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Lu Anne Womack and Allen Carter received veterinarian technician training at Knox Co. (Tenn.) Humane Society under a CETA grant last year. They plan to continue animal careers.

The Harford Co. Humane Society has nine employees under a CETA grant - seven are working on outdoor projects and two are introducing humane education programs for the county.

Shelter Manager Warren Brodrick advises those interested in a CETA grant to make an appointment with the local CETA office and discuss the project. He cautions against "hand-wringing for poor little animals." Instead, the group should show how the program will benefit the trainees and the community.

An HSUS Animal Control Workshop will be held April 28-29, 1978, at the Holiday Inn in Waterloo, Iowa. Topics covered will include animal sterilization, education, animal control operations and humane society organization. For more information, contact Ann Gonnerman, HSUS Midwest Regional Director, Argyle Bldg., 306 E. 12th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106, (816) 474-2070.

New shelter going up?

by
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His booklet titled "Recommendations for Prototype Animal Shelters" is available for $2 from SHELTERSENSE, HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Many older animal shelter buildings have reached the end of their usefulness, and must now be replaced. In addition, many humane societies are beginning animal shelter operations.

With these new facilities being built, we have the opportunity to improve the quality of animal shelters - or to repeat the mistakes of the past. If we allow the same mistakes to be repeated, it will mean twenty or more years of working in shelters that are often inhumane for the animals and unpleasant for the personnel.

The first mistake often made is the approach that a shelter should be the cheapest building possible. I do not advocate that a shelter be "gold-plated," but I do believe it is false economy to leave out ceilings, good lighting, floor finishes and proper temperature control in the name of economy. If an organization makes up its mind to build a quality shelter rather than another barren dog pound, they CAN do it.

The second major mistake is building design that does not allow for proper cleaning and disinfecting of animal areas. Again and again, shelters are built with no places to put the animals while the runs or cages are being disinfected with a high pressure sprayer.

Sound control is an important factor that is often overlooked in shelter design. The adult dog kennels should be soundproofed to stop noise from going to the front office and the cat and puppy areas. A concrete block perimeter wall around the kennel, rising to the underside of the roof deck, can accomplish this. Doors with self closers must close off kennel areas.

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Within the kennel, a moisture resistant acoustical tile ceiling at a height of 9' will help absorb noise. Concrete block partitions 4' high between each dog run will prevent dogs from constantly barking at each other. A portion of the run floor can be radiantly heated to a slight warmth to give the animal a warm place to rest.

Quiet background music played over a number of small speakers helps keep the animals calm.

Good floor and wall finishes are very important in keeping a shelter clean and inviting to the public. Frequently, expensive shelters are built only to leave the concrete floors completely unfinished. Plain concrete will absorb urine and feces stains, and after a while, the floor will look and smell disgraceful.

There are several special concrete floor finishes available, impervious to stain and with a nice color finish. They will last for several years before a new finish coat needs to be applied. Plain paint on concrete floors is not a satisfactory finish because it will chip and scratch within the first few months.

Concrete block walls should have two coats of block filler to fill the pores and then be painted with an epoxy paint. This will last several years and will clean easily.

Laminated plastic makes an impact resistant wall finish in any spaces that are not soaked with water.

Another extremely important factor that is often overlooked is proper ventilation. All animal rooms should have an air handling system designed with a 50-100% fresh air makeup. The higher the percentage of fresh air, the better the disease control. However, the heating and cooling costs will in turn go up.

There should be supplemental ceiling fans that will exhaust large amounts of air from the kennel. These are used during the clean up process to dry the building as quickly as possible. Several conditioning units serving different room areas will help stop disease and also allow the building to remain comfortable in the event of a breakdown in one unit.

In the cat room, the cages should be stacked only two high with the bottom cage 1'10" above the floor, so each tier can be reached for cleaning. Each cat cage must be at least 2'6" wide to house a cat comfortably. Each cage should have a small litter tray and water bowl.

These few suggestions are by no means the only points that need to be thought out when building your shelter. You must furnish your architect with complete design information for him to produce a building that will be good for you and for the animals. If you do make the effort to design your building correctly, it will be the most valuable asset your organization will have in its work for animals.