

SHELTER SENSE

A Publication for Animal Sheltering and Control Personnel

HSUS



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM SHELTER SENSE -- May your holidays be spent before warm hearths in the company of good friends. (photo by Bonnie Smith)

Christmas pets and pets at Christmas

Cuddly puppies and kittens under the Christmas tree are great on greeting cards -- but bad in real life, for pets and people.

When people come to your shelter to adopt a new pet for a holiday gift, urge them to announce the gift with a card and pick up the animal after Christmas day is over. Or suggest they take the new pet home a few weeks before Christmas, and have the fun of opening pet toys on the holiday.

The bustle and excitement of holidays make the wrong atmosphere for introducing a new animal to a home and

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beginning its training as a good pet. The animal could be inadvertently mistreated, injured or simply terrified -- as when enthusiastic givers wrap the little fellow as a "gift."

Also, remind area residents with pets that Christmas decorations can become dangerous playthings for curious animals -- nibbling poinsettia can poison a pet. Eating tinsel can result in impaction, and chewing electrical wiring can be hazardous to both pet and owner because of fire.

The holiday season is a good time for fund-raising for your organization -- check with local stores selling pet toys and other supplies to see if you can set up a canister for donations near the pet shelf. Stores may donate a portion of holiday sales. You can also issue press releases asking residents to contribute to your organization the same amount they spend on toys for their own pets.

By informing your community about responsible pet ownership, you can make the holiday season better for pets and people. ■

HSUS expansion



Eustace



Smith

The HSUS accreditation program for humane societies and animal control agencies is being expanded with the addition of two accreditation associates.

Leslie Eustace, who comes to The HSUS from ASPCA in New York, will serve the western states and maintain an office in the new HSUS Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver. This office serves Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Arizona, and the director is Don Cashen, formerly of the Indianapolis Humane Society. The address is 1780 South Bellaire St., Denver, CO 80222 - tel. (303)759-8880.

Accreditation associate Hurt "Bill" Smith is based in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and can be reached at 4831 Springhill Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 - tel. (205)553-8665. Smith is well known throughout the southeast for his many years of work devoted to improving animal shelters in the region.

HSUS accredits humane societies and animal control agencies that meet certain professional standards of operation. Complete information on accreditation requirements are available from HSUS Accreditation, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037. ■

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