

One of the biggest problems facing the animal control officer is that of maintaining good public relations. A compassionate feeling for those humans and animals in distress is essential.

Probably one of the most difficult duties that an animal control officer will have is that of destroying an animal. The taking of life cannot be regarded lightly no matter how many times the necessity arises. Careful instructions must be prepared and followed as to when an animal must or should be destroyed and the manner in which the act is completed. Applicable laws should be known and understood.

Approximately 55% of the community will be animal owners, and their animals are part of their families. It is easy to stir up human emotions when a family pet is involved. The manner of handling the case, the diplomacy and efficiency involved, can make the difference between cooperation and a lump on the head for the officer.

Thus, with training in all the areas mentioned, good appearance and a spirit of helpfulness, the animal control officer can be a great asset to any community. □

Two groups teaching their communities

How much does it cost to own an average-size pet in your community?

The Council on Pet Education in central New York has put these figures together and is publicizing them to encourage potential pet owners to think twice about the investment necessary with a pet.

The information is on a simple typed sheet and lists the costs for dogs and cats in the categories of food, vaccinations, worming treatments, spay/neuter and licensing.

Council on Pet Education

PET CARE COSTS (Approx.)

	DOGS (30 lb.)		CATS	
	First Year	Each Succ'd. Year	First Year	Each Succ'd. Year
FOOD	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
Distemper vac.	25.00	10.00	20.00	10.00
Rabies vac.	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Worming	10.00	--	10.00	--
Neutering	50.00	--	40.00	--
License	5.00	5.00	--	--
Total	\$229.00	\$154.00	\$169.00	\$109.00

For samples of the pet cost information sheet, write Eileen McShane, Rt. 5, RD 4, Box 294, Canastota, N.Y. 13032.