she discovered that Chesapeake, a sprawling city of almost 100,000 created from the merger of communities 10 years ago, had no humane organization.

Mrs. Stein and Mrs. Jay Hinds of the fledgling Chesapeake Humane Society had learned how invaluable HSUS's assistance was when they attended an animal control seminar conducted by HSUS's Phyllis Wright in 1973. Miss Wright, director of animal sheltering and control for HSUS, concluded Chesapeake's problems were so acute she should personally investigate. When she visited Chesapeake in June, 1973, she was horrified at the cruelty being practiced in the name of animal control.

The city dog pound was a building that had probably never been adequate for the community, let alone for a city of 100,000, she concluded. Porous cement floors were impossible to disinfect, and an open drainage system provided a reservoir of disease and parasites for animals and people alike. The cages were so rusty that they were beyond any hope of cleaning and disinfecting. Outside runs had no protection from sun or rain. It was obvious that the single part-time attendant had absolutely no knowledge of animal management procedures.

Worst of all was the barbaric method used for euthanasia. Surplus animals were dropped into a 4 x 8-foot unlighted cinderblock box through a top door and killed slowly and painfully by hot carbon monoxide fumes generated by a truck parked outside.

Nothing is more frustrating to a concerned citizen than trying to improve conditions at the local animal shelter. Anyone who gets involved in such a campaign immediately acquires more information on how municipal government works—or doesn't work—than any accredited civics class could provide.

Progress now being made on animal control problems in two southern communities demonstrates how effective local humanitarians can be when they work in partnership with The Humane Society of the United States. In Chesapeake, Va., the partnership between local humanitarians and HSUS began when HSUS helped Mrs. Phyllis Stein and other local residents form a humane society in 1972. Mrs. Stein had learned the need for animal control in her community a few months earlier after seeing a kitten thrown from a car near her home. When she attempted to contact the humane society, the director of animal control at the city's animal shelter indicated he did not have a part-time attendant.