

A-V Magazine Publisher Defends the Native People

In his answer to Mrs. Fishback's letter, Owen B. Hunt defended the Native people in their care of dogs and the breeding of them. He said in part:

"... There is no such thing as the richest or the poorest man in the villages, especially since the tribal system has prevailed for over 3,000 years, and still exists, their way of life is strictly cooperative. If it were otherwise, they would have perished long ago. I have studied many racial groups but none have expressed the cooperative spirit more pronouncedly than the native Alaskan..."

In regard to cruelty to the dogs and the number of them each Native family needs, Hunt wrote:

"... I have at least 50 letters in my file from the village schoolteachers, all white persons, and in answer to many of my pointed questions, I have never received any information from them to the effect that they had witnessed any cruelty to the native animals despite the fact that a few of these teachers are hostile to the natives..."

"The native knows better than anyone else the number of dogs he needs for his team and he is not likely to have more dogs than he needs. Many of them told me they needed many more dogs for

their teams than what they already had, but they limited them to a minimum so that the cost of feeding them would be less..."

Owen Hunt wrote many letters to villages and asked them if they needed help to feed their dogs. In regard to the answers he received, he wrote Mrs. Fishback:

"... I wrote to over 100 out of more than 250 villages in the tundra and asked them if they needed help and in a great number of instances the native Chiefs told me they did not need help, but suggested other villages they felt were in distress."

"At least three villages said they were in a position to take care of their animals and suggested that I contact a village in the Anaktuvuk Pass in the Brooks Range since the natives there had to depend entirely on caribou. The village was remote from fish streams..."

Owen B. Hunt is the president of The American Anti-Vivisection Society and he and his group have been sponsoring the "Feed the Husky" program, an effort designed to aid the needy villages in dog food, worm medicine and insect repellent.

Hunt has conducted this program for the last two years sending the material by parcel post to various villages that are most in need of it.