

## Shelter benefits from open door policy

by Phil Steward

(Steward is Sr. Investigator, HSUS Department of Field Services and Investigations.)

The Humane Society of Pomona Valley (CA) has completed remodeling of the animal shelter that exposes nearly all of the shelter to public view. In doing so, the society has:

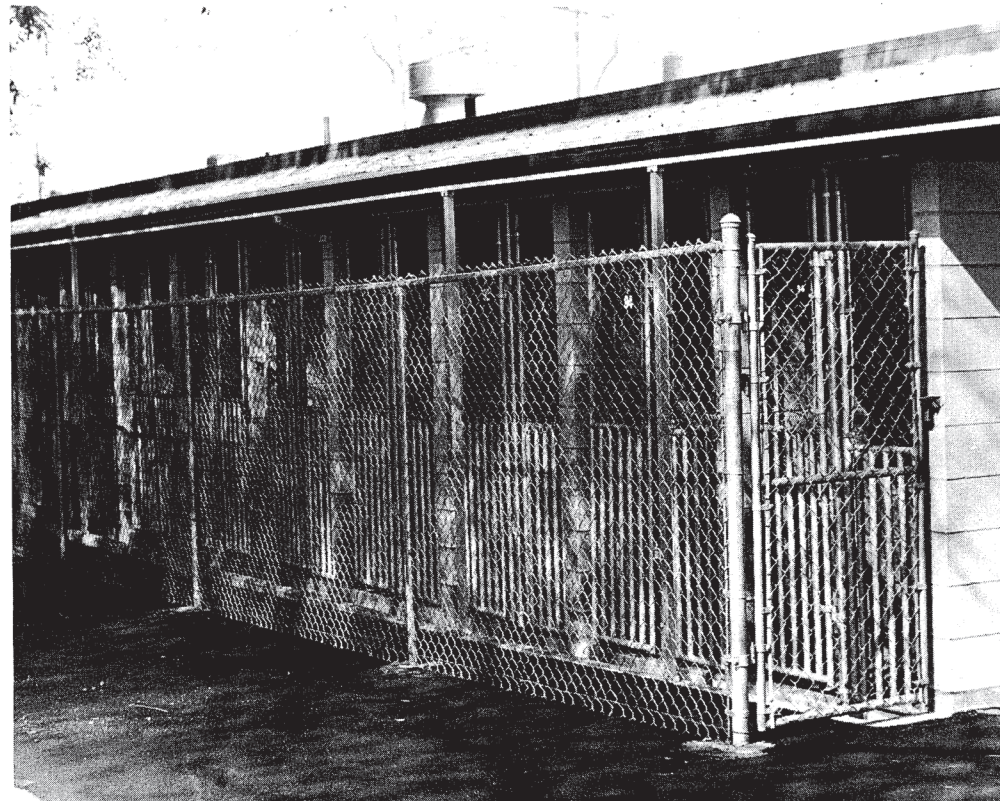
- enhanced its public image;
- resolved the concerns of the public that was previously kept out of certain areas of the shelter;
- increased the chances of pets being returned to their owners;
- provided a more acceptable environment for lost animals.

With donations collected in a special improvements campaign, PVHS converted two old indoor quarantine runs into eight indoor-outdoor runs. Inside, an insulated glass window keeps the area secure for public protection while allowing shelter visitors to see every animal, and more importantly, everything being done by the kennel staff. The runs have both fluorescent lights and sky lights and are temperature-controlled.

Too often, animals quarantined for bite observation are kept behind closed doors where visitors are not allowed without a kennel attendant. The justification is that the public must be protected from "vicious" animals. Unfortunately, these animals often spend their time at the shelter in the dirtiest quarters with the greatest potential for disease and the longest wait for a clean cage, food and water.

PVHS has resolved this problem with an improved quarantine area. The outside runs are protected by a separate fence set about three feet from the run gates, so kennel attendants can move about without danger of animals escaping during cleaning. The public is protected from animals that may bite, and animals are protected from the public. Convalescing animals can be seen but not bothered.

HSUS/Steward



Outdoor runs at PVHS protect dogs from the public and vice versa.

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The cat and puppy ward has a new quarantine/isolation area also. These animals are housed in stainless steel cages with sliding center dividers. During cleaning, the animals need not be removed. Instead, they are simply held on one side while the other is cleaned, and then transferred over by moving the divider. This process prevents injury to the attendant, guards against the animal escaping and allows greater comfort for the animals.

Additional improvements at PVHS include labels on all doors and easy-to-read directional signs throughout the shelter. Newly completed is a grooming area where animals can be bathed, clipped and groomed to enhance adoption potential.

All improvements were made with donations from the public. Potential donors are given a tour of the shelter and specific needs are outlined. One member, after seeing what other donors had made possible in the quarantine area, the adoption ward and the receiving area, decided to donate a barn for housing horses and other large livestock.

Bruce Richards, PVHS executive director, comments, "We hope to make our shelter a model for other shelters. I have invited other shelter directors to visit our shelter, which I think is doing a very good job in servicing the communities in Pomona Valley."

If you are interested in making similar improvements in your shelter, you can get more information and suggestions from Richards, at The Humane Society of Pomona Valley, 500 Humane Way, Pomona, CA 91766. ■

## West German city sells scoop set

A European paper has reported that the city of Karlsruhe, West Germany, has set up vending machines which dispense "cleansing sets" to dog owners for a 50-pfenning (24 cent) coin. Dogs may relieve themselves on sidewalks, provided the owners use the sets, which include a paper bag, small cardboard shovel and a scraper. ■

## Offer

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