INTRODUCING

SHELTER SENSE

A new publication for animal sheltering and control personnel
Dear Friend:

This is the first issue of a new publication for you -- the professional in the animal control and shelter field.

I know from my visits with you at your locations and at animal control workshops that you are interested in improving your work and that you need information on:

- how to make your animal control programs more effective.
- how to work out an adequate budget for your needs.
- how to improve conditions for both animals and people in your community.

SHELTER SENSE will bring you information and resources, with details about programs and ordinances that have been successful in communities around the country.

We will bring you articles on shelter management and animal control, with how-to-do-it guidelines for handling the tasks of today's animal control or humane society worker.

And perhaps most important: we invite you to share your ideas with us -- to write us about the programs that have worked for you.

There has been little communication between animal control and shelter workers; therefore, good ideas and workable programs have not been shared. SHELTER SENSE is your vehicle for sharing information and learning from others.

Utah drivers must assist injured animals

Drivers who hit animals in Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County must stop to help them, according to animal control ordinances passed in both jurisdictions last September.

Motorists are required to try to locate the animal owner. Failing that (or if the victim is a wild animal), the driver must contact the city or county animal control department or the Humane Society of Utah to make arrangements for the animal.

The maximum penalty for leaving the scene is $300 or six months in jail. A public information campaign is underway to encourage witnesses to animal hit-and-run accidents to note the appearance of the car and driver and the vehicle license number so these drivers can be apprehended. Two such cases have been brought to court.

Brice Nelson, executive director of the Humane Society of Utah, reports that community reaction is generally favorable. People who express concern about handling an injured animal are advised to leave it alone and contact the authorities.
Birth control for pigeons

Shelby Dow, director of Salt Lake County Animal Control, acknowledges that the ordinance will result in more work for the city and county in answering the emergency calls, but regards cooperation with HSU as a good arrangement.

He comments that the accidents are generally not the fault of the drivers, but of the pet owners for letting animals run loose.

Jefferson Parish, La., which includes six municipalities, now requires cats to be registered and vaccinated against rabies. I. Richard Collord, III, animal shelter director, reports that although registration tags are not required, they will be issued also and owners will be encouraged to have their pets wear them.

The ordinance also directs that the animal shelter department will handle registrations, receiving revenue which went to the health department before 1976. Area veterinarians also issue licenses with vaccinations, and they will deal directly with the animal shelter department.

Enforcement now depends on "nuisance cat" complaints, but stricter enforcement measures are being developed.

The parish council passed the ordinance last September because of concern about rabies spread. Collord said the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is strongly in favor of rabies vaccinations for cats, and gave support to the ordinance.

Avitrol Corporation has announced the acquisition of "Ornitrol," a birth control agent for pigeons carried in whole kernel corn.

Ornitrol controls reproduction by making eggs infertile, but does not injure the pigeons. However, the treated corn should not be accessible to other birds, domestic animals or poultry, or wildlife.

For complete pricing and usage information, write Avitrol Corporation, P.O. Box 45141, Tulsa, Okla. 74145 - or call toll-free 1-800-331-4215.

Shelby Dow, director of Salt Lake County Animal Control, acknowledges that the ordinance will result in more work for the city and county in answering the emergency calls, but regards cooperation with HSU as a good arrangement.

He comments that the accidents are generally not the fault of the drivers, but of the pet owners for letting animals run loose.

Jefferson Parish, La., which includes six municipalities, now requires cats to be registered and vaccinated against rabies. I. Richard Collord, III, animal shelter director, reports that although registration tags are not required, they will be issued also and owners will be encouraged to have their pets wear them.

The ordinance also directs that the animal shelter department will handle registrations, receiving revenue which went to the health department before 1976. Area veterinarians also issue licenses with vaccinations, and they will deal directly with the animal shelter department.

Enforcement now depends on "nuisance cat" complaints, but stricter enforcement measures are being developed.

The parish council passed the ordinance last September because of concern about rabies spread. Collord said the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is strongly in favor of rabies vaccinations for cats, and gave support to the ordinance.

Avitrol Corporation has announced the acquisition of "Ornitrol," a birth control agent for pigeons carried in whole kernel corn.

Ornitrol controls reproduction by making eggs infertile, but does not injure the pigeons. However, the treated corn should not be accessible to other birds, domestic animals or poultry, or wildlife.

For complete pricing and usage information, write Avitrol Corporation, P.O. Box 45141, Tulsa, Okla. 74145 - or call toll-free 1-800-331-4215.
One of the biggest problems facing the animal control officer is that of maintaining good public relations. A compassionate feeling for those humans and animals in distress is essential.

Probably one of the most difficult duties that an animal control officer will have is that of destroying an animal. The taking of life cannot be regarded lightly no matter how many times the necessity arises. Careful instructions must be prepared and followed as to when an animal must or should be destroyed and the manner in which the act is completed. Applicable laws should be known and understood.

Approximately 55% of the community will be animal owners, and their animals are part of their families. It is easy to stir up human emotions when a family pet is involved. The manner of handling the case, the diplomacy and efficiency involved, can make the difference between cooperation and a lump on the head for the officer.

Thus, with training in all the areas mentioned, good appearance and a spirit of helpfulness, the animal control officer can be a great asset to any community.

How much does it cost to own an average-size pet in your community?

The Council on Pet Education in central New York has put these figures together and is publicizing them to encourage potential pet owners to think twice about the investment necessary with a pet.

The information is on a simple typed sheet and lists the costs for dogs and cats in the categories of food, vaccinations, worming treatments, spay/neuter and licensing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PET CARE COSTS (Approx.)</th>
<th>DOGS (30 lb.)</th>
<th>CATS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Year</td>
<td>Each Succ’d. Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distemper vac.</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabies vac.</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORMING</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutering</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$229.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$154.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For samples of RPO material, write Phyllis Johanson, Responsible Pet Ownership Council, P.O. Box 1419, Portland, Ore. 97207

Eileen McShane, council member and Madison Co. (N.Y.) dog warden leaves copies wherever she goes, and as a result, has been asked to speak before many local groups.

She says the Council itself was difficult to organize at first because each of the member groups - veterinarians, departments of health, animal control agencies, humane societies - felt it had the worst problems. However, cooperation is good, and the Council has even written to state legislators to offer assistance in drafting legislation.

In Portland, Ore., the Responsible Pet Ownership Council distributes materials with the theme “Be an RPO - Responsible Pet Owner.”

The group was organized by a veterinarian, Dr. R. J. Flumadon, and includes city and county officials, animal welfare groups, kennel clubs and the area veterinary association. Each member group pays $15.00 a year, and some have made large individual donations.

Council Secretary Phyllis Johanson says that having a pivotal figure like Dr. Flumadon was essential in getting the diverse groups to come together. The membership is growing, with some out-of-town groups joining.

The Humane Society of the United States is offering humane societies and animal control agencies 100 free copies of each of two flyers - titled "A Checklist for Potential Pet Owners" and "Your Car May Be A Death Trap" (on the danger of leaving animals in closed cars during hot weather). The flyers can be used as postcards, handouts or newspaper ads. The reverse side has been left blank for your organization’s name, address and phone number.

Make your request on the letterhead of your group to SHELTER SENSE, HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. (Additional copies after the first 100 are $1 per 100.)

ALSO AVAILABLE - Responsible Animal Regulation, a discussion of regulation and control for city and county officials and humane societies...$1 per copy. Order from the address above.
Interview with Betty Denny

by Charlene Drennon

DRENNON: Los Angeles Co. covers 5000 square miles, 25 cities, as well as unincorporated areas, and Animal Control has over 200 employees. Isn’t it unusual for a woman to be the director of such a large animal control department?

SMITH: Yes, there are very few women animal control directors. Five years ago, there weren’t any women animal control officers to speak of, but today, there are women officers in many of the departments.

DRENNON: What are your suggestions to a woman who would like to train to be an animal control director?

SMITH: She should get the most complete education she can. It’s important that she learn about all animals and animal behavior, not just dogs and cats. She should take business courses, and learn about budgets, laws and labor issues. She must know how to deal effectively with people. It would also be to her advantage to work in a shelter.

DRENNON: What is your background?

SMITH: I have had a varied background, and I think it’s important that women training for such a position do so. I majored in business administration in college. I served on the board of the Pet Assistance Foundation for several years, and was one of the founders and president of VSA, a volunteer group chartered to work in the Los Angeles city shelters. I lobbied in Sacramento for animal welfare legislation for several years, and served on numerous county and state committees on upgrading animal control.

DRENNON: What accomplishments are you most proud of in your two years?

SMITH: Many new programs have been started, including humane education, and we have added four spay clinics. I am most proud of our disease prevention program, our euthanasia program using sodium pentobarbital and the addition of eight animal health technicians to our shelters.

DRENNON: I understand your shelter at Agoura (Calif.) is considered a model shelter.

SMITH: Yes, it is. It was opened in November, 1979, and we’ve involved local citizens extensively there. We are fortunate that the group Actors and Others for Animals financed pilot programs at Agoura for distemper inoculations and euthanasia by sodium pentobarbital injection. These programs have been extended throughout the county.

DRENNON: What is the potential employment picture for women in animal control work?

SMITH: Almost unlimited. Government, through affirmative action programs, is actively seeking qualified women for positions at every level.

DRENNON: Do you find that women animal control officers have special problems in the field?
Continued from page 7

Animal control workshop

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 funds are earmarked for jurisdictions with populations of more than 100,000. The CETA offices distribute grant money according to local needs and match up qualified unemployed persons with the created jobs. Jurisdictions under 100,000 population are served by the "balance of state" CETA office in each state.

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.

Meade offers design consultation to groups building or remodeling animal shelters. Contact him at 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr., Arlington, Va. 22206, (703) 931-0236.

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

New shelter going up?

by
William R. Meade, III

Meade is executive director of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Va., Inc., and a shelter design consultant.

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.

Continued on next page
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 radiant 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.
Setting goals and getting to them
by Phyllis Wright

Time management experts tell us that we can get more done by setting goals and objectives for ourselves — then planning the daily work that will take us to the goal.

If you are like many animal agencies or societies, you spend your time on the day-to-day activities - animal pickup, rescue, adoption, record-keeping.

But what are your long-term goals? Are you solving the animal problems in your community? If your shelters are simply "revolving doors for animals" - processing the same numbers of dogs and cats each year - you are not solving your overall problem.

You can bring animal problems in your community under control by implementing three programs: legislation, education and sterilization. They spell LES - less cruelty to animals and less money spent on animal control.

As an example of a good ordinance, in Prince George's Co. (Md.), dog wardens can issue violation notices to owners of dogs running loose, rather than impounding the animals. This system is easier on the animal, places the responsibility properly on the pet owner, and provides revenue for the county.

The Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation has reduced the number of animals processed through its shelters by $30,000 in the last five years due to three long term efforts - operating spay and neuter clinics, reducing license fees for sterilized animals and educating the public on the responsibilities of a pet owner.

Efforts like these can help you solve the animal control problems in your community, as you set your long-term goals and then plan the steps necessary to reach them.

Our goal in providing this publication is to help you reach your goals.

A six-month trial spay/neuter program for pets from low income families was launched in December by the Orlando (Fla.) Humane Society and the Central Florida Veterinary Association.

Low income pet owners applying for the program are asked if they are employed, how many dependents they have, where the animal came from and if it is vaccinated and licensed. OHS Executive Director Dorothy Rodriguez determines then if the sterilization should be partially or wholly paid for by the OHS. A special collection box has been set up for donations to the program.

For their part, the veterinarians are performing the surgeries at one-half the customary price. Their spokesman is Dr. Fred Hall.

Rodriguez praises the veterinarians for their cooperation and stresses that the program is for the unfortunate animal that kind-hearted people have taken in, the animal that otherwise would end up at the shelter. "We are not catering to people who buy dogs as status symbols, no matter what their income."

Pilot spay/neuter program launched

If you have a program for adoptions, fundraising, community education or other successful ideas — or if your community has passed an animal control ordinance that is helping to solve the animal problems — write us about it. Be sure to include complete information on the steps involved and the results. Each idea will be carefully considered for SHELTER SENSE.

This complimentary issue of SHELTER SENSE will show you what we're about. In it you'll find information about animal control ordinances, shelter construction and training for animal control personnel. The issue includes articles by people in our field that can help you improve your operations.

We've included a reproducible flyer that you can have printed in quantity at your local print shop for distribution to your community -- or placed in your organization newsletter or local newspaper.

Look through the issue -- if you agree that SHELTER SENSE will help you do a better job, start your subscription today at our introductory rate.

Just complete the coupon on the envelope inside SHELTER SENSE and return it with your check or money order to The Humane Society of the United States. A six-issue subscription is $5. Five or more 6-issue subscriptions to the same address are $4 per subscription. (This special multiple rate is for organizations with large staffs where several copies of each issue are needed.)

You will receive SHELTER SENSE bimonthly for a year. You will learn and share with other professionals in the field. And we think you'll enjoy your work more, too.

In future issues SHELTER SENSE will cover such topics as cruelty investigations ... animal handling ... humane education ... adoption programs ... shelter management ... fundraising.

Every issue will be of benefit to you. Start your subscription today.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Wright
#HSUS Director of Animal Sheltering and Control

Low income pet owners applying for the program are asked if they are employed, how many dependents they have, where the animal came from and if it is vaccinated and licensed. OHS Executive Director Dorothy Rodriguez determines then if the sterilization should be partially or wholly paid for by the OHS. A special collection box has been set up for donations to the program.

For their part, the veterinarians are performing the surgeries at one-half the customary price. Their spokesman is Dr. Fred Hall.

Rodriguez praises the veterinarians for their cooperation and stresses that the program is for the unfortunate animal that kind-hearted people have taken in, the animal that otherwise would end up at the shelter. "We are not catering to people who buy dogs as status symbols, no matter what their income."