Awareness, Analysis and Action - this is the three-point program to follow when you are called on to give first aid to an animal.

First, you must become aware of the situation - where is the animal? Does someone know exactly what happened to it? What are its physical signs? Is the owner available?

Second, analyze what you know - what kind of problem do the physical signs indicate? Disease? Shock? Internal injuries?

Finally, select and begin a course of action - what can and should you do for the animal right now? Where should it be transported?

The animal must be in a safe location before you can proceed. However, when your adrenaline tells you to make a swift dash into the street to pick up an injured cat, remember that your life is more important than the individual animal's. You will be able to help many more animals in the future by looking after your own safety and avoiding unnecessary risks.

Continued on next page
A frightened dog is likely to bite even its rescuers, so you need to learn how to muzzle an injured dog gently but firmly. First, make sure it is breathing comfortably and check its mouth for blood. If it has bitten its tongue, a muzzle can still be used. If there is some other mouth injury, you will have to judge whether a muzzle can be applied without aggravating the injury.

A lead, a shoelace or a cloth strip about a yard long can be made into a muzzle as shown in the diagrams at left. Make a loop by knotting the cloth loosely, slip the loop over the animal's muzzle and pull snug, bring the ends of the cloth under the chin and knot again, then knot again behind the ears.

For animals that are not breathing and need artificial respiration, first make sure that the nose, mouth and throat are clear and that the tongue has not been swallowed. Extend the head and neck to open the passages. External artificial respiration involves laying the animal on its right side and pressing in on its upper sides 15 times per minute, releasing quickly. You can check for the animal's heart beat by feeling between the third and fourth ribs on the left side.

Mouth-to-nose resuscitation may be successful: the procedure is to close the animal's mouth, place your mouth over its nose, and breathe into its nose about 15 times per minute, allowing the air to escape from its lungs between breaths.

Injured animals can suffer shock whether they have suffered serious injury, have just been bumpy with a passing vehicle or have had emotional trauma. The symptoms are glassy eyes, cold and pale gums and cold extremities (remember that the animal may be cold because of weather or other factors). Press the animal's gums with your finger; the "white fingerprint" you leave should refill with blood in 3-5 seconds.

Animals in shock should be kept warm and comfortable. Try to stabilize body temperatures at 101-103°F by either warming or cooling the animal and make sure it is breathing comfortably.

Severe bleeding can be stopped in nine out of ten cases by applying direct pressure over the wound for exactly five minutes — after longer than that. The second best technique is locate the closest pressure point and apply pressure there. The femoral artery which passes over the thigh bone on the inside of the thigh controls bleeding in the hind leg. The brachial artery which passes over the bone directly above the elbow in the front leg controls bleeding in that limb. The carotid artery runs in a groove on the side of the neck, and this vessel controls bleeding on that side of the body. (See diagram.)

The tourniquet should be used only as a last resort to stop bleeding that is uncontrollable otherwise, since the tourniquet can cause permanent tissue damage and possibly the loss of part of a limb. The tourniquet should be used only if the animal is within minutes of veterinary care, and in that case, it should be used according to the directions of the veterinarian.

In poisoning cases, there may be face or skin burns, vomiting, breath smelling of poison, convulsions, salivating or unconsciousness. You should have a contact at the nearest poison control center to get fast advice for such cases, and you should become familiar with the antidotes for various common poisons. Household products generally have the antidotes right on the label. If the poison is caustic (for example, antifreeze), do not induce vomiting. Give the animal plenty of milk or water to dilute the poison - however, do not force liquids into an unconscious animal since the liquid will collect in its lungs.

If the animal's limb is swollen or looks irregular in any way, immobilize it. However, splinting should be done only by someone who has trained with a veterinarian. The splint should be checked regularly, since gangrene can occur when bandages are too tight.

Clean off any open wounds, apply an antiseptic spray or ointment, and keep them open. Also, keep the animal from licking them. Irregularity in eye pupil size, lack of pupil reaction to light and problems with coordination indicate that the animal may have a head injury. Keep it quiet and get it to a veterinarian as soon as possible. If the animal has difficulty moving its head or seems unable to feel a quick pinch between the toes, it may have a spinal injury and should be immobilized and taken promptly to a veterinarian.

When an animal is choking on a foreign object, you can use a variation of the Heimlich maneuver. With the animal on its side or sitting up, put your arms around it from behind, place your fist under its rib cage and apply a sudden jolt. That may bring the object up. In an emergency you can pick the animal up by the hind legs and slap it on the back.

You can reach into the animal's throat but only if you can see the object. Have someone hold the animal's jaws and be careful not to force the object further down the trachea. If the animal's gums are blue and its eyes glassy, it is not getting enough air, and you must act quickly.

Your equipment kit for first aid calls should include blankets for restraining small animals (large plastic garbage bags can also be used), leather gloves, roll gauze, gauze pads, latex gloves, thermometer, ointment and antibiotics. Your veterinarian can advise you on what medications to carry and how to use them. Some field agents carry tranquilizers; however, these drugs do not stop pain, and they can mask symptoms that provide important clues to you and the veterinarian.

Finally, the element that is the most important to you in working with animals in the field is your attitude. Animals will sense if you are nervous and uncertain. For the animals, it means more...
State developments

Every community in Virginia is now required by law to provide humane sheltering for animals. All new facilities must be built to meet certain standards, and an enforcement program for existing facilities will be developed. Smaller communities will be allowed to pool funds to build regional shelters. Communities must either make the necessary improvements or budget money for them by February 1981.

Walt Lane, president of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, Inc., traveled throughout the state over a two-year period photographing conditions at standard pounds and shelters. He presented this material to state legislators, which resulted in a law requiring that shelter standards be set and enforced. Lane said he convinced the legislators that proper sheltering facilities are affordable by showing them HSUS's Model IV and V shelter plans for smaller communities.

A 22-member committee, including humanitarians and county administrators, then developed standards and held six regional hearings for public comment on them. Based on the hearings, the committee recommended the set of standards that was finally adopted by the state board of agriculture.

Some Virginia humanitarians felt the final standards were not demanding enough. However, Lane comments, "You can't lay a package of dreams in front of legislators and expect to get them. You have to take one step at a time, and these guidelines are a good first step."

The New York Dog Law is working, according to Eileen McShane, Supervising Field Representative for the Bureau of Dog Identification and Control. The law, which took effect this year, provides that:

- Every town, city and licensing village must provide dog control officer and shelter services, and can do so in cooperation with other municipalities.
- Every dog seized shall be properly cared for, according to specific regulations.
- License fees for fertile dogs must be $5 higher than fees for neutered dogs (the state fees are $7.50 and $2.50; additional local fees can be added).
- Of the license fees, 53% stays in the community, 30% goes to the county and 17% goes to the state. Impoundment and other local fees and fines stay in the community. Money generated by the state law must be used for dog-related programs.
- Dogs get permanent ID numbers with their first license, and owners must inform the state of any change in the dog's status. Owners will receive license renewal notices by mail from the state.

Eileen McShane, Dog Identification and Control Bureau, Building 8, State Office Campus, Albany, NY 12235.

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John Inman, Jr., HSUS New England Regional Office, 630 Calumet Ave., Suite 213, West Hartford, CT, 06110.

McShane says that encouraging results from the new law include more attention to dog control problems, more cooperation between humane organizations and municipalities, better understanding between state field staff and local governments and, of course, more humane care for the animals. She reports that humane groups now providing the required dog control under contract can make more of their donated money available to care for other animals. Several other states have requested information on the law.

In Maine, several improvements in animal control had gotten underway when the state announced major budget cuts that may substantially affect the animal welfare program.

Dog licensing and kennel and pet shop inspection are now under the Division of Animal Welfare, and all Maine communities are now required to have an animal control officer to handle strays. Some adjoining communities are sharing shelter facilities. State officials reported that 25% more dogs were licensed in the first four months of 1980 over the same period in 1979.

But the state constitution requires that a balanced budget be presented to the legislature, and the resulting budget cuts ordered by the governor for upcoming fiscal years threaten the state program of animal cruelty investigation - possibly eliminating it in 1982-83, when the bulk of cuts in the agriculture budget will occur in the animal welfare division. More funds have been requested through the Maine "Part 2" program where divisions must compete for a limited amount of state funds.

Humanitarians state wide, including HSUS members organized by New England Regional Director John Inman, Jr., have vigorously protested the proposed cuts, applauding the past growth in the cruelty investigation program. One protest march included Robbie, an English pointer belonging to Secretary of State Edmund Muskie. Decisions on the funding are expected shortly.
Two ways to tell your story

Julie Rovner, HSUS staff writer

PRESS CONFERENCE...Good press coverage is an important way of letting the community know about the work your shelter or organization is doing. One excellent way to obtain coverage is to hold a press conference about an event, an achievement, or an important development in a campaign. Keep in mind that not all news is suited to the format of a press conference. The hallmark of a press conference is the give and take between the speakers and the reporters. If your event is self-explanatory (i.e. if reporters will be unlikely to have questions you can respond meaningfully to), a press conference may not be a good idea. If the issue is complex, however, or provides good photo or TV possibilities, a press conference may be more successful than a written release.

• SELECT THE PROPER TIME. Newspaper, TV, and radio reporters all have different deadlines, but some times are going to be better than others. Midweek is a better choice than weekends, and morning is usually more convenient than afternoons. The best time is right around 11 a.m., after editors have had time to go through schedules and make assignments, but well before most deadlines. Up until 2 p.m. you’ll have a fighting chance for coverage.

• SELECT THE PROPER LOCATION. If at all possible, hold your conference at a place which offers the opportunity for pictures. If you are announcing the construction of a new shelter, you may want to hold the conference at the building site. If the news is a new adoption program, you may want to find a room in or near your shelter so reporters and photographers can take pictures of the animals.

• DO YOUR ADVANCE WORK CAREFULLY. You should have two printed releases—one to announce the press conference and another to hand out at the event which summarizes the news. Keep these to one page each. If possible, the pre-release (which should be very short, covering time, place, and subject of conference) should be hand-delivered to newspaper, radio, and TV assignment editors two days before the conference. Releases delivered too early, or which arrive in the mail, tend to become lost in piles of other material.

Many media organizations also keep a weekly calendar or assign stories on the basis of a wire service "daybook." Have your conference listed on these by calling the city news editor at your local paper or the nearest wire service bureau. (Look in the telephone directory for the Associated Press or United Press International state wire listing.)

• START ON TIME. Always assume reporters are in a hurry--to get to another assignment or to prepare their stories. Have the room set up in advance. As reporters enter, have them sign in (so you’ll have a list for follow-up contacts) and hand them a copy of your written release. Coffee is appreciated by the press at early morning sessions.

Begin on time and keep your opening statement brief and to the point. Then be prepared to answer questions--after all, that’s what the reporters are there for. Plan on spending no more than a half hour for the conference.

After the conference, hand-deliver the release to members of the press who could not attend, but don’t be disappointed if attendance is small. All it takes for a press conference to be a success is one solid news story particularly if it’s in your leading paper, based on the information you’ve supplied.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Anytown Humane Society and the Anytown City Council today announced a joint program to encourage local residents to have their pets spayed or neutered.

The announcement, which came at a press conference at the Anytown City Council’s meeting at 225 Main Street, was made by Steve Johnson, President of the Anytown Humane Society.

The conference will be held in the meeting room of the Anytown Animal Shelter at 200 Main Street.

Expected to address the conference are Humane Society President Steve Johnson and Anytown Mayor John Smith.

The program, partially funded by the Anytown City Council, will allow local residents to have their pets spayed or neutered at a reduced cost. As an additional incentive, pet owners with neutered animals will receive a 50% discount on future service calls.

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The great advantage of PSA's is that stations will show them without charge to you. One of the conditions for obtaining a broadcast license is that the station agree to set aside a certain portion of its air time for "public service programming." For most stations, radio or TV, this means that if you present a finished product, it will have the chance to be shown on the air, free. Of course there are many worthy organizations competing for this limited time, so the better your PSA is, the better its chances to be aired, and possibly to be included in a station's regular rotation of PSA's.

Before you concern yourself with the production details for your PSA, be sure to spend some time deciding exactly what it is you want to say. An ad for pet adoption or advocating pet owner responsibility will require a different approach than one trying to educate the public about the tragedies of pet overpopulation and the need to have pets spayed or neutered. Whatever the subject, make sure to emphasize what your organization is doing, and how the viewers can help you accomplish your goals. Be flexible. Don't commit yourself to a particular method or message until you have reviewed all the options. Also, look at the PSA's being shown on television to start your creative thinking.

Once you've decided what it is you want to do, it is time to start your local station. Contact the public affairs director (at some smaller stations, this job may be performed by the news director or station manager). Find out what type of PSA the station uses regularly, and whether spots of a particular length are preferred (meaning they will be more likely to be aired). Find out, too, if the station can provide production assistance, or, if not, who can.

Another good source for labor (which may be available without charge) is your local college or university. When Toledo Humane Society Director Judy Lang needed help last year developing PSA's for her shelter, she went to nearby Bowling Green State University, where she was put in touch with Cathy Worley, a senior majoring in broadcasting. Eager for some professional experience, Worley helped write, film, and produce three PSA's for the society. The cameraman on the project was a Bowling Green photography student. Because a local station supplied production assistance, and because they used animals from the shelter and amateurs, the only costs incurred for the entire enterprise were for film and film developing, which Worley estimated ran about $35 per PSA.

If your local university is unable to help, or if you wish to take another route, professional spokespeople or producers may be willing to work free or for a reduced rate for what they perceive as a good cause. Try talking to a local ad agency to see if they have reduced rates for charitable organizations or if they can direct you to individual professionals who can help.

Remember that the most important thing about your PSA is not whether it is done on film, videotape, or on slide. It is also not whether it is done by professionals or amateurs, or whether it is twenty seconds long or one minute long. The most important thing is that you use the best talent and ideas available to you to get your message across to your community.

THINK "THANKS"...When a reporter covers your story in the paper or on the air or when the television or radio station airs your PSA, remember to send thanks. You can write on your organization's letterhead or present a certificate of appreciation or even a plaque, if appropriate. If a station airs your PSA, write the Federal Communications Commission, 1910 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20036, to let them know, and send a copy of your letter to the station.

This will further identify your group as an important presence in the community and will encourage future press attention by maintaining contact with the reporters and editors who took an interest in you.

PSAs available

Three television public service announcements on pet owner responsibility are now available for humane organizations to purchase. Your local television station can add your organization's name at the end of each PSA.

A 30-second PSA on pet abandonment is available to any humane group for $50 from Greene County Humane Society, PO Box 51, Xenia, OH 45385. This poignant spot shows a dog being pushed out of a van and left along the roadside, with the theme "This shouldn't happen to a dog." The society will include guidelines on working with local television stations.

The spot was produced by film production students at Wright State University. Proceeds will be used to produce another spot on proper identification for pet cats.

Two spots, one on pet licensing and the other on pet sterilization, are available on one master tape for $50 from PAWS, PO Box 1037, Lynnwood, WA 98036. (Specify 2" or 3/4" videotape per your local station's needs.)

The spots feature puppets created by Karen Prell from the popular "Sesame Street" show and are 30 seconds each. For a self-addressed, stamped envelope, PAWS will send you a description of the spots along with copies of the two scripts.

Items...

SHELTER SENSE has learned from the US Department of Agriculture that mink enteritis vaccine is not approved as a vaccine against canine parvovirus. If mink Vaccine is being promoted to your shelter for this purpose, you can send the information to Veterinary Biologics Staff, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Federal Bldg., Hyattsville, MD 20742.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has a new pamphlet on canine parvovirus. It costs $3 per 100 copies, and a free sample copy is available on request. Write AVMA, 930 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60196.

Morgan County Humane Society (PO Box 1084, Martinsville, IN 46151) volunteers standing at three intersections for one day collected more than $800 in donations and handed out 800 pamphlets. This seems like a summer activity, but a red-nosed volunteer standing at a windy intersection with bucket in hand might be hard to resist!

Fund raisers

Continued on next page
Congratulations!

Photo contest

Holiday pets

Oil spill!

Job

announcements

Pet care

Every winter, the Morris County (NJ) Welfare Department has made emergency living arrangements for elderly persons who could not pay growing heating bills or whose home furnaces were not working properly. With an emergency fund begun last year and available again this year, the department also boards the older persons’ pets until the older people can return to their homes - recognition of the importance of a beloved pet. (Morris County Welfare Department, Court St., Morristown, NJ 07960)

POSITION WANTED - As a Humane Educator. Background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and experience with Broadcasting and Journalism. Interested in creative ideas for involving the community. Would also like to organize educational programs to fit the area demographically and to promote the humane organization. Please contact Cathy Worley at 7417 Brad St., Falls Church, VA 22042 or call (703) 698-8772.

POSITION WANTED - Ph.D. in Biology seeks position in humane education. Strong background in teaching young people and in zoology, genetics, taxonomy and ecology. Contact Sheldon F. Cooper, 22 Exeter St., Providence, RI 02906.

POSITION WANTED - BS magna cum laude in Animal Science seeking a career in shelter management, agent or warden with particular interest in education and public information. One year with professional dog handler. Willing to relocate. Contact Nancy Mary Mavrogeanes, 15 Mountain St., Willimantic, CT 06226, (203) 423-0486.

POSITION WANTED - Humane Educator seeks position with organization working to prevent cruelty to animals. Attended summer workshop in humane education at Stephen F. Austin State University. BA in Mass Communications Administration, Secondary Teaching Certificate, resume available on request. Contact Miriam Zeldes, 72505 Arlington Ct., Southfield, MI 48076.

POSITION WANTED - Manager/Director. Twenty-two years experience in shelter procedure, maintenance, budgeting, fund-raising, public relations, cruelty investigations, animal control and disaster relief (Xenia tornadoes, Mt. St. Helens eruptions). Willing to relocate. For resume, contact James J. Brown, Safari Pet Shop, 221 105th St., NE, Bellevue, WA 98005 or call (206) 454-6944.

WANTED - Kennel Officer for City of Peoria, IL, Animal Shelter. Supervises staff and enforces ordinances regarding impounding, treatment, and disposal of animals. Experience required and related education preferred. Send resume to Personnel Director, City of Peoria, 419 Fulton St., Peoria, IL 61602. Affirmative Action Employer.
WANTED - Executive Director for humane society. We require a person experienced in all phases of humane work from public relations through shelter management. Salary negotiable. Send resume to David McM. Wohlsen, President, Bennington County Humane Society, 259 Union St., Bennington, VT 05201.

WANTED - Animal Control Superintendent - Plans, assigns, and supervises work of Animal Control staff; assists in planning, organizing, and policy development. Must have thorough knowledge of management principles, practices, budgeting procedures; ability to deal with the public and to plan, assign, instruct and review the work of others. Requires any combination of education and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree in business or related field, with courses in science, 6 months - 2 years experience in the care of animals and dealing with the public, some supervisory. Apply by December 31, 1980. Send resume to City of Chesapeake, Department of Personnel, PO Box 15225, Chesapeake, VA 23320. An equal opportunity employer.

Two 17" x 23" color posters on leashing and licensing are now available from HSUS for $2 each - 10 or more are $1 each. The poster on licensing has room to write in where licenses are available in your community. Order from HSUS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

The Michigan Humane Society is offering an 11½-minute videotape titled "Decompression vs. Injection? Which is humane?" The tape compares high altitude decompression and sodium pentobarbital as methods of animal euthanasia and concludes that injection is the humane method. The tape was produced in cooperation with Metro Video Productions.

The scenes are explicit, showing animals being euthanized inside an actual decompression chamber, and may not be appropriate for all audiences. A 2½-minute preview copy is available for the cost of postage and insurance. The full 11½-minute tape is $225. Please specify the video format desired when ordering. Contact Ron Blauet, Michigan Humane Society, 740 1 Chrysler St., Detroit, MI 48211; (313) 872-3400.

The decompression chamber is now illegal for animal euthanasia in 16 states.

Bumper stickers and T-shirts featuring colorful artwork with your organization's name are available from Pat Haywood, Noah's Ark, 3438 Iroquois, Detroit, MI 48214; (313) 923-7704. The stickers come on white or yellow vinyl with multi-color cartoon and start at $3.65. Here is the bumper sticker Haywood produced for Michigan Humane Society.

The Animal Control Academy has scheduled four Animal Control Certification Programs for 1981:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Animal Certification Program</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Animal Euthanasia Technician Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Public Information Program</td>
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This program is an intensive 100-hour course covering animal care and disease control, animal behavior, communications, public relations, public contacts and other topics of daily concern to animal control officers. Completion of the 100-hour program leads to certification by the Academy.

The Euthanasia Technician Program will be held:

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
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The euthanasia program covers methods and techniques for animal euthanasia. Students have the opportunity to learn under careful supervision to administer sodium pentobarbital and to become confident of their skills. They will be able to discuss their own personal responses to this difficult task and to try to resolve problems together.

The Public Information Program will be held:

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This program demonstrates how animal control officers can incorporate public relations techniques into their daily activities to educate the public about responsible animal control. Students will look at how some agencies are influencing public opinion and will review techniques, materials and programs.
The Academy programs will help you do a better job—write today for an application to Animal Control Academy, 4831 Springhill Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35405 or call (205) 553-8665. The Academy is a joint project of The HSUS and the University of Alabama.

Two HSUS workshops have been scheduled for 1981:

March 19, 20, 21 at the Holiday Inn-Route 10, Livingston, NJ. For more information contact the HSUS New Jersey Branch, Inc., at Lamington Road, Bedminster, NJ 07921, or call (201) 234-2230.

March 26, 27, 28 at the Quality Inn, Austin, TX. Contact the HSUS Gulf States Regional Office at 5333 Everhart Rd., Building A, Suite 209, Corpus Christi, TX 78411, or call (512) 854-3142.

These workshops will give you the opportunity to meet and discuss animal problems with other professionals and to take workable solutions back to your own communities. Plan now to attend!

A three-person arbitration board will be solving problems at the Hocking County (OH) Dog Pound as a result of an agreement between the county commissioners and the Hocking County Humane Society (PO Box 863, Logan, OH 43138).

The agreement is an out-of-court settlement of a suit brought by the society against the commissioners and the dog warden which asked the court to determine what is humane in shelter care and to order the necessary improvements at the pound. Since 1975, the society and shelter experts from HSUS and other organizations have been bringing cruelties and mismanagement at the pound to the attention of the commissioners, but no substantial improvements have been made.

The complaints have included lack of record keeping, lack of public notices about impounded dogs, unsanitary conditions (such as sick animals in the food troughs) and no separation of dogs by age or sex. There have also been delays in appointing a humane agent for the county and questions about euthanasia, which is handled by a private veterinarian.

The arbitration board will include representatives from the county and the humane society and a third neutral party. The county has 10 days to act on any complaint about the pound brought to its attention; if no action is taken, the complaint can be presented to the arbitration board, and the board has the final say on what action will be taken. The agreement specifies that shelter standards developed by HSUS will be used as the guidelines for humane care.

Society president Nancy Wildermuth considers the agreement a "major victory" for the small society. Plans are already underway to hire a CETA laborer and to establish weekend hours for dog owners to claim their animals. For a copy of the agreement and standards, send $1 to Nancy at the society address above.

SHELTER SENSE reproducible

A supply of this Reproducible should be kept on hand to give to persons who have lost pets for posting in their neighborhoods. It was adapted from a poster by Monterey Co. SPCA, PO Box 3058, Monterey, CA 93940.

All pet owners should be urged to take photos of their pets so the photos can be posted if the pets are lost. Photos will also help the owners tell their pets from others in the shelter.

HAY YOU SEEN MY PET?

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Don't wait—
We miss our pet!
One of the speakers at the recent HSUS workshop in Columbus, OH, was Cathy Crumbley, then sheriff of Belmont County. The personality and will that made Cathy a success as a woman law officer and animal advocate in a rural community have also made her a national figure. She has appeared frequently on the "Tonight" show, and she has been approached about a movie and television series based on her life.

Cathy jokes about her six-foot, 250-pound frame. Her brilliant blond hair is stiffened with hair spray, she says, to protect her from the bullets of her enemies. In fact, her family and her own life have been threatened because of her aggressiveness toward crimes that previous sheriffs overlooked.

She told the Columbus audience how she organized and led a raid on a large cockfight, the secrecy of the operation and the cockfighters exploding out of the barn when they discovered they were surrounded. She had to use a nearby outhouse briefly and ended up capturing two more cockfighters when she heard their whispering outside. Many of the cockfighters recognized her from television appearances, and she signed autographs while she made arrests.

She also told us of a more sober occasion when she came across a critically injured dog at the roadside. With skill and compassion, she shot the animal to end its suffering quickly, and she was obviously moved by the incident. I thought how lucky animal advocates in Ohio are to have Sheriff Crumbley, because such an attitude is rare among law officers.....

But is it? Cathy's special flair makes her one of a kind as a person, but perhaps we are unfair to the many just and concerned law officers when we say that she may be the only sheriff who cares about animal issues. The passing driver might have thought her heartless to shoot the little injured dog, but she was taking the most humane option available.

Similarly, before we judge our own local officials, we must try to get to know them, to convince them to work with us for better law enforcement.

We all know officials who turn their backs on animal cruelty or, worse yet, wink at it. But there are law officers who do care, and it is part of our obligation to the animals to seek out these individuals and work with them toward our mutual goals.