

NEW ENGLAND NEWS

The New England Federation of Humane Societies Newsletter September 2003



2003 CONFERENCE EDUCATES AND INSPIRES

If last year's event was "grand", this year's was "royal". The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire served as the host for the 2003 NEFHS Annual Meeting and Training Conference held this past April. This conference would not have been possible without the support of sponsors like Petco, the ASPCA, Petsmart, The HSUS, The Pet Savers Foundation, American Humane, ACES and the New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations, as well the participation of over 170 attendees who benefited from this 3-day interactive and educational seminar.

Welcoming remarks and thought-provoking commentary from industry leader, Kathleen Savesky, gave listeners an understanding of how to survive in the ever-emotional world of animal welfare. Recognizing burnout, being a leader for tomorrow, and knowing one's own style--combined with positive presentation--can give us the power in everyday communication to make fundamental changes that benefit others as well as ourselves. Savesky's commentary as a social change advocate, and her positive "save or savor the world" inspiration, was a "crowning" start to the conference.



Throughout the day attendees had a menagerie of workshops to choose from. The evening's *Exhibitor's Gala* displayed the newest products and programs available to animal care and control professionals, and featured an "Animals in Art" exhibit showcasing works of art and photography from artists from throughout New England.

On day two, conference goers were treated to another full day of instructional sessions, along with a day-long track, *The Changing Face of Shelter Dogs*, which kept many attendees in deep discussion well after the day's conclusion. This examination of shelter dog evolution offered new advice and hope for teamwork from municipal as well as non-profit humane organizations. The night concluded with a scrumptious create-your-own pasta bar and an unforgettable comedy show, which kept the audience laughing even at breakfast the next day.

As with every year, day three's limit to a half day still allowed attendees to savor just a bit more training. Closing remarks over brunch are always meant to inspire and create thoughts for the journey home. The MSPCA's



Carter Luke, one of the industry's chivalrous noblemen, brought the audience to a halt with his views on how to create a responsible, respectable and compassionate world. Not only did his examination of what is natural behavior for our species provoke us, but the tear-inducing documentary he showed on elephants in captivity left an impression

on all who sat silent in front of the screen. Luke's unique and charismatic commentary explained how to have a true bond with animals while letting go of old habits to make changes.

So the eloquent message is but a simple one . . . there needs to be a way to help *move* people. What moves you, what makes you think? Until next year, try to free yourself from the old habits, experience life, and embrace positive change!

2004 CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The 2003 NEFHS Conference may not be long behind us, but it's time to mark your calendars for *next* year. The 2004 NEFHS Annual Meeting and Training Conference will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Westborough, Massachusetts from April 26-28, 2004.

As usual, this promises to be the premier training event for animal care and control professionals in New England. The program and networking committees are still in the beginning stages of developing next year's event, but you can plan on exciting, cutting edge training topics with nationally known speakers—as well as plenty of opportunities to network with your peers and unwind from your normal daily routine.

The 2004 conference will feature several "tracks" that address cruelty investigations, shelter management, and front-line operations, as well as a day-long program focusing on cats in your shelters and communities.

Stay tuned for more details in the mail and on our website at www.newenglandfed.org.



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.

ANIMAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The following is just a partial update of "animal legislation" here in New England. For more information about these and other animal protection measures, log on to the state legislative websites provided or www.hsus.org/ace/12505.



CONNECTICUT

www.cga.state.ct.us/default.asp

The passage of HB 5530 will enable courts to require psychiatric or psychological counseling, or participation in animal cruelty prevention and education programs if they exist, for adults and children who commit animal abuse.

The passage of the first-ever state law addressing the inhumane practice of the long-term tethering of dogs was realized in HB 6038. The law imposes a series of increasing fines for confining or tethering a dog for an unreasonable period of time.

The passage of HB 6066 allows animal control officers to have impounded animals spayed or neutered before adoption.

MAINE

www.state.me.us/legis/

LD 327 requires that the state's Department of Agriculture promulgate regulations similar to the federal guidelines for the care and treatment of elephants.

The Animal Welfare Program will receive a critical boost in funding through the passage of LD 1545, which provides for modest increases in dog licensing fees, as well as higher licensing fees for research institutions, kennels, pet shops and shelters.

MASSACHUSETTS

www.state.ma.us/legis/legis.htm

Several animal bills are still pending in the legislature. H1252 would allow students who have religious or ethical objections to dissection to choose alternatives such as interactive computer simula-

tions and models. S184 would prohibit circuses from displaying primates, wild cats, bears, and elephants in any traveling show or circus.

Legislation passed in 2002 that authorized the production of special license plates to fund spay/neuter programs in the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Animal Coalition will be carrying forth the program to produce the plates. For more information, see www.massanimalcoalition.org.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

www.state.nh.us/genccourt/genccourt.htm

Penalties for cockfighting now match felony dog-fighting penalties in New Hampshire thanks to the passage of SB79. The law also adds a prohibition against the intentional breeding of animals for fighting.

RHODE ISLAND

www.rilin.state.ri.us/

Bills to restrict the long-term chaining of dogs and provide stricter standards of care, and one to eliminate the income kennel owners can collect from video lottery terminals at dog tracks, both died in committee. The Rhode Island Animal Protection Act, which would have increased the penalties for animal cruelty and would have created a cause of action for the intentional or negligent death of a pet, is likely to be reintroduced next session.

VERMONT

www.leg.state.vt.us

S100 would make aggravated animal cruelty a felony even when the animal does not die from its injuries. Animal welfare advocates are hoping that

mandated psychological evaluation and treatment for juveniles convicted of animals cruelty, as well as definitions for adequate food, water and shelter for animals, make it back into the bill when the legislature resumes.

The passage of H464 provides for much-needed funds for the enforcement of pet store licensing and inspection by the Department of Agriculture.

The passage of H449 gives veterinarians immunity from civil liability when they report suspected cases of animal cruelty or accompany humane agents on investigations.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The 2003 Federal Appropriations Bill was signed into law in February. It will direct the USDA to spend \$5 million to improve enforcement of the long-neglected federal law mandating humane treatment of farm animals at slaughter. Other provisions include funding to research and promote an alternative method for raising farm animals, increased funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act in facilities such as zoos, puppy mills and research laboratories, and the striking of language that would have restricted access to information about inspected facilities.

The passage of the Blumenauer-Tancredo Animal Fighting Amendment by the full House is the first hurdle in getting \$800,000 earmarked for the enforcement of new federal laws to curb illegal animal fighting.

The Captive Exotic Animal Safety Act cleared the House Resources committee. This bill would end interstate transport of animals such as lions, tigers, and panthers for the exotic pet trade.

The Ackerman-LaTourette Downed Animal Protection Amendment was defeated. It would have protected sick or injured livestock from being dragged, beaten, and pushed with bulldozers to the slaughterhouse killing floor.

TRAINING CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	FOR MORE INFORMATION
October 18-20, 2003	HSUS Disaster Animal Response Team Training	Woods Hole, MA	Joanne Bourbeau: 802-368-2790; jbourbeau@hsus.org ; www.hsus.org/nero
March 10-14, 2004	HSUS Animal Care Expo	Dallas, TX	Dina McDaniel: 1-800-248-EXPO; expo@hsus.org ; www.animalsheltering.org
April 26-28, 2004	NEFHS Conference	Westborough, MA	Anne Lindsay: 978-779-8276; alind37147@aol.com ; www.newenglandfed.org
May 12-15, 2004	HSUS National Conference on Animals in Disaster	Philadelphia, PA	Anne Culver: 301-258-3103; aculver@hsus.org ; www.hsus.org/disaster
July 26-30, 2004	New England Animal Control/Humane Academy	Durham, NH	Jeri Zezula: 603-862-1025; zezula@christa.unh.edu ; www.unh.edu/neacha/

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



By Anne Lindsay

It's always something, isn't it? If it's not "open versus limited admission" issues, we can always find another topic to debate about. As we all know, the debates can be divisive and hurtful. Lines are often drawn in the sand and the results

can last for a long, long time. Isn't there a constructive way to address touchy issues without adding fuel to the fire?

The Fed has been looking at two of the latest issues in animal welfare – animal relocation from state to state and wounds of unknown origin in feral cats. The ferment is definitely active and vigorous. Sides have already been taken in many cases. So what do we do now?

As a way of expanding the Fed's services to our

members, we have discussed offering options beyond our very successful training conference each spring. We realize that our role as a federation of humane societies puts us in a unique position. We are an organization representing many differences. We encompass six states. We are rich with diversity because our members offer such varied services and viewpoints.

So why not use our inherent differences as a springboard to foster positive, constructive conversation about issues that come into our lives as we do our work in this emotional field? To address this, we have recently formed the "Current Issues Committee" as a way to acknowledge the "elephant in the room" that no one is talking about – or that has created such bad blood that people *aren't* talking and are simply pointing fingers.

We plan to offer one or two opportunities a year

for our members and friends to come together and address a current issue that is begging for a conversation. The Fed will take no sides in these facilitated discussions. There is no agenda beyond the desire to foster discussion and provide an opportunity for different sides to be heard. We are hopeful that these "town meetings" will help people to grow and learn and ultimately walk away with a better understanding of opposing viewpoints.

As I review the past year, I am very pleased with what we have accomplished. We had a great conference in Nashua and people are already looking forward to our 2004 conference. We offered some excellent mobile workshops and are receiving requests for more. In the coming year, the Fed will be reaching out even further and we are excited about the possibilities. The newly formed Current Issues Committee is working out the details, so stay tuned!

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**WELCOME
NEW
ADVISORS!**
(from l to r)

Susan O'Kane
Leslie Harris
Esther Mechler
Lynne DellaBianca

PRINT & VIDEO

An Animal Care & Control Professional's Guide to Classroom Presentations (NAHEE) is a 60-pg guide to get you on your way to teaching elementary school students about your work and issues. Easy-to-use lesson plans and quick activities cover topics such as pet overpopulation, dog bite prevention, rabies, and the role of animal care & control officers in the community. For more information, call NAHEE at 860-434-8666 or email nahee@nahee.org. Cost is \$6.95, including shipping. Order on-line at www.nahee.org.

Animal Abuse: Why Cops Can and Need to Stop it" (In the Line of Duty) is a new training video which provides police with important information on how to recognize and crack down on animal cruelty—and tell them why they should. The video features graphic footage and photographs of animal cruelty and injured animals, taken by police and the abusers themselves. Videos or CD-ROMs are available for \$95 from www.lineofduty.com or call 1-800-462-5232.

Guidebook to Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics (Spay USA) includes 30 models from around the country. The guide also includes a sample business plan, some "do's" and "don'ts" as you plan your van, information on scrounging for free or inexpensive equipment, and a sample budget. Available free online at www.spayusa.org (click "more resources").

Make Plans to Make a Difference: Business Planning for Shelters to Inspire, Mobilize and Sustain Change (ASPCA) will help you maximize your resources to achieve great results for animals. Use some or all of the 12 business planning practices to assess your current situation, determine your future and create a step-by-step plan for getting there. Includes advice on partnerships, development, and business plans. Cost is \$15. Contact outreach@aspc.org for ordering information.

Methods for Measurement: A Guide for Evaluating Humane Education programs (NAHEE) is a 32-page manual to help you set goals and objectives, develop effective questionnaires, surveys, and tests, and use your feedback to improve your programs and practices. Cost is \$3. Additional humane education evaluation tools can be downloaded from www.nahee.org ("Research & Evaluation") or call 860-434-8666 for more information.

Mission Impossible—Comfy Cats: How to Create a Feline Behavioral Enrichment Program in Your Shelter (ASPCA) will allow you to see your shelter through a cat's eyes and review what makes cats comfortable. Includes interpreting

body language, temperament testing, creating social, environmental and behavioral enrichment, and cat handling training for staff and volunteers. Cost is \$15. Email outreach@aspc.org or call 212-876-7700 x 4403 for more information.

The **Pet Safety Series (American Humane)** is a new series of educational flyers addressing issues ranging from not tagging your pets, to letting them ride in open truck beds, to leaving them trapped in hot cars. These colorful cards help raise awareness about these important issues in a good natured way. The flyers are \$1 each or \$22 for 100. For ordering information, log on to www.ahasheltercentral.org.

Volunteer Management: A Hands-on Guide for Animal Care Organizations (HSUS) is a new 122-pg resource providing guidance on program planning, recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers. Cost is \$19.95 (\$14.95 for Shelter Partners). Order on-line at www.hsus2.org/hsu/vmflyer.doc.

PROGRAMS

Insurance Company Breed Discrimination is the subject of a new survey being conducted by the ASPCA. Currently pursuing legislation in various states that would prohibit insurance companies from issuing policies on the basis of dog breeds, the ASPCA needs your help with this lobbying effort. You can fill out their questionnaire at www.aspc.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=1560.

PetFinder.com offers a free on-line searchable directory of your shelter's pets to help you increase and improve adoptions. Petfinder will even create a home page for you, which you can update at your convenience. Other features include two months prepaid ShelterCare pet health insurance for cats and dogs adopted from Petfinder member shelters, a reference library, materials for animal shelter celebration months, and a member's forum. Log on to www.petfinder.com and click on "join us now" (the bluebird) to register your organization as a member.

A Retirement Plan Program was recently launched by the Financial Network Group (FNG) as a benefit to HSUS Shelter Partners who want to hire and retain better employees. FNG is an investment advisory firm offering retirement plans and access to securities through Royal Alliance Associates. FNG will work with Shelter Partners directly or arrange for a local financial consultant to preview retirement options, or to review or assist with the management of current retirement plans. For more information, contact ShelterPartners@hsus.org or call Steve Putnam at 301-258-3118.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Dog Bite Prevention and Euthanasia Training are the topics of two newly developed video training programs offered by Animal Care Training (ACT). The two-hour dog bite prevention program provides foundational instruction and techniques proven to help reduce the chances of being bitten by a dog. The three-hour euthanasia course provides information on how to humanely euthanize animals. Cost for the 6 euthanasia videos and manual is \$399, and for the 2 dog bite prevention videos is \$499. The combined set can be purchased for \$698. Call 1-800-357-3182 for more information, or go on-line to www.4act.com.

Doggone Crazy! is a new, innovative tool for dog bite prevention—a child's board game! For ages 4 and up, the game teaches children the "do's" and "don'ts" of safe behavior around dogs, and helps them learn how dogs communicate in a fun and interactive way. Developed by experts, the game includes question cards, game pieces, and photographs of dogs signaling a range of emotions through postures and facial expressions. Players quiz one another and act out safe behaviors as they race around the board collecting bones. The game is \$19.95, shipping included, and can be ordered on-line at www.nahee.org/bite.asp or by calling 860-434-8666.

Euthanasia of Dogs and Cats in the Shelter Environment is a new 6-week *on-line* course designed to teach the theories, procedures and techniques for conducting humane euthanasia of animals in a shelter. It includes visual demonstrations of many techniques and procedures, but doesn't replace practical experience. Cost is \$119. Contact vsheppard@hsus.org or go to www.HumaneSocietyU.org for more information.

A Feral Cat Workshop is now on-line. Neighborhood Cats has launched a 4-week on-line course on Trap-Neuter-Return covering everything from community activism to setting up feral cat feeding stations. Cost is \$19.95 (or \$14.95 for the "quick" version). To register, or to view the course introduction and lesson plan, visit www.Suite101.com.

The **HSUS Pets for Life Regional Training Center** was recently launched as a shorter, mobile version of the popular shelter training program conducted in Denver, CO. This 3-day basic behavior course is taught by Dr. Kerry Muhovich of Denver's Dumb Friends League in various locations throughout the country. Students learn about the importance of implementing behavior programs within their shelters to make animals more adoptable and make better matches. Visit www.AnimalSheltering.org to learn more.

Connecticut



The Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Animal Population Control Program sponsored a NEFHS mobile workshop entitled "Handling and Adopting Pit Bulls in Municipal Facilities" this past June. Scott Giacoppo spoke at this free half-day workshop, which was attended by 60 aco's and other interested individuals. The local television station interviewed Giacoppo and several attendees for a broadcast on the evening news. Attendees learned how to identify fighting dogs using temperament testing and other key physical signs, were shown paraphernalia related to dogfighting, and learned safe handling, kenneling and behavioral enrichment techniques specific to the breed. If you would like to schedule a mobile training workshop on this or other topics in *your* shelter, contact Linda Huebner at lhuebner@hsus.org or call 802-368-2790. Other topics include animal care & behavior, breed identification, customer service, disaster planning, euthanasia, open adoptions, sanitation protocols, shelter diseases, and stress management.

Maine



Maine's newly appointed Animal Welfare Director, Norma Worley, hit the ground running after she accepted the position in early 2003. Since then, she has hired an additional state humane agent who will cover Aroostock County, a region with few resources to devote to animal cruelty investigations. In addition, the Animal Welfare Program now employs a veterinarian who will serve as a much-needed resource for humane agents.

Spay Maine is a new state subsidized spay/neuter program which will launch in January, 2004. The effort will start off with \$100,000 set aside for funding in the first year. The state's Animal Welfare Advisory Council is currently drafting guidelines on eligibility requirements, co-payments and veterinarian reimbursement. For more information, contact Norma Worley with the Department of Agriculture at 207-287-3846 or email norma.j.worley@maine.gov.

Massachusetts



The Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC) will be opening its Spay/Neuter Program in October at the Luke and Lilly Lerner Clinic, hosted by Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. The program will focus on the underserved animal populations in Massachusetts, including shelters, animal control, rescue organizations, and feral cat trapping groups in the Commonwealth. For more information call 978-779-9880 or see www.massanimalcoalition.org.

Free monthly spay/neuter clinics throughout Massachusetts have been aimed at reducing the population of feral cats in the state. Coordinated in the west by the Dakin Animal Shelter and in the east by the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society, Sunday spay clinics have served more than 1350 feral cats since beginning in 2002. For more information, visit www.dakinshelter.org or www.mrfrs.org.

New Hampshire



The New Hampshire Coalition for the Elimination of Illegal Animal Fighting is a newly formed group of law enforcement officers, humane investigators, animal care & control professionals, veterinarians and others who believe that the only way to successfully combat illegal animal fighting is to consolidate public and private resources and expertise to prevent, investigate and prosecute blood sport cases throughout the state. Formed after several day-long workshops on illegal animal fighting were conducted in New England, the group joins similar efforts taking place in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Among its priorities are the development of publicity materials to educate citizens on how to recognize and report suspected animal fighting and the development of training programs for law enforcement officers, animal control officers and humane agents. For more information, contact the HSUS's Joanne Bourbeau at jbourbeau@hsus.org or call 802-368-2790.

Rhode Island



Newport, Rhode Island was the host of a special preview of the documentary *Shelter Dogs* at the Newport Film Festival this past June. Many New England animal welfare professionals were in attendance to experience this thought-provoking film for themselves. It's an inside look at the complex and "morally ambiguous" issues surrounding the life and death decisions made in animal shelters daily, as told through the tale of one shelter and its staff. Filmmaker Cynthia Wade followed Sue Sternberg and the staff of the Rondout Valley Kennels animal shelter in upstate New York for nearly three years while the film was being produced. Wade was given unrestricted access to film pet surrenders, staff meetings, temperament tests, adoptions and euthanasias. The film took nearly eight months to edit and was completed in February, 2003. If you didn't have a chance to attend the premier of this award-winning documentary, the film will debut on HBO in early February 2004.

Vermont



Vermont has a unique state-wide animal cruelty task force, comprised of the state's humane federation, veterinary medical association, Department of Agriculture, League of Cities and Towns, Farm Bureau, Sheriffs' Association, Police Chiefs' Association, HSUS, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, and local rescue organizations and police departments. The mission of the task force is to coordinate Vermont's efforts to prevent and respond to animal cruelty through communication, education, training, enforcement and legislation. The group recently published a cruelty investigator's manual for the state's humane agents and has held several successful cruelty investigations workshops. Other efforts underway include the establishment of a state-wide cruelty response network, the development of a website, and the creation of an emergency assistance fund for the victims of animal cruelty. For more information, contact the HSUS's Joanne Bourbeau at 802-368-2790 or email jbourbeau@hsus.org.

I AM THAT HOUND

A Perspective by Cheryl Ann Fernandes

The definitive day had arrived. This was to be the last of the old familiar adrenaline rush. At the end of this workday, my badge would be relinquished while abandoning undone incurables. Oh, the agony of not being able to relieve them all from this municipal penitentiary. To advance on and to follow this career to the next horizon was a difficult decision I had labored with. Would leaving urban animal control officer life behind be the right decision? After all, without me, who would all those poor defenseless animals have in this fermenting city? But my decision was made.

So in the midst of my terminal hours while crouching on my knees under the old burned out factory building, I showered myself with tears of joy, which were a camouflage for drops of regret. Again, but one final time, I would be the first to hold her precious sentient little beings, pink wet noses and tiny voices squealing for their mother, the elusive one. She was a real urban street-smart hound. A beauty all her own, and stud dogs of the 'hood" all knew it too. A unique and creative ambience cradled her lanky and agile primal movements. She didn't belong here, this life was too wrong for her. It seemed we both served our time, working the streets like transients, secretly optimistic for more than

utter survival, yet not knowing where to find it. During most of my 5 years working in this urban jungle I was her pursuer. Litter after litter, she bred. And like today, I had found most of them. So how on my last day in this playground for chaos could it be we were to leave together? This was to be my last capture, and for that I was grateful. Her memory would no longer haunt me, like the others were sure to do. She would live alone no more. The elusive one and were to secede together, for good.

Pondering what tomorrow would bring to me as the first Director in a newly built shoreline community animal control facility, I knew what I would be bringing there--compassion, knowledge and consideration for others, illuminated with an appetite to run an efficient and professional humane shelter. Newness would surround me and I would soon reign over a socialite tundra of mythical virtues devoid from any memories of helplessness. Though I lamented the life of misery for those left behind, at least Mecca's lair ensnared both that vagabond queen (and me) as I gave myself permission to continue on life's journey. Misery and the conflicts of the past would now integrate with Nirvana. I had arrived.



2003 NEFHS Conference Scholarship Recipients Pose at Last Year's Event.

Fifteen animal welfare professionals from all six New England states received scholarships to attend the 2003 NEFHS Annual Meeting and Training Conference held in Nashua, NH. A variety of positions from both private and municipal shelters were represented. Scholarships will once again be available for *next* year's conference. If you're interested in applying, contact Linda Huebner at lhuebner@hsus.org or 802-368-2790. A scholarship form will be available on-line by early 2004.

See www.newenglandfed.org for details.

NEFHS Newsletter

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**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

New England News