

Letters—Society needs investigator to eliminate dog fighting

In spite of recent action by the Ontario Humane Society to seize fighting dogs and to lay charges against persons involved in this disgraceful activity, it seems clear that the practice is continuing to grow in popularity in Ontario.

Apart from the obvious sadistic cruelty involved in this activity, the main reason for the growth of dog fighting is the heavy gambling which is involved.

Evidence from both the United States and Canada shows that large sums of money are frequently wagered on the outcome of the fights.

In addition, there is a growing demand for fighting dogs which results in large prices being paid for stud ser-

VICES and puppies from "proven" fighting dogs. Dog fighting, in any form, is illegal in Canada and in most of the United States.

Major dog fights are held in the United States, and Canadians, particularly from Ontario and Quebec, frequently attend these fights and participate in them.

Dog fighting is carried on secretly and extremely cautiously. It is not easy for the Society to obtain information about fights, where and when they are scheduled to be held.

It has become obvious that, if the Society is to deal with this growing menace effectively, the Society will have to employ a special inspector who will be able to devote most, if not all, of his time to this particular area of enquiry.

The need for this type of "special investigator" has been discussed with the Ontario Provincial Police gambling squad who are interested in this particular activity because gambling is involved.

Students will freeze in classes, he says

The York Region Board of Education recently announced that it intends to save 10 per cent of its energy costs this year by setting thermostats in schools at 19 C. (66 degrees F).

Since then workmen have begun locking classroom thermostats on this figure.

This type of ill-advised and inhumane policy fills me with anger and dismay.

On the surface, it looks good. Save the taxpayers' money. But in reality, it's the children who will pay.

It's an easy task to make the children suffer the discomfort of such misguided economy measures since they don't vote and they are not very vocal in defending their rights.

All they do is get colds, flu, pneumonia, etc. I wonder if the thermostats at the Board Offices will be locked at 66 degrees F.

How about the ther-

mostats in the Board meeting rooms?

How many parents of these children will be working in offices this winter with thermostats locked at 66 degrees F?

But then, you don't do things like this to adults. They might object, or quit.

In most schools, the classroom thermostat is near the doorway, a long way from the windows.

Since schools are built by the lowest bidder as cheaply as possible, they soon become pretty cold and draughty.

With the thermostats by the doors locked at 66 degrees F, the kids by the window will have a tough time writing anything with their mitts on.

Perhaps this is only the beginning.

The Board has hardly scratched the surface in their energy saving campaign.

Surely as the Board members sit in their warm or air conditioned

offices, they can think of something far more effective than locked thermostats.

How about having each child bring a candle from home to keep on their desks?

This could save on heat and the lights could be turned off, too.

What about the teachers? Are their federations suggesting that each teacher take an electric heater to school?

Then watch what happens to energy costs.

Or are they too busy negotiating for higher pay and unassigned time?

International Year of the Child? It is to laugh.

Smith Hazzard, 120 Riverside Drive, Woodbridge

The Ontario Humane Society is co-operating closely with the Massachusetts SPCA. The Humane Society of

the United States, and the International Society for the Protection of Animals, all of whom are involved in the campaign to stamp out dog fighting in the United States.

Acting on information received from a variety of sources, the Ontario Humane Society recently raided premises near Hamilton and seized ten fighting dogs, a treadmill, and various materials, all of which indicated that dog fighting was being carried on in the premises in question.

A fighting pit was found in the barn and blood stains on the wall of the pit indicated it had been used recently.

The dogs were kept for four weeks. Every attempt was made to try to rehabilitate the animals but this was found to be impossible.

Contact was made with the Bull Terrier Club of Canada in the hope that this specialty club could find people willing to accept the great responsibility of caring for these specially trained dogs.

The training of these animals is so thorough that they are incapable of living a normal life. They will attack any dog on sight and it is beyond the physical strength of most people to restrain them.

In view of this and very reluctantly, it was

decided that the only course of action left to the Society was to humanely destroy them.

Dog fighting, with all its disgusting ramifications, will never disappear as long as large sums of money can be made from gambling and the sale of fighting dogs.

The only way to irradiate this growing social disease is to step up the law enforcement program to such an extent that the dog fighting trade no longer pays off.

To do this, we have to have a special investigator who can devote his time and energy solely to this area of investigation and prosecution.

This is not a political issue. No political party is in favor of dog fighting. It is a simple matter of the government allocating funds to the Society to allow us to do the job properly.

But the government has many demands on the public purse and all of them are made by people and groups who believe, just as sincerely as we do, that their request is valid.

If the government doesn't hear from you,

Let's work together to stamp out dog fighting once and for all.

T.I. Hughes
Executive
Vice-president
Ontario Humane
Society

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