

Report

of the

Minnesota Humane Society

1977--1978

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
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John Anderson Brown
Secretary of State

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HISTORY AND MEMBERSHIP:

The Minnesota Humane Society, first organized in 1869, prevents cruelty to animals not only by investigating public complaints but more importantly by organizing district and county societies, aiding local societies and agents in enforcing anti-cruelty laws, and by educating the public about the protection of animals. The Society has increased its efforts in the areas of education and organization of local and county societies and education of the general public with regards to humane treatment of animals. (These efforts are discussed in more detail below.)

There are currently 737 adult members. In addition, there are 500 junior members (18 years or younger). Life members total 20. Each life member has contributed \$100 in a given year to the Society. There are ten veterinary hospitals holding memberships to the Society and one honorary member.

STAFF COMPLEMENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

During the past two years, the Minnesota Humane Society was staffed by two full time employees--the Executive Director, Mrs. Ruth Deschene, and her Assistant, Bill Ramsey. The Society also relies heavily on its 89 volunteer agents to assist in carrying out the duties of the Society. These volunteer agents are found throughout the state and have been trained and authorized to assist the Society whenever and wherever possible.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 343.01, subd. 3 (1977 Supp.), the Society is governed by a board of seven directors appointed by the governor. Prior to January 1, 1978, the Society's board consisted of members elected by the membership of the Society.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY:

A. Training: To assist with the investigation of complaints, the Society has 89 trained and authorized volunteer agents, all having attended a two-day workshop held annually to prepare them for their work in the care of and prevention of cruelty to animals. At the workshop, such topics as investigative procedure, cruelty statutes, data privacy, and animal control and enforcement are discussed along with several other related subjects. In addition to the workshop, the Society, through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, teaches police officials, highway patrol members, and peace officers those statutes applicable to the prevention of cruelty to animals. This training is presently available nine times per year. In cooperation with judicial authorities, there is also a rehabilitation program available to juveniles accused of bringing harm to animals. It has been demonstrated that this program does help youngsters appreciate rather than harm animals.

B. Organization of branch societies: An additional function of the Humane Society is to provide information and aid to communities organizing a county or district humane society. At this time, various counties are covered by 18 societies. That is, one society sometimes covers more than one county and not all counties have a society. Although the community sets up the local society, the state Society conducts the initial organizational meeting. The Society then acts as an advisor in internal and external problems.

C. Education: The Society provides public education on the care of animals by sponsoring:

1. Speakers and films for schools;
2. Radio and television shows;
3. Exhibits of posters showing actual abuse or neglect cases;
4. Brochures on the cruelty statutes and other regulations which are available to the public and the Peace Officers Training Board; and
5. "Winter Thoughts" and "Summer Thoughts" on kindness to animals, a biennial guide to state law, local ordinances, animal nutrition, poisoning, overpopulation, and other animal care information. This pamphlet is particularly aimed at students interested in animal protection.

D. Investigation: Investigating public complaints alleging cruelty to animals is another function of the Society, as required by Minn. Stat. § 343.01, subd. 1 and § 343.06 (1977 Supp.). In 1977, 370 cases of alleged cruelty were handled by the Society, of which four had to be taken into court. The Society was successful in all four court decisions.

Education is the key element in the average investigation case. Where animal abuse is found to exist, educating individuals to better care for animals under their protection in a great percentage of cases remedies these types of situations. This is the primary reason for the very low number of actual court cases involving the Society.

The new board members are unanimous in their feeling that education is the primary goal of the Society. Consistent with state law, no state society appropriated funds have been expended for the confiscation of any animal in fiscal year 1978.

E. Fundraising: The Humane Society has held a number of events to raise funds. Members of the Society, on the Society's behalf, have appeared on various television and radio talk shows in an appeal for contributions.

Local celebrities help generate contributions by personal involvement, and several grocery store chains have permitted the Society to place coin boxes in their stores to solicit contributions. Events such as roller skating gatherings, barbecues, raffles, and numerous other events have been held by private citizens and board members for the Society's benefit.

The following statistics indicate relevant activities by the Society during the two-year period:

1. Complaints received	1100
2. Complaints investigated	1100
3. Animals found to be inhumanely treated	413 Owners Educated (1977 figure)
4. Animals confiscated	None (1977 figures)
5. Direct public contacts via radio, TV, group talks, workshops or school visits	200
6. Publications issued to public	138,000 (summer, winter, and cruelty statute brochures)
7. County societies	18 serving 22 counties
8. Active volunteers	1100
9. Law enforcement personnel trained	89 authorized (Several hundred have been trained)
10. Adult members	737

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977

INCOME:

State Grant	\$24,222.00
Governors Contribution	10,000.00
Public Contributions	13,074.46
Brochure Sales	56.50
Memberships	1,197.50
Coffee & Coin Boxes	2,969.90
Interest	165.78
Miscellaneous	213.10
Total	<u>\$51,899.24</u>

EXPENSES:

Payroll	\$21,788.69
Payroll Taxes	2,504.93
Equipment	332.68
Investigations and medical	6,480.37
Travel & Promotion	2,523.29
Materials and Supplies	3,812.63
Meetings	1,142.54
Telephone & Answering Service	2,397.96
Repairs & Maintenance	66.12
Postage	497.75
Rent	1,166.94
Audit	275.00
Penalties & Interest	261.39
Payments on Folding Machine	279.00
Cash Short	77.70
Insurance	359.48
Payment of Advance from AHA	4,000.00
Bank Charges	159.38
Total	<u>\$48,125.95</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978.

INCOME:

State Grant	\$15,000.00
Contributions	9,200.00
Workshop	710.00
Membership	1,350.00
Coffee & Coin Boxes	1,135.00
Interest	761.00
Promotions	2,750.00
Ceta Reimbursement	971.00
Miscellaneous	300.00
Total	<u>\$32,177.00</u>

EXPENSES:

Payroll	\$22,780.00
Payroll Taxes	1,750.00
Investigations	370.00
Meetings	600.00
Travel	2,450.00
Supplies	360.00
Telephone	1,500.00
Postage	1,060.00
Rent	930.00
Audit	675.00
Repairs	36.00
Penalties (Tax)	320.00
Bank Charges	21.00
Miscellaneous	735.00
Total	<u>\$33,587.00</u>