APPENDIX E

Opening Remarks
Andrew Rowan, Ph.D., Executive Vice President for Operations, Humane Society of the United States
SURVEY RESULTS (n=14)

- Established
  - 7 ('03-'07), 4 ('99-'01), 3 ('03-04)
- Goals
  - Train dogs for adoption, help youth develop
    social/cognitive skills, help people with disabilities
- Program Manuals
  - Modifications of Los Angeles SPCA (TLC), 1 year
    loan, Bonnie Bergin, or own manuals

SURVEY RESULTS (n=14)

- Program characteristics (ca. 5000 students)
  - 4 (10-20 participants), 10 (440 participants);
  - 5 (40-60 hrs), 1 (518 hrs); 9 (1.1
    graduate student)
  - 13 recruited 12-18, 1 over 18, 2 below 10 and up to 21;
    4 male only
  - 7 dogs from shelters, 7 dogs from breeders, staff
- Staffing & Budget
  - Range from 0.5 to 1 FTE; 2-200 volunteers
  - 1 < 510K, 7 520-650K; 1 590K, 1 5150K, 1 5450K

SURVEY RESULTS (n=14)

- Anticipated Outcomes
  - Cognitive Skills
    - Problem solving, concentration, conflict resolution
      in creating positive behaviors
  - Physical skills
    - Balance, co-operation, hand signals and dog handling
      money planning & execution
  - Social & Emotional Competencies
    - Self control, empathy, management, empathy, responsibility
      collaboration, which produce dog, cell confidence
  - Speech & Language Skills
  - Knowledge & Attitudes

SURVEY RESULTS (n=14)

- Evaluation
  - All were dissatisfied with the evaluation process and
    results
  - Many talked of the need for assistance in this area
  - Family evaluation, staff evaluation, design research
    into program, peer evaluation, participant self
    evaluation (e.g. daily journal), use of developed
    instruments, post-program follow-up.

Negatives of dogs & At-Risk
Youth

- Growth of inner city dog fighting
- Dogs have names like Hitler, Chainsaw & Killer
- “Owner’s” psyche or “street cred” tied to
  how well the dog performs
- These are the most common dogs that
  inner city youth interact with?
Ethics of AAT/AAA

- Finally, comment on some of the animal welfare concerns.
- Most obvious – dealing with youth who have a checkered behavior background with people & animals – Collect data on negative events?
- Length of time dogs (other animals) are engaged in program – breaks?

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CONCLUSIONS

- AAT/AAA programs for At-risk Youth are quite common – but data still sparse
- Programs have lots of PR “oomph” – opportunity for more shelters to engage in them (450 private shelters have $1 million + annual budget)?
- Next two days will outline where we are – thank you again to all who made this conference possible!

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Nepal – Relatively healthy (?) strays sleeping on rubbish