

## Cruelty cases

The following cases have been brought to our attention over the past several months. If your society or agency has successfully resolved an animal problem, write SHELTER SENSE about it. Please remember to include details on how you solved the problem so other animal groups and agencies can make use of the information.

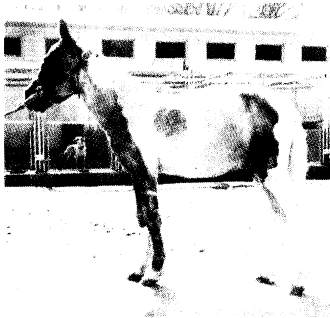
A resident of Edgewater, MD, has been found guilty of cruelty to animals for not caring adequately for 13 horses and a mule. The charges were filed when the SPCA of Anne Arundel County impounded 12 of the animals. The maximum fine is \$1,000 and up to 90 days in jail.

The woman convicted owned all the animals but four, which she was boarding for a fee. She blamed the animals' condition partly on inadequate care from two teenagers whom she had hired to water and feed them -- the judge pointed out that she was still the responsible party.

The tenant on the farm where the animals were kept complained to the SPCA that they were undernourished. Humane officer George Wilkins spent an entire day at the farm as part of his investigation. No one came to feed and water them, so Wilkins did so himself. He said the horses were tied and unable to get to water.

The judge said his verdict was based on a veterinarian's testimony, and also on the significant weight gains and improved condition of the animals while they were being cared for by the SPCA. He is quoted in an area newspaper as saying, "If the SPCA could put on weight in that time, I don't know why that couldn't have happened under (the defendant's) care." (SPCA of Anne Arundel Co., 1815 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403)

Patches



New Hampshire Humane Society

An East Palo Alto, CA, woman was sentenced to four months in jail with three years formal probation and fined \$630 for animal cruelty. The Santa Clara County Times reported the sentence as the harshest ever given in San Mateo County for animal cruelty.

The woman placed a flea collar on her German Shepherd dog when it was three months of age and left it on for six months. It became embedded in the animal's neck, resulting in an open sore. The woman was quoted as saying she did not realize the seriousness of the wound.

In passing the sentence, the judge commented, "The veterinarian indicated that she felt the dog was in pain for four months. So I thought (the owner) ought to be in jail for four months." One appeal for a reduced sentence was denied; she has since been released pending another appeal. (Peninsula Humane Society, 12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94401)

Patches is a Shetland pony who was rescued from neglect and near-starvation by the New Hampshire Humane Society. The owner protested that he had been well cared for, but quickly surrendered him when threatened with legal action. "Before" and "after" photos (taken with society employees and some small friends) show his improved condition. (New Hampshire Humane Society, PO Box 572, Laconia, NH 03246) ■