BUT SPAYING WILL HURT HER!

No it won't. Spaying is a safe operation when done by a veterinarian. Afterward, I'll be more contented. And I'll be healthier, too.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM

They do the best they can, but they can't find homes for all the 10,000 puppies and kittens born every hour in the United States. Unfortunately, a lot of us have to be put to sleep.

NATURE INTENDED FOR ANIMALS TO HAVE BABIES

Yes, but nature didn't intend for millions of cats and dogs to die of starvation, disease, or under the wheels of cars. Man has tamed us so that we can't look out for ourselves. Now he has a responsibility to see that we don't suffer.

WE FIND A GOOD HOME FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM

But how many of us are still in those homes a year or two later? And how many more kittens or puppies will we have? It isn't possible to find homes for all of them.

(More on back cover)
OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES CALL THE SURPLUS BREEDING OF DOGS AND CATS A "SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM... DETERMINATIVE TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY."

Americans are up in arms about their polluted water and air, their littered highways, and their dwindling resources. Yet they continue to treat cats and dogs as though they were mere possessions, to be bought and discarded at their whim.

Everywhere you look, you'll see proof of man's lack of love for his pets: college students abandon their mascots at the end of the school term, vacationers desert summer pets in September, the family cat is kicked out when she gives birth to a litter of kittens. Dad drags the pet dog off to the animal shelter when the kids get tired of looking after it. And, ironically, these are man's best friends that get this coldhearted treatment.

Sure, there are responsible pet owners, too, but not nearly enough to take care of all the homeless cats and dogs in this country. Take a look at some statistics.

Every hour of every day there are approximately 10,000 kittens and puppies born in the United States. That's 240,000 a day and 87,600,000 a year! Even if every one of the more than 200 million men, women, and children in this country adopted an animal—and many of those people shouldn't be allowed to have pets—millions would still be homeless.

As it is, only a few of these homeless animals find a good home. Some of them are taken in by loving people. Others are adopted from an animal shelter. But these are the few lucky ones. Most of them end up leading fearful, hungry lives as strays, being killed by cars, suffering exposure, disease, and starvation, until death mercifully comes. Some, of course, are rescued and impounded in animal shelters, where, if someone cares enough to be sure each animal is put to sleep without pain, they will not have to suffer further.

Something must be done to prevent this suffering to animal life and to avoid wasting life. The only answer is prevention—prevention of the birth of more animals in a country already supersaturated with cats and dogs.

Birth control is even more important for cats and dogs than it is for people, because the dimensions of the problem are even larger. Consider this. In one year a female dog may give birth to four puppies, two of them female. In the second year the mother and each of her two female offspring may produce four puppies, for a total of 12. By the third year, the three generations of dogs will have produced 36 offspring. By the fourth year, the four generations will have produced 108 offspring. In the fifth year, the number will have grown to 324. If you carried the tabulation to the seventh year, you would have a total of 4,372 dogs. And the progression would be much larger.

Unfortunately, the birth control methods used with humans aren't practical with dogs and cats. The Humane Society of the United States and other humane groups are searching for an effective means of temporary birth control for animals, but, in the meantime, surgery provides the only answer.

The surgery required to spay a female animal or neuter a male animal is safe and simple. The result will be a less restless, more affectionate pet. The altered animals will not grow fat if they get proper exercise, and there will be no major change in personality. Furthermore, veterinarians have found there is a significant decrease in the incidence of cancer and urinary tract disorders in neutered pets.

The Humane Society of the United States also advocates the establishment of low-cost spay and neuter clinics to make it possible for more people to have their pets altered. The National Humane Education Center has been operating a spay and neuter clinic since 1969 that has demonstrated that such a program is less expensive than traditional animal shelter operations. The City of Los Angeles early in 1971 opened the nation's first municipal spay clinic, which has already proved that a spay program is much less expensive than the $1 million it spends annually to care for and kill homeless animals. Most important, both spay clinics are convinced that concerted spay and neuter programs will reduce the number of homeless animals.

Whether you live in a city or a rural area, you can be sure that there are unwanted cats and dogs in your community. And there will be many more of them until all pet owners are aware of the need to prevent unnecessary breeding.

You can help! You can educate the citizens of your community about the problem. You can urge local government officials to establish a spay and neuter clinic.

(continued on page 6.)
KIND Director Dale Hylton with Butch, a huge white Great Dane, given up by his owner. Butch is just one year old, lovable and playful. The animal shelter staff tried hard to find a good home for Butch, because he was such a fine dog, and almost succeeded. But then we discovered Butch was deaf, probably a genetic factor from poor breed lines. A lonely life behind a kennel fence is the only safe protection that could be allowed for a dog this big that is deaf. It was kinder to put Butch to sleep than to sentence him to a lonely life behind kennel bars.

By 1952 thirty-three separate minerals had been placed on the 'critical' list. Between 1940 and 1961 the consumption of minerals in the U.S. doubled.

"Each of us is placed here on Earth and given life for some grand purpose. Each of us has been given a talent. It was put in us to develop of through its development to bless humanity. That is the ordained purpose behind each of our lives. And that purpose can be accomplished only by the individual."

Reprinted from Vilas County News-Review

By Phyllis Gravel, N. Grosvenordale, Ct.

THERE WILL BE NO MIRACLES IN 1973

Now that the Earth Day rallies are over, those who attended and those who watched with keen interest have fallen into two distinct groups. Both have had to recognize that changing life styles to help the environment was a major undertaking. Those who really meant business started making their plans and rolled up their sleeves and went to work to achieve their goals in life. Others became discouraged and fell by the wayside. We're watching the industrious, dogged determination of those who are making it, with eager anticipation that their influence will create a more desirable life style for the future, living more closely with nature. Our sympathy and concern lingers with those who couldn't hack it, and elected to follow the crowd, in accepting life as it is, and not bucking the tide too much.

They remind us of the man we once met who was so eager to advance the philosophy of environmental concern, he could talk about nothing else. His eagerness was so overwhelming that he even bought an electric car. At that time, and so far as we know, still at the present writing, an electric car had not been perfected that didn't have some serious handicaps. One of the handicaps of his electric car was a top speed of 45 miles per hour. Since he drove 45 miles to work each morning, and 45 miles home each evening, the most of his free time which he wanted to devote to help the environment was spent in commuting in his slow electric car.

When he began to build a house he applied the same overeager enthusiasm to his plans. He became too overwhelmed by all there was to do that he finally became discouraged, and just moved away. His nearly completed empty house sits silently in a lonesome woods, a symbol of defeat of a man who tried to change the world too fast.

Whatever resolutions you may care to make for the New Year should be guided by your knowledge of what you are able to do successfully. Don't undertake more of a challenge in changing the world, or even your own life style than you can handle. Think small, but be faithful. When you've established that habit, you'll be able to go on to bigger and better challenges that can make their impact on the world and those around you.

TIME TO RENEW

If you haven't renewed your membership for 1973, do it NOW. Annual membership dues are only $2.

NAME

BIRTHDATE

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE
Here's What You Can Do:

1. Learn all you can about what happens to strays. Visit your local pound or animal shelter. Learn how many animals are handled each year. Learn what it costs the community for these services. Learn how many animals are claimed by their owners, and how many are adopted by new owners. Learn if adopted animals must be spayed or neutered. Learn how long animals are kept before they are put to sleep. Learn how the animals are put to sleep. Learn how many animals are destroyed annually. Consider what a waste of life this system is, and how many lives are snuffed out, only because there were no homes to take them when they were born.

2. Write the Legislative Reference Bureau at your state capitol for a copy of the state law prohibiting the abandonment of animals. Localize this information in educating others. You may even wish to make posters to put on display, with the information from the law on abandonment. Most people don't realize abandoning an animal is a crime.

3. Launch a letter-writing campaign. Write about some of the horrible facts you have discovered about the pound and the system of picking up the surplus. Mention the success of the Los Angeles City low-cost spay clinic. Ask why your city or county cannot have one, too. In all of your letters, mention that more detailed information on establishing such a clinic can be obtained from SPAY, The National Humane Education Center, Waterford, Va., 22190.

Write to:
- The editor of your local newspaper.
- The mayor and city councilmen or county commissioners.
- The city or county manager.
- The local health department.
- The agency in charge of the pound or animal shelter.

A telephone call to your local newspaper or town or county office building will give you the names and addresses of these officials.

You must start the idea in your town. If you can generate enough interest among concerned people, organizations and public officials for them to write for more information, we'll provide all the help we can from here. Perhaps your city, too, can have a low-cost spay clinic, as a result of your campaign.

4. In your letters ask that ordinances be passed to reduce breeding. a. An ordinance requiring all dogs and cats adopted from the pound to be spayed or neutered. b. An ordinance establishing a fine for pet owners who let female dogs or cats run loose when they are in season. c. An ordinance setting a higher license fee for a female dog, unless she has been spayed.

5. Discuss your findings with your friends. Urge them to write letters, too. Use the information as a report in school, and see if you can make it a class project to write letters to public officials. Order posters to put up in your community. Order leaflets to distribute to others.

Prices are:

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<tr>
<th>Posters</th>
<th>12 for 25¢</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaflets:</td>
<td>5¢ each</td>
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<tr>
<td>What's Your Excuse</td>
<td>3¢ each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everyone Loves Puppies</td>
<td>3¢ each</td>
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<td>10,000 Per Hour</td>
<td>3¢ each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posters:</td>
<td>Litter is Unwanted Trash</td>
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<td>50 Million Homeless and Hopeless</td>
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6. Send for KIND's public service announcements for radio on surplus breeding. Take them to your local radio stations and ask to see the Program Director. Ask him to help prevent the killing of surplus cats and dogs by broadcasting these announcements. Radio stations must donate a certain amount of free public service time for the benefit of the community. They are eager to find the best project to use this donated time for, and they will welcome your visit. The only difficulty is the competition other public service agencies present, but we feel they will consider this project a worthy one. We know they will be more likely to use these announcements because you have delivered them personally.

7. Learn what it costs the average pet owner to have his pet neutered or spayed in your community.

8. Have your own pets neutered or spayed, and urge your friends and neighbors to have their pets neutered or spayed.

9. Plan a project to make money to help a pet owner get his pet neutered or spayed who cannot afford to have it done.

10. Urge adults to join their local humane society and actively support it in its programs to reduce surplus breeding.

Launch your own campaign LESS, LEGISLATION CAN PREVENT SURPLUS, UNWANTED ANIMALS, EDUCATION CAN PREVENT SURPLUS, UNWANTED ANIMALS, SURGICAL STERILIZATION WILL PREVENT SURPLUS, UNWANTED ANIMALS.

The more you can do to promote Legislation, Education, and Surgical Sterilization, the LESS surplus, homeless, helpless animals there will be to be exposed to needless suffering.
EcoLOKIND is published monthly for members ages 15-18 by KIND, youth membership division of The Humane Society of the U.S.  
R. Dale Hylton, Editor

Add this newsletter to your kit for supplementary information.

This is recycled paper.