Fostering Kindness through Humane Education

“Cats at The Briggs Animal Adoption Center Looking at Their Mural”

Annual Report FY 2016
Message from the President

Once again, I am filled with gratitude for you—our supporters—who make The National Humane Education Society’s (NHES) charitable work possible. Your support enabled our humane message to reach millions of people and achieve a meaningful reduction in animal suffering through our (1) humane education and advocacy efforts; (2) standard-setting guidelines for adoption services at The Briggs Animal Adoption Center; (3) reduced-cost spay/neuter services provided by Spay Today, and (4) cooperative efforts with our Alliance Partners: (a) The Network for Endangered Sea Turtles, (b) Friends of Felines—Hatteras Island, and (c) Operation Catnip. In FY 2016, your support helped to spay/neuter, administer vaccines, place in quality adoptive homes, feed, micro-chip or otherwise provide for 8,451 cats and dogs, 500 sea turtles, a variety of ground-nesting birds, as well as Monarch Butterflies.

While the majority of our hands-on work focused on companion animals, primarily dogs and cats, NHES is ever mindful of its Guiding Principles and specifically, this year, its 12th Guiding Principle. “To recognize in animals their capacity for friendship and their need for friends. To Befriend all Earth’s creatures of the land, the sea and air—to defend them against the ravages by mankind, and to inspire in human beings compassion for all.”

This year, in our efforts “to befriend all Earth’s creatures . . . ,” we continued our support of The Network for Endangered Sea Turtles and expanded our programs to include the creation of habitat on the NHES Campus (the Campus) specifically tailored for ground nesting birds whose numbers are reaching historic lows, and the Monarch Butterfly that may soon be designated with a “threatened species” status. Further, NHES understands that animal life and the environment are inextricably linked and, in an effort to be good stewards of the land and our animal friends, we began working collaboratively with the Cacapon Institute to help replenish the urban tree canopy by planting an assortment of native trees on the Campus that, in turn, will ultimately help enrich the land and protect the Potomac watershed, which is a win for all life—animal and human alike.

As you review NHES’ activities and accomplishments during FY 2016, we hope that you will share our sense of pride in knowing that we did our very best to help to create a more humane world for our animal friends. We couldn’t have done it without you!

We’d also like to take this opportunity to invite you to come visit with us and take a tour of the Campus. We believe you will like what you find here. We’re located just a short drive from our Nation’s capital in the historic and beautiful countryside of Jefferson County, West Virginia. We hope to see you soon—and thank you!

Best regards,

Jim Taylor, President
Remembering the Past

This year, to help document the history of the animal welfare movement—specifically the no-kill movement—in the United States, NHES donated a variety of photographs of people and historic materials to The Animal Museum of Los Angeles, California, such as:

“Ruby Brown, Anna C Briggs’ best friend, and one of the first black women to manage a No-Kill facility; specifically Peace Plantation Animal Sanctuary—late 1950’s”

“Alice Morgan Wright, founding board member and benefactress, with 3 of her animal friends—late 1950’s”
HUMANE EDUCATION

To the humane-minded, protection of helpless animals is of such concern that legislation is invoked in defense of the voiceless. Legislation serves to right many wrongs but others remain for humane education to deal with.

In the current session of the United States Congress two bills have been introduced by sincere friends of animals, both of them offered in the belief that by prescribing legal limits to the torture which may be inflicted by experimentation, and to the numbers of the tortured, the aggregate amount of animal suffering will be greatly reduced. Another school of prophecy predicts that if any form of torture is legalized there will never be an end to its practice. We have no crystal ball or other means of determining what the future holds.

History tells us what men have done to sentient creatures in the name of religion by the worshippers of Moloch; what was done, also in the name of religion, in the Spanish Inquisition; and what was done to helpless prisoners in a late war in the revered name of Scientific Research.

On what can be based the absurd argument which pretends to excuse experimentation on animals as a means of conserving or increasing human life, in an age which has discovered that the overpopulation of the human race is the worst of all threats to its survival on this planet?
NHES Campus

This past year, at the NHES Campus, we:

- Welcomed 9,846 visitors (down 3% from last year) to the NHES Campus.

- Worked cooperatively with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) and dedicated 9.4 acres to create habitat for grassland-nesting birds. The PVAS informs, “The numbers of grassland-nesting birds dropped precipitously, many losing more than 80% of their population in the past 45 years. Habitat loss, land-use changes, pesticide applications, and early cutting are all conspiring against birds like Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow’s Sparrow, and Ring-necked Pheasant.”

- Dedicated 2.75 acres to create wildflower fields to serve as a food source for the east coast monarch butterfly, which is nearing a “threatened species status” because its population is quietly vanishing due to devastating losses of habitat, particularly habitat containing milkweed because monarch butterflies can only lay eggs on milkweed plants. Our wildflower fields include milkweed plants.

- Joined with the Cacapon Institute to help replenish the rural tree canopy by planting 24 native trees on the Campus that, in turn, will help protect the watershed of the Potomac River.
Humane Education & Advocacy

In 1954, Alice Morgan Wright, board member and benefactress, wrote of NHES' founding, "In 1948, we incorporated, a small group of us, to carry on what we think is one of the urgent needs of our time, Humane Education." Today, the urgent need for humane education is still with us, and the NHES Humane Education & Advocacy Program is doing its part to promote humane education as the foundation for a more humane world.

This year, the Humane Education & Advocacy Program distributed 2,517,077 educational letters (up 5% from last year) appealing to individuals to spay/neuter, adopt, volunteer or otherwise take action to help create a more humane world for animals.
Humane educators and program staff directly engaged 18,770 children and adults (up 24% from last year) with our humane message. These children and adults included visitors, Cool to Care camp attendees, children’s groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Chamber of Commerce members, and elementary school students in cities across the country such as:

- Baton Rouge, Louisiana; 931 students
- Toledo, Ohio; 984 students
- Elgin, South Carolina; 600 students
- Waynesboro, Pennsylvania; 900 students
- Ann Arbor, Michigan; 1,130 students
- Wilmington, Delaware; 962 students
Humane educators created a new workshop platform, The Teaching Kindness Humane Education Workshop, and made it available across the country.

Conducting “Teaching Kindness Workshop”
The Humane Education and Advocacy staff distributed 445,410 e-newsletters (up 11% from last year) advocating for the humane treatment of animals via myriad issues on local, state, and federal levels—including new and pending pieces of legislation affecting animal welfare throughout the United States. A sampling of advocacy issues addressed by NHES included:

- New Jersey Considers Legislation to Establish Statewide Animal Abuser Registry
- Iowa Senate Passes SF 2289 to Increase Penalties for Animal Cruelty
- West Virginia Passes House Bill 4201 to Heighten Penalties for Dog Fighting
- California Passes Law to Stop the Sale of Animals at Flea Markets
- Baltimore, Maryland, Passes Law to Criminalize Possession of Dog Fighting Paraphernalia

According to a recent news article, California legislators are showing their support for the humane treatment of elephants by passing Senate Bill 1062. This bill states that anyone who uses a bullhook to train or direct an elephant’s behavior, if found guilty, may face a civil penalty and suspension or revocation of their elephant permit. Unfortunately, a similar bill was vetoed by Governor Brown last year. Hopefully SB 1062 will be treated more favorably by Governor Brown this time around. If passed, SB 1062 will take effect January 1, 2018.

If you agree that bullhooks should be banned, please show your support by contacting Governor Jerry Brown.
U.S. District Judge in Idaho Upholds Endangered Species Protection for Canada Lynx

Shark Fin Elimination Act of 2016

Humane Educators further distributed:

- 33,436 emails spotlighting animal rescue and adoption related stories—up 24% from last year.
- 10,141 hard copies of humane guides, educational brochures, and informational posters to humane societies, service agencies, veterinary offices, schools, and rescue groups nationwide—and thousands more copies of educational materials were downloaded for free from nhes.org.
Spay Today

This year, through a network of 20 participating veterinary hospitals and nonprofit clinics, Spay Today:

- **Provided** 3,990 reduced-cost spay/neuter procedures—down 10% from last year. (This reduction stems, in part, from a decrease in available van transports to/from one of our higher-volume participating clinics. We hope to rebound from this decrease in FY 2017.) Of these 3,990 animals, **191 were TNR Community Cats**

- **Helped obtain** reduced-cost spay/neuter service for 20 rescue groups and humane societies throughout the quad-state of Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia:

  - Advocat
  - Greyhound Rescue
  - Faithfields Rescue
  - Forever Love
  - HBPA
  - Jefferson County Animal Control
  - Little Buddies

  - Love a Cat
  - Morgan County Humane Society
  - North Mountain Small Dog Rescue
  - Owens Rescue
  - Pennsylvania Great Dane Rescue
  - Pilots for Paws
  - Pound Puppies Big Dreams

  - Rappcats
  - Save all Doggies
  - String of Pearls
  - Webster County
  - Willing Hearts Dalmations
  - Animal Welfare Society
The Briggs Animal Adoption Center

This year, The Briggs Animal Adoption Center:

- Provided hands-on care to 534 cats and dogs.
- Rehabilitated and placed 361 animals (237 dogs & 124 cats) in quality adopted homes—up 6% from last year.
- Accepted the transfer of animals in need from myriad organizations such as Potomac Highlands Animal Rescue, Jefferson County Animal Control, Clarke County Animal Shelter, Webster County Animal Shelter, Esther Boyd Animal Shelter, and Winchester SPCA.
- Administered 1,885 vaccines to rescued animals—up 21% from last year.
- Distributed 13,600 pounds of emergency food stores to individuals and rescue groups in North Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia—up 4% from last year.
Without our dedicated volunteers, NHES would not be able to accomplish all that we accomplish for the animals. Through their generous gift of time and most important—love—they help heal the wounds of animal neglect and abuse.

This year, 230 wonderful volunteers donated 4,683 hours to help create a more humane world—and we THANK YOU. (The number of volunteers is up 12% and the number of donated hours is up 15% from last year.)
Alliance Partnerships

NHES works cooperatively with, and provides funding to select animal welfare organizations in an effort to achieve and optimum reduction in animal suffering. This year, our partners included:

1. The Network for Endangered Sea Turtles (NEST), Kitty Hawk, North Carolina:
   - Utilized 270 trained volunteers—Traveled 12,300 miles on ATV to patrol the beaches from the Virginia Line to South Nagshead, North Carolina.
   - Found and monitored 32 turtle nests
   - Rescued over 800 cold-stunned turtles from the sound. The majority were juvenile Green Turtles; the rest were Loggerhead and Kemps Ridley.
   - Of the 800-plus turtles, 500 survived after receiving medical care and were released back to the ocean.
   - Installed 66 educational beach signs bringing the total to 105 along the Outer Banks of North Carolina.
   (NHES’ funding was applied toward the medical expenses incurred to save the turtles.)

2. Operation Catnip, Gainesville, Florida:
   - Utilized 186 volunteer veterinary students and provided them with service learning during a total of 685 clinical shifts.
   - Spayed/neutered 3,289 community cats
   (NHES’ funding was applied toward general operating costs.)
3. Friends of Felines, Hatteras Island, North Carolina:

- Began its 10th year of TNR
- Sponsored 4 TNR Community Cat Clinics
- 277 community cats were spayed/neutered, micro-chipped, vaccinated for distemper & Rabies, treated for fleas/parasites and ear-tipped for identification
- Helped feed 300 community cats
  (NHES's funding was applied toward the purchase of microchips so that community cats could easily be returned to their colonies after coastal storms.)
Fiscal Year 2016 Review

As a small, national, nonprofit, animal welfare organization, NHES diligently works to achieve an optimum reduction in animal suffering given our available resources. While FY 2016 brought with it a number of financial challenges that resulted in expenses exceeding revenues, we—The Board of Directors of NHES—had prepared for such challenges and were able to meet them head on by utilizing our reserves to ensure the continuation—and ultimate overall expansion—of our programs on behalf of the animals that we served in FY 2016:

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Board of Directors

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