

Since the launch of a ballot initiative to ban the baiting, hounding and trapping of Maine's black bears, the campaign has steadily gained momentum. Approximately 50,000 signatures from registered Maine voters were needed by late autumn in order to qualify the measure for the November 2004 ballot. In a stunning turn of events, the all-volunteer signature gathering effort produced nearly 100,000 signatures, breaking all previous records in the state! Animal advocates still have work ahead, though. The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine has pledged to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to fight this measure and is receiving strong support from political heavyweights like the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the notorious trophy hunting organization Safari Club International (SCI). If you would like to support the educational outreach efforts of Maine Citizens for Fair Bear Hunting by making a contribution or volunteering your time, please contact campaign headquarters at 207-781-5155 or email info@fairbearhunting.org.

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Animal-Friendly license plate is selling quickly! The Registry of Motor Vehicles has given the Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC) the go-ahead, and the actual license plates will be ready to put on cars in late June, early July! The proceeds from each plate will go toward spaying and neutering animals from shelters, animal control programs, and rescue organizations in Massachusetts. A MAC Task Force will oversee the program. For more information, or to order a license plate, visit the MAC site at www.massanimalcoalition.org or call 617-541-5101.

Animal advocates are concerned about legislation that could have a devastating effect on wildlife. Two bills would bring back recreational fur trapping with body-gripping Conibear traps (H200) and steel-jaw leghold traps (H4283). For more information on how you can help, contact Linda Huebner at 802-368-2790 or lhuebner@hsus.org.

New Hampshire

The Greenville Wildlife Park closed its doors to the public on November 1st. The New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS) has placed 24 animals in sanctuaries, the result of a long investigation and series of negotiations between NEAVS and the Park. NEAVS advocated for permanent and humane homes for the Greenville animals and an end to the buying, breeding, and selling of exotics and native wildlife by the Park.

A series of brutal seal mutilations on NH's seacoast—involving their skinning and removal of their sexual organs—are being investigated by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Seal genitalia are considered high-priced aphrodisiacs in Asian markets. These crimes are a violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Nearly \$8,000 in reward money has been pledged by local, state and national groups to find the perpetrators of these heinous acts.

Rhode Island

As television shows like Animal Cops and Animal Precinct have grown in popularity, the public has become increasingly aware of the important role that animal cruelty investigators play in responding to animal abuse and neglect complaints. But how is animal abuse and neglect measured? When does a situation merit aggressive action and when is owner education more appropriate? Last summer, the HSUS and the Rhode Island SPCA were awarded \$5,000 from the Rhode Island Foundation to fully fund a training seminar on the investigation of animal cruelty. The purpose of the event was to familiarize ACO's with standardized tools developed by veterinary experts to assist in the assessment of abused and neglected animals. The seminar was attended by over 60 animal care and control professionals, and was truly a win-win situation. The partnering agencies hope that this training will support successful animal cruelty investigations and effective intervention strategies throughout the state.

Vermont

The Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force recently launched its website, www.vactf.org. The site is filled with useful information for both humane agents and private citizens on how to recognize, report, and rectify animal cruelty complaints. It features an electronic version of the 200+ page training and resource manual, How to Investigate Animal Cruelty in Vermont, which was funded by the Vermont Humane Federation, the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, and The HSUS. The site allows visitors to easily navigate the manual and the state's animal cruelty laws, along with sample investigation forms, fact sheets, and articles on a variety of animal welfare topics. The site comes on the heels of a successful day-long workshop on conducting animal cruelty investigations that was eagerly attended by more than 50 humane agents, law enforcement officers, and municipal officials from throughout Vermont. For more information about the Task Force and these new resources, contact Joanne Bourbeau at 802-368-2790 or jboubeau@hsus.org.

This past November, the Providence Animal Rescue League hosted a day-long training workshop on humane education topics. It was attended by 34 animal care and control professionals from around New England.



The event was sponsored by the New England Federation of Humane Societies, who helped us get the word out. The ASPCA provided a wonderful speaker in Sandy Monterose, and supplied copies of the incredible resource, "101 Great New Shelter Ideas", to each attendee. PetsMart Charities underwrote the cost of breakfast and lunch.

The day was jam-packed with programs. Ann Gearhart presented her fast-paced "New Venues in Humane Education" workshop and provided a myriad of materials to the attendees. I did a presentation on community partnerships and the unique "Pets and People" museum exhibit that the Providence ARL designed, installed, and now staffs at the Providence Children's Museum.

When preparing for a regional workshop, we often wonder who, if anyone, will come. What will they want, and will they be satisfied that it was worth their effort to attend?

From the feedback that I have received since that workshop, I would say that humane educators in the New England area have been hungry for training and an opportunity to meet others in their field. We shared ideas, had discussions, visited the Providence Children's Mu-

seum, and finished the day with an hour of sharing program ideas. It was a great day here in Rhode Island.

Humane educators are a breed apart!



2004 TRAINING CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	FOR MORE INFORMATION
February 28, 29 & March 1	Ice Rescue Training for Animals	Stratham, NH	Joanne Bourbeau: 802-368-2790; jbourbeau@hsus.org; www.hsus.org/nero
March 8-12	National Animal Control Association Level I Academy	E. Windsor, CT	NACA: 913-768-1319 (option 6); www.nacanet.org
March 10-14	HSUS Animal Care Expo	Dallas, TX	Dina McDaniel: 1-800-248-EXPO; expo@hsus.org; www.animalsheltering.org
March 18 - May 20 (one day/week)	Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts Certification Course	Agawam, MA	Cheryl Malone: 508-394-1315; dogwench@attbi.com
April 4	From the Playground to Detention Hall with Dr. Karen London	Littleton, MA	Dana Crevling: 508-529-3568; crevling@dogsofcourse.com; www.dogsofcourse.com
April 26-28	NEFHS Annual Training Conference	Westborough, MA	Sandi Trapasso: 508-234-5017; sandra.trapasso@verizon.net; www.newenglandfed.org
May 12-15	HSUS National Conference on Animals in Disaster	Philadelphia, PA	Anne Culver: 301-258-3103; aculver@hsus.org; www.hsus.org/disaster
May 16	Canine Communication and Behavior Evaluation with Dr. Emily Weiss	Springfield, MA	Info@alldogrescue.org
July 26-30	New England Animal Control/ Humane Academy	Durham, NH	Jeri Zezula: 603-862-1025; zezula@christa.unh.edu; www.unh.edu/neacha/
August 19-22	Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy (CHAMP)	Orlando, FL	The Pet Savers Foundation: 516-883-7767; info@champconference.org;
September 16	Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Association Conference	Cromwell, CT	Linda Wenner: 860-487-0137; lwenner@prodigy.net
September 27-28	American Humane Conference	Philadelphia, PA	Debby Altendorf: 800-227-4645 x 435; debby@americanhumane.org