A new canine disease is appearing in animal shelters and dog colonies in the US and many other countries. This canine parvovirus attacks the dog's intestinal tract, with symptoms ranging from mild diarrhea to death in a small percentage of cases.

Discovered in 1978 by the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health at Cornell University, the disease is similar to feline panleukopenia (cat "distemper"). It received public attention last December when the Brookhaven Town Animal Shelter on Long Island (NY) decided to destroy all 106 dogs in the shelter because half of them developed severe symptoms.

The common symptoms of the disease are vomiting, bloody diarrhea from internal bleeding and elevated temperature. Many infected dogs will suffer only a mild diarrhea, and may not even appear to be ill.

Continued on page 2
A canine parvovirus vaccine marketed by Dellen Laboratories has been given USDA approval, and other manufacturers are expected to have market vaccines also.

Neil H. McLain, administrative manager at the Baker Institute, reports that new testing procedures for the disease are being developed.

There is no cure, but supportive treatment includes antibiotics to prevent secondary infections and treatment for dehydration caused by vomiting and diarrhea.

Removing the animal from the stressful situation of being confined at the shelter will help its recovery, as will ensuring that it receives the proper diet. Phyllis Wright, HSUS Director of Animal Sheltering and Control, also emphasizes the importance of "TLC" -- tender, loving care.

McLain says dogs with worms or other health problems are more severely affected. Puppies and older dogs are also less able to resist the disease, even though they may be in good health. In very young puppies, the virus can attack the heart, and the puppies may die for no apparent reason, or survive only to suffer heart problems later.

McLain reports that the virus is so strong that a speck of infected feces transported, for example, on a person's shoe is powerful enough to infect an entire kennel of dogs. The disease has a three- to ten-day incubation period so that dogs appearing healthy today may show symptoms tomorrow after they have exposed other dogs to the disease.

The parvovirus is resistant to most disinfectants, with chlorine products giving the best results. McLain suggests that shelters use a disinfecting solution of one part Clorox to 30 parts water, which is most effective against the virus and is inexpensive.

Because canine parvovirus can be transmitted through feces, it is especially important for shelter employees to follow cleaning procedures that will help prevent fecal material from being splashed back and forth between the dog runs.

Animals must be removed from runs being cleaned. Also, partitions between runs can help control disease spread.

Shelter employees who are assigned cleaning duty can be provided with a "football" for dipping their rubber boots into Clorox or another sodium hypchlorite product before they go to another kennel area. (See the August, 1979, issue of SHELTER SENSE for additional shelter sanitation information.)

Veterinarians cooperate in two programs

The Baker Institute is part of the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

Elkhart County Humane Society of Elkhart, IN, is now taking all sick and injured animals picked up to area veterinarians for examination. The cooperating veterinarians make help available day or night to the society, which has no staff veterinarian.

The veterinarians provide initial treatment and make the animal as comfortable as possible. If full treatment is going to exceed $30, Shelter Director James Cormican and the veterinarian decide how to proceed based on the animal's condition and the circumstances.

"Now we have the opportunity to get professional advice on every sick or injured animal," Cormican says. The program is supported by donations from an auxiliary organization and proceeds from the society's pet cemetery.

In describing the program for SHELTER SENSE, Cormican said, "We realize this isn't a cure-all, and that all of these sick and injured animals can't be saved and adopted to good homes -- that isn't reality at all. However, we feel that other societies that cannot afford a staff veterinarian might be interested in this kind of program."

Adopters acquiring pets from the Alamance County Animal Control Department now pay one adoption fee which includes an examination by a veterinarian, heartworms and parasites tests, medication for intestinal parasites, vaccinations and neutering surgery.

The adopter pays the department $55 which is then sent to the veterinarian handling the animal. All veterinarians in the Alamance County Veterinary Medical Association (eight veterinary hospitals) are participating in the program, and the fees are substantially below the customary fees.

The neutering requirement in the adoption contract is also a part of the county animal control ordinance.

Chief Animal Control Officer Bob Bullard comments, "This new program will ensure a healthier animal population in our community, and the required neutering will reduce future costs to the department." He credits the county government officials, the participating veterinarians and supportive citizens for cooperatively launching the program.

SHELTER SENSE is published by The National Humane Education Center, a division of The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 452-1100.

Subscription rate:
six issues — $5.00 additional subscriptions to the same address — $4.00 each

HSUS Director of Animal Sheltering and Control ........ Phyllis Wright
EDITOR, SHELTER SENSE .................... Susan Bury Stauffer
Think **Before** You Get a Pet

Many pets are brought to the shelter or abandoned by the roadside because the owners are no longer willing or able to care for them. Make sure you can take care of a pet for its lifetime **before** you take it home. Your pet will depend on you!

Spay or Neuter Your Pet

Our shelter is full of puppies and kittens born into a world where there simply are not enough homes for them. Even if you find homes for your pet's litter, it means that more of these animals go homeless. Don't let your pet contribute to the overpopulation of pet animals...spay or neuter today!
**Primer on distemper**

A primer prepared for veterinarians to send to clients, the February 1980 issue of California Veterinarian magazine distinguishes between dog distemper and cat distemper. Feline distemper is properly referred to as panleukopenia, which means there is a great reduction in the number of white blood cells causing bone marrow changes. Fever, depression, lack of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea are common symptoms, and kitten mortality is high.

Canine distemper causes diarrhea, nose and eye discharges and depression or convulsions. Some dogs later have muscular tremors even though they seem to have recovered. It can be complicated by secondary bacterial infection.

Both distempers have a viral origin, but cannot be transmitted between dog and cat. The diseases can be prevented by the proper vaccinations and annual booster shots.

In Iowa City, IA, resident has been sentenced to six days in jail plus nearly $700 in fines and legal fees after being found guilty of four charges of cruelty to animals. The man was found guilty of failing to provide adequate food, water and shelter for nine Doberman pups and six golden retriever pups in his backyard shelter and for operating a kennel without a license.

Animal Shelter Supervisor Beverly Horton reports that this is the first jail sentence given for animal cruelty in the city, but that vagueness in the wording of the ordinance was a problem. The defense attorney pointed out that according to the ordinance, the defendant must have "unnecessarily" failed to provide shelter and that his client did in fact attempt to provide proper housing.

However, two area veterinarians did testify that the nine dogs under the defendant's care were not properly housed or fed. An appeal trial is scheduled for April.

The Animal Control Department of the City of Bloomington, IN, has successfully prosecuted a man who threatened to shoot two humane officers when he was approached about two of his dogs that appeared to need medical attention. He was fined $75, served a weekend in jail and is on probation for one year.

In any criminal case, evidence must be properly handled and charged thoroughly documented in order to get a conviction. Because animal abuse cases are often not regarded as seriously as we would like them to be, it is all the more important that a cruelty case be made in a professional manner.

Here are some tips offered to veterinarians by John De Huan of the California Department of Justice in the February, 1980, issue of Modern Veterinary Practice:

- Make sure that if any items of physical evidence (for example, bullets) change hands, a record is made of who has them, where they are kept and for how long. All such items should be labeled.

- Don't rely on your memory for details of the situation. Take notes by hand or by tape recorder, including dates, times and places and complete descriptions.

**Cruelty cases won won**

Iowa City Animal Shelter, 410 E. Washington St., Iowa City, IA 52240.

City of Bloomington Department of Animal Control, 3410 South Highway 37, Bloomington, IN 47401.

---

Make sketches of the scene, if appropriate. Veterinarians can also make use of radiographs of animal victims to document injury.

- Veterinarians treating animal victims or performing autopsies should take precautions not to damage items of physical evidence. They should preserve fur, blood and soil samples that could connect the animal with a particular place. If an animal has been struck by a vehicle, the animal may have bits of paint on it that would be valuable evidence.

Interestingly, De Huan reports that cases have been successfully prosecuted by matching pawprints.

(The December, 1978, and February, 1979, issues of SHELTER SENSE included a two-part article on photographing evidence for cruelty cases by Frantz Dantzler, HSUS Director of Field Services and Investigations.)
A serious outbreak of rabies is continuing in Texas, primarily in the counties bordering Mexico, where stray dogs roam back and forth across the Rio Grande. A total of five people in the US and Mexico have died, including three children, and 800 have received post-exposure treatment.

Health authorities in Austin report 60 confirmed cases of rabies in dogs from the border counties. No cat cases from those counties have been confirmed because potentially infected stray cats are more difficult to capture. Houston has had a rabies emergency also, but the two rabid cats and one rabid dog found there have been attributed to increased contact with wildlife as the city spreads into new areas.

Forty-eight rabid cats found in the state in 1979 came primarily from the northeast and central areas where cats tend to be harbored on livestock ranches without vaccinations or other care or control.

Including more than 800 skunks, more than 100 bats, and foxes and raccoons, nearly 1,200 cases of rabies in animals have been laboratory confirmed in Texas by the end of 1979. And additional cases are turning up in 1980.

HSUS Gulf States Regional Director Bill Meade reports that officials in the border counties especially "have had to take another look at the importance of good animal regulation in order to control future outbreaks."

"City officials have learned the hard way that animal control means active preventive measures and not simply trying to round up a lot of strays after a rabies outbreak has occurred."

Emergency vaccination and stray round-up programs are in effect, and Meade has assisted several communities to update their ordinances and develop new preventive programs. Also, the Texas state legislature passed a new rabies control law requiring all dogs and cats to be vaccinated among other provisions. Meade's model for a small animal shelter has been accepted by the state as the minimum standard for a humane facility.

The federal Center for Disease Control reports that dog and cat rabies cases today are the result of the pet contacting rabid wildlife, although in Texas, dog to dog transmission is the problem because of the spread of rabies in Mexico.

The best prevention is to reduce the number of susceptible animals by getting pets vaccinated and keeping them under control. 70-80% of the pet population in an area should be vaccinated to protect the community, and that must include new animals coming into the area.

The federal Center for Disease Control distributes free monthly Veterinary Public Health Notes, which include rabies reports. To be added to the mailing list, send your request with your name and address to CDC, Distribution Services Unit, GSO, Bldg. 1, Room SB-36, Atlanta, GA 30333.
I never should have left my yard, but I was following a really interesting scent and suddenly I didn’t know where I was. Then a person in a uniform picked me up and brought me here. If only someone would take me home!

Signed,
Remorseful

License and Leash Your Pet!
Your pet should be under your control at all times. If it does get away from you, a license and ID tag will help it get home fast. Your pet is depending on you!

Yesterday I was unwanted — today I’m in this beautiful green yard with a big house and people who pet me and feed me and make me feel important. I’m a lucky dog!

Signed,
Grateful

A Friend for Life
Owning a pet is a big responsibility, but in return, you get a friend for life! If you would enjoy caring for a dog or cat, come to our shelter... we have a great selection!
National Volunteer Week is April 20-26 in 1980, and The National Center for Citizen Involvement is offering a volunteer recognition kit including a poster, radio spots, recognition certificates, reproducible art and bumper stickers. Send $9.95 to Volunteer Readership, PO Box 1807, Boulder, CO 80306.

Emergency Care and First Aid for Small Animals is a new book available from Creative Infomatics, Inc., PO Box 1100, Aspen, CO 81611. Printed in a handy 4½" x 7½" size, the book is indexed for quick reference.

Dr. Michael Fox, Director of The HSUS' Institute for the Study of Animal Problems, has commented, "This is an excellent emergency handbook...which has been carefully written and well indexed for easy accessibility."

A single copy is $6.75; 2 to 10 copies are $6.50 each and 11 to 20 copies are $5.95 each.

The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, a division of The HSUS, reports that a free kit of materials and instructions for sponsoring a pet show is available from "Kids Dog Show," PO Box 3493, Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, IL 60654. It was produced by Quaker Oats Company and the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Three extensive and thorough operations manuals are now available from the Palm Beach County Animal Regulation Division, Box 1989, West Palm Beach, FL 33401. The Kennel Manual, Humane Education Manual and Clinic Manual are priced at $2.50 each or $6.00 for all three manuals.

Products International Company is offering new neck bands for shelter animals. The bands are colored so that animals requiring any kind of special handling can be tagged with different colors. Free samples are available from PIC at 2320 W. Holly St., Phoenix, AZ 85009.

MATERIALS IN REVERSE -- HSUS New England Regional Director John Inman, Jr., reports that the New England Federation of Humane Societies is compiling information for a booklet on animal rescue techniques. Inman suggests that if you have special "tricks of the trade" for animal rescue and capture, you send them along to Mr. Frank Intino, Connecticut Humane Society, Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06106. SHELTER SENSE will make an announcement when the book becomes available.

North American Pharmacal is now offering Fatal-Plus, 250 ml. vials of sodium pentobarbital which when reconstituted with tap water will yield a concentration of 6 grains per ml. NAP says that animal shelters making purchase contracts will be guaranteed delivery and that the contract purchase price will save shelters about 30% a year on euthanasia costs.

SHELTER SENSE has received promotional information about humane education films available from FilmFair Communications, 10900 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, CA 91604. The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, a division of The HSUS, uses one of their films, "A Crack in the Pavement," as a consciousness-raising feature at workshops for humane educators. Preview copies are available for the cost of return postage.

SHELTER SENSE subscribers will be receiving an index of the first two years' issues, April 1978 to April 1980. An updated index will then be provided annually. Have you been saving your issues of SHELTER SENSE?

For complete information, contact NAP at 6851 Chase Rd., Dearborn, MI 48126 or call toll free (800) 521-4686.
"Solving Animal Problems in Your Community" -- that is the theme for the HSUS workshops held throughout the country every year.

Upcoming workshops are scheduled for:


May 16-17, 1980 -- Nashville, Tennessee. For complete information, contact The HSUS Southeast Regional Office, 3165 McCreary Place, Suite 215, Orlando, FL 32803 -- (305) 899-1592.

These workshops cover all aspects of animal care and control and examine the common goals of humane societies and animal control agencies. Take this opportunity to meet HSUS staff members and other colleagues in the animal field.

BKA Week

Be Kind to Animals Week is May 4-10 in 1980. The event gives all animal organizations and agencies an opportunity to make some news in the community with special events and public education programs.

In planning BKA activities, remember that action programs -- where people actively participate -- can be more effective than simply issuing statements.

The American Humane Education Society (450 Salem End Rd., Framingham Center, MA 01701) has celebrated BKA Week with "Mutt's 'N Stuff Day," including a mutt show and other events.

Animal Kindness, Inc., has co-sponsored a heartworm detection clinic with local veterinarians with a $5 fee for the test (Box 536, Peru, IN 46970). A Pet Festival with a "Dip-a-thon" to protect dogs from ticks and fleas was the BKA observance last year for the Hall County Humane Society (875 Ridge Rd., Gainesville, GA 30501) in cooperation with the local McDonald's restaurant, People for Animal Welfare (PO Box 396S, Lubbock, TX 79412) distributed copies of The HSUS' KIND magazine to young people coming into the restaurant.

Additional ideas for BKA observances include holding open houses at the shelter, preparing displays for shopping malls and providing materials to schools and libraries.

BKA Week makes people think about animals -- it's your chance to make people think about responsible pet care and community animal control, as well.

Danger: heatstroke!

The trend in physical fitness for people spells a real danger for the pet dogs in your community in the upcoming summer months. Loyal dogs will try to keep pace and distance with their jogging or bicycling owners and could end up with potentially fatal heat stress.

Pet owners should also be reminded never to leave pets in cars during hot weather -- not even during a quick trip to the store.

Now is the time to prepare a press release and other public education materials to explain to pet owners the danger of their pets becoming overheated.

Pet animals get rid of body heat through breathing and panting. This is less efficient than sweating heat away, so pets overheat more easily than people. Prolonged exposure to high temperature and humidity or inadequate ventilation works their circulatory and respiratory systems harder, making them susceptible to heat stress.

There are three types of heat stress in animals.

Heatstroke symptoms include panting, warm, dry skin, extremely high fever and rapid heartbeat, and is the form of heat stress most often fatal.

Heat exhaustion or heat prostration may follow heavy exertion by animals. It develops less rapidly than heatstroke and symptoms include fatigue, muscular weakness and circulatory collapse. It is not as common as heatstroke in dogs.

Heat cramps are muscle spasms caused primarily by the loss of salt from the body and brought on by severe exertion in hot weather. Heat cramps are also more rare than heatstroke.

Puppies, older dogs, short-nosed dogs like the bulldog, and obese dogs are all more susceptible to heat stress.

Pets suffering heat stress should be immersed in or sprayed with cold water -- and then taken immediately to a veterinarian. A temperature of 106 degrees Fahrenheit or more can be tolerated for only a few minutes. Prompt veterinary care is essential in cases of heat stress.

(This information is from an article by Dr. C.D. Evans, DVM, Purina Pet Food Nutrition Research, reprinted in Today's Animal Health, May-June 1979.)

The HSUS has a new flier available on the dangers of leaving pets in cars during hot weather. Titled "Death Trap" the flier is available for $2 per 100 from The HSUS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.
When a rabies outbreak occurs in a community or the stray dog pack problem suddenly becomes acute, it is not that difficult to institute a frantic emergency program -- ordering pets to be kept under control, rounding up strays or shooting them in the streets. The necessary money will always be appropriated to cover the expenses of these measures.

The real test of an animal control program, however, is whether these kinds of animal problems are being prevented. The very title "Animal Control" means keeping track of the dog and cat population through licensing, controlling the strays in a humane manner and ensuring that all dogs and cats are vaccinated against that most dangerous disease, rabies.

Unfortunately, people tend to act only when the crisis is upon them. A community will be ravaged by a flood or tornado, and only then will citizens recognize that they were not prepared and begin to demand a better performance from their municipal officials. For this reason, it may not be easy for a humane society or animal control agency to impress on the public the need to practice sound animal control at all times.

Because animal control has traditionally been at the bottom of the typical municipal official's priority list, it may be difficult also to get the necessary funding and official backing to make the animal control program a success.

But the responsible humane society or animal control agency must try to convince officials and citizens that a continuing program is vital to the well-being of the community -- in a sense, this is one of the most important parts of your public relations efforts.

Certainly, rabies is not a national epidemic. In 1979, there were 184 cases in dogs and 140 cases in cats reported to the Center for Disease Control. However, the problems of the stray population can become critical or an outbreak of rabies can occur anywhere if the community has been lax about keeping the dog and cat population under control.

If your community does not pay for a responsible animal control program now, they may pay in money, fear and public resentment for animal emergencies down the road.