

Minnesota Society for Prevention of Cruelty

(MINNESOTA HUMANE SOCIETY)

Organized October 21, 1869

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

St. Paul 1, Minn.

CEDAR 3013

EXTENSION 379



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE AGENT

MINNESOTA SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

(Minnesota Humane Society)

From October 1, 1946 --- To October 1, 1947

The Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Cruelty ended its 78th year on October 23, 1947.

From a very humble beginning by a few humane-minded citizens back in October of 1869, the Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Cruelty has made great strides, but at best we have only scratched the surface. All complaints are taken care of promptly, but there is much to be done, especially in the field of humane education. We are limited because of lack of funds to expand our humane education program.

The Minnesota Society is constituted a state bureau of child and animal protection by the Minnesota State Legislature. The Ex Officio members of our board of 18 directors are the Governor of State, the Commissioner of Education, and the Attorney General.

As stated in our previous report which bears repeating, Minnesota is one of the leading states in the union in the raising of livestock and processing plants. There is an ever increasing flow of livestock to the various processing plants throughout

Affiliated with The American Humane Association, Albany, New York, and the Midwest Humane Conference, comprising Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Nebraska.

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the state, for too many of the animals are injured or killed in transit, which is largely due to improper loading and handling. When we find a case of this kind, the trucker is warned and sent a marked copy of the laws governing the handling and care of livestock while being transported, which has a salutary effect on those responsible for illegal loading or handling of livestock. The fact that a State Humane Society exists is a restraint in itself, for violators fear the consequences of any illtreatment of livestock in their charge. It is estimated by authorities on livestock figures, that over a hundred-million pounds of meat is lost annually due to the improper handling of livestock throughout the nation, and Minnesota contributes its share. We are constantly checking livestock carriers, on the streets, highways and at livestock terminals. Minnesota is one of the few states which gives particular attention to livestock carriers, and livestock terminals. We are constantly distributing humane literature and pamphlets which deals with the care of all animals and the handling of livestock, in particular, all of which results in better returns to the livestock producers and the conservation of food and other bi-products, which the present day world needs so badly. Our constant efforts also reduces a great deal of unnecessary cruel and inhumane treatment to all animals in general.

In addition to livestock carriers and livestock terminals, we are constantly receiving complaints from the rural and farm communities. This past year we checked 1464 livestock carriers, 130 rural complaints, 40 poultry cases, 138 small animals cases such as dogs, cats, birds, etc., 12 riding stables, 3 rodeos and 3 pet shops. We investigated 51 reports of neglected and indigent persons. Our film "Animals in Service to Man" was shown many times throughout the state to 4H clubs and other groups. We had 72 consultations with those seeking advice on humane matters in general. We gave 22 Kindness talks to various groups. We prepared 52 weekly humane education articles for the St. Paul Herald, a weekly legal publication which published our articles without cost to our society. Many of our readers have praised them highly. We also handled 257 miscellaneous items in connection with our work, all of which required time and effort.

The last session of the legislature failed to grant us the appropriation asked for. They allotted our society only two-thousand dollars per annum for the next two years, from July 1, 1947 - July 1, 1949, therefore we are obliged to draw on our limited reserve contributed by friends of our society who deeply appreciated the importance of our work and wished to support it. Our staff of workers consists of two persons. The executive agent and one office assistant. In addition we have to maintain a car, purchase office supplies, humane literature, postage, printing, and other incidentals which are necessary to carry on the work of the society efficiently. We trust that the next session of the state legislature will be more generous with our organization. Any funds allotted to our organization is a profitable investment, both from a material and moral standpoint. Prevention through humane education pays big dividends.

Our society is constantly growing in favor throughout the state. We try at all times to render conscientious and efficient service regardless of the day or hour. The funds derived from membership and donations are judiciously expended in helping to finance our case work and educational programs.

We receive many requests for our humane literature and pamphlets of the Minnesota Humane laws. We recently received a request for a dozen copies of our humane law pamphlets from South Dakota. The following is a sample of some complimentary letters we receive from time to time. The lady who sent us the following letter lives in one of our rural communities, and is now a member of our society. We quote from her letter as follows:

"I'd be glad to belong to such a wonderful society. I wish I could send more money to help along, but I only have such a little, but I'll try and help out the best I can to help find happiness for some poor animal, and maybe later on, I'll find some way to send more money, as I sure would like to help you.
Keep up your wonderful work."

To cite the many deplorable cases we have to deal with, would fill a volume. The following is a case which involved an elderly lady. We received an anonymous letter from a rural community, requesting us to investigate a case of neglect. The letter stated that this elderly lady in question, was helpless, having become paralyzed

from a paralytic stroke, a year ago, and that she was left alone a good deal of the time in the small cottage where she lived. Her throat was also paralyzed; she was unable to walk, talk or eat. Forced feeding was necessary by a tube being inserted through the mouth. We visited the lady in question, accompanied by a village police officer. We knocked on the door but received no response. We tried the door and found it unlocked. We walked in and found this poor creature lying helpless on the bed. No one else was around. Anything could have happened. We tried to talk to her but she was unable to utter a word. We then left for the village nearby, and found her husband in a bar. We called him outside. It was arranged for his wife to be placed in the county home where she would receive proper care and attention. We could cite other similar cases which our society has been called upon to care for from time to time.

In closing, we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our president Dr. D. L. Halver, and the rest of our board of directors. Also the various police officers, sheriffs, and county attorneys, throughout the state for their loyal cooperation and support at all times. They have given us splendid cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

James Nankivell
Executive Agent

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
DEC 2 6 1947

W. H. Halver
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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