A KIND DOG OWNER WOULD NOT WANT HIS DOG TO BE IMPOUNDED IN A POUND LIKE THIS

This pound is quite typical of a large majority of small town or county dog pounds throughout the United States. KIND members can help improve such facilities and the care they offer lost and homeless pets by learning what facilities are available in their own communities. Launch your own campaign for a better public pound.
INCONSISTENCIES AND INCONGRUITIES
THE LEAKS IN THE DAM OF ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAMS

Millions of dollars are spent every year on animal control in this country. Some programs are state-wide, others are county-wide, others are limited to the boundaries of a city. Some are directed by departments of agriculture, police departments, or health departments. In virtually every case these programs have glaring deficiencies that prevent them from significantly reducing the surplus animal population problem. Instead, the budget requirements usually get bigger every year.

Los Angeles, with an animal control budget of over $1 million in 1970, set a precedent in attempting to get to the heart of the problem of surplus animals. They have allocated certain funds from the animal control budget, for the operation of a low-cost spay and neuter clinic. This project has been so successful that more money has been set aside for the operation of more such clinics. Other communities around the nation are watching this experiment with great interest. It is possible that, from funds derived from dog and kennel license sales, more such low-cost spay and neuter clinics may soon be established. The incongruity that appears in the Los Angeles program is that, while dedicated pioneering efforts have been made to offer spay and neuter services to reduce the pet population explosion, the several pounds operated by the same program do not require spaying or neutering of the animals released from these pounds into new homes. Los Angeles officials realize the inconsistency here, but seem to be ham-strung by a legal provision which prohibits a mandatory spaying or neutering requirement for adopted animals. Hopefully, some remedy will be found for this problem in the near future.

Any animal control program that releases unspayed or unneutered animals for adoption is contributing to a multiplication of their surplus animal problems. Instead of attacking the source of the problem, they create more problems for the future, with more attendant requirement of funds to handle the workload.

A good animal control program should have all of the following:

- A strict control ordinance, requiring pet owners to keep their pets under control at all times. This can include a provision for obedience control to permit the owner of a well-trained dog to walk him off leash, offering greater freedom, when the dog instantly obeys every command.

- A provision for fining the owner of a stray animal, rather than having to capture and impound the animal.

- An educational program in the schools as well as for the general public, on good care and control of pets, the applicable laws for keeping pets, and the importance of having pets spayed or neutered.

A low-cost spay and neuter clinic.
A low-cost rabies vaccination clinic where dog licenses can be purchased at the same time.
A lost and found service, with advertising of found animals.
A higher license fee for unspayed or unneutered dogs, or perhaps no fee requirements for licensing spayed or neutered animals.
A good system of enforcing license requirements.
A system of requiring a permit to keep a dog or a cat.
A requirement that all adopted animals be spayed or neutered.
Adequate facilities to care for homeless animals, including cats.
A method of destroying unclaimed animals without causing them fear, stress, or pain.
A dedicated staff who are concerned for the welfare of every animal.

The first provisions for the control of animals were adopted for the protection of livestock. Most took the form of bounty payments to anyone who shot a wild dog. Typical of such archaic laws was one that lasted until 1965 in Pennsylvania, which offered a payment of $2 for every pair of a dog's ears produced. Many beloved pets were undoubtedly destroyed because of this law, and there were even stories of live dogs whose ears had been cut off. One of the freak instances which helped to get this law repealed was the delivery, through a postal error, of a coffee can full of dog ears to a man in Florida.

Because cats are not capable of wreaking such extensive livestock damage as are dogs, there has been little legislation on the control of cats. Added to this is the fact that cats are more difficult to control. Many control laws went beyond the bounty system, and were based on rabies control, primarily because dogs are the animal most likely to explore the woods and confront any wild animal they meet. Yet cats also should be controlled, for their own protection.

Animal control is too often a subject that receives little priority by government officials, whether it is on the state, county, or city level. Without exception, every animal control program in this country could stand some kind of improvements in its systems--most need a major overhaul. With the new information and awareness on low-cost spay and neuter clinics, an increase of articles appearing to acquaint the public with the pet population problem and the surplus of unwanted animals, and the simple logistics of solving the problem so it no longer continues to cost so much money, there is hope major improvements can be made.
in many communities. EcoloKIND members may have a significant part in seeking such improvements by acquainting yourself with the present system and its cost, and seeking to inquire about educational and preventive programs that do not now appear to be a part of your local control program. Such an inquiry may be used as a project in the animal welfare project contest announced in the May issue of your newsletter. At any rate, information you are able to document on your community’s program will be useful to The Humane Society in its continuing effort to eliminate the surplus animal problem and its staggering annual cost, and in the improvement of programs for the welfare of animals in every community of the nation.

"ELBEE," A SHIH TZU
THAT GOT LOST, HIS
OWNERS TOOK OUT PAID
ADS, WROTE TO EDITORS
OF NEWSPAPERS, AND
REFUSED TO GIVE UP
ADVERTISING FOR HIS
RETURN. HE WAS RETURNED
TO HIS OWNERS 7 WEEKS
AND A DAY AFTER HE GOT
LOST. ADVERTISING LOST
PETS IS MOST IMPORTANT,
YOU CAN URGE OWNERS OF
MISSING PETS NOT TO
GIVE UP EASILY, BUT TO
KEEP ADVERTISING.

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VIRGINIA GOVERNOR
HOLTON SIGNS INTO
LAW A BILL TO IMPROVE THE STATE’S
ANTI-CRUELTY PROVISIONS, DELEGATE
JOHN L. MENCK, SPONSOR OF THE BILL, AND GIRL SCOUTS WHO
FOLLOWED THIS BILL THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, URGE SUPPORT
FOR ITS ENACTMENT, LOOK ON WITH SATISFACTION.

WILD BURROS GIVEN TEMPORARY REPRIEVE

About 500 wild burros, living on the China Lake Naval Weapons Center, in California’s Mojave Desert, have been saved from destruction by quick action of The Humane Society. They contend these burros are protected by the federal Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, while the Navy maintains this act does not apply to military lands. The Humane Society has also claimed that plans to destroy the burros would fall under the Environmental Policy Act, requiring that an environmental impact statement be filed before permission to destroy the burros could be given. The Navy has obtained a permit from the state, and killed a number of burros in five previous years, quietly, and without public knowledge. Destruction of the burros is ostensibly to prevent starvation from overgrazing of sparse desert vegetation, although Humane Society investigations revealed the burros to be healthy and well-fed.

RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUPS INVESTIGATED

The Gulf States Regional Office of The Humane Society has investigated several ‘rattlesnake roundups’ and discovered a type of brutality toward rattlesnakes that is difficult to describe. Also uncovered was a perpetuation of falsehoods about snakes, such as the oft-repeated claim that rattlesnakes serve no useful purpose on earth, a ruse to justify the virtual mass extermination. The roundups were not staged against indigenous snakes only, however, but snake clubs gathered snakes, transported them from roundup to roundup, to perform brutalities on them as a popular public spectacle.

Among the cruelties cited were spraying gasoline in a pit of snakes, throwing them against the sides of wooden holding pens, in such numbers that many suffocated or were crushed to death, providing water in containers they couldn’t reach, and butchering contests so competitive that contestants sometimes cut off the tails of snakes before cutting off their heads.

Of greatest concern to The Humane Society was the training of children to butcher snakes, and encouragement by the sponsors for them to participate in other events. Such exposure to animal cruelties, The Humane Society maintains, could destroy any sensitivity or appreciation of other living creatures a child may have developed.

RATTLESNAKE STEAK ANYONE?

Young boys chopping rattlesnake meat to be cooked and sold to the public.
The gray wolf has been added to the list of endangered animals in New York State, which prohibits the sale of gray wolves, or any product from these animals. You may wish to write your state capitol and learn if your state has an endangered species law. A bill on this subject, Senate Bill 143, introduced by Senator Fay Deverard, has been proposed for the State of Colorado. It would include protection for the gray wolf.

WHO SAYS BEING KIND ISN'T MANLY?

Steel workers must be strong because they have a rough job to do. When a squirrel took up residence in a 42 story building they were constructing, they named him Herman. As the building neared completion, they had to find a new home for Herman. Charles Gilberg built a box trap, and Herman was captured on the 41st floor. He seemed frightened, so Louis Wapp dropped some nuts and seeds into the trap for him. The two men carried Herman to Esterbrook Park and released him. Herman tore out of the trap and headed to the top of the nearest tree.

Photos by Erwin Gebhard
Courtesy of The Milwaukee Sentinel

HELP THE POUND by Phyllis McKenzie

To every KIND member--do you love dogs and cats? Eight out of ten people do, but don’t care enough about them to find a good home for them, or pitch in about 75¢ a day to feed them.

I urge you to go to your city shelter and pick up a little friend today. For a small price you could save the life of an animal. If some of the animals I gave a nice home to could say ‘thank you,’ I’m sure they would.

BAN THE CAN

Non-returnable containers have now been banned in Vermont, the second state to pass such a law. Oregon enacted the first such law.

Dear Mr. Hylton:

I have obtained some information about our pound. 1200 animals are handled every year. It costs the community $7500 per year. 5% are claimed by their owners and another 5% are adopted by new owners. Adopted animals do not have to be spayed or neutered. The animals are kept 20 days before they are put to sleep. They are given a shot of a certain drug to destroy them. About 1000 animals are destroyed annually. I am also enclosing information about spaying and neutering fees charged by veterinarians in this area.

Now that school is out I plan to grow a larger garden in the hope of selling produce and raising money for spaying my cats and building new hutchies for my rabbits. I would also like to help our local pound, and would like to send a donation to KIND.

Your friend, Tom Vogelsang
Sunman, Indiana

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom’s report is fairly typical of the type of information you will discover at a public pound, although it is exceptional for a pound to hold an animal 20 days. The 1970 census reported only 21,138 people in the entire county, yet this community destroys 1000 pet animals every year!

Dear Mr. Hylton:

The Cary School branch club called Cary Defenders has earned $9.00 and want you to put this money to good use to stop the trapping of animals. We have 24 people in our club.

Your friends of the Cary Defenders Kind Club
Michelle Moreno, Secretary, Hampton, Virginia

MAGGIE PARTICIPATES IN DOG BATH-O-RAMA TO RAISE FUNDS TO HELP NEEDY ANIMALS. MEMBERS OF THE TRI-HI-Y CLUB OF CHOCOTAHATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL, FT. WALTON BEACH, FLA., CONDUCTED A BATH-O-RAMA AS THEIR SPECIAL PROJECT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF FT. WALTON BEACH. A LOCAL RADIO STATION DID A LIVE BROADCAST OF THE EVENT, AND THIS PHOTO APPEARED IN THE ‘PLAYGROUND DAILY NEWS’.
AVAILABLE FROM KIND

Spay posters in color--specify dog or cat - $1.00 each.
Other posters:
  Trapping, Care of Dog, Don't Make a Pet of Me (raccoon),
  Litter Is Unwanted Trash (surplus breeding), Dog in Hot
  Car.
12 for 25¢ - Please specify poster wanted.

Wildlife pins--enameled with gold and silver trim. Mountain Lion,
Polar Bear, Peregrine Falcon, Kirtland's Warbler, Ivory-Billed
Woodpecker. $2.00 each. Please specify.

Bumper Stickers - "Don't Litter--Have Your Pet Spayed or Neutered"
$1.00 each or 75¢ each for orders of 10 or more.

HSUS Special Report on Trapping - 3¢ each.

SUMMER CONTESTS

Don't forget to plan to enter one or both contests this
summer. Any photograph of animals or projects helping animals
might win a prize. Any plan for a project that will help needy
animals may also win a prize, whether you have been able to put
it into action or not. Remember, all entries--as many as you
want to send--for both contests must be postmarked no later than

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R. Dale Hylton, Editor

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