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The Winner!

This photo by Stephanie Rodgers of Pennington, NJ is the first prize winner in The HSUS Photo Contest - Animal Care and Control category. Rodgers received a cash prize and a copy of Kodak's best-selling book, The Joy of Photography. A complete list of prize winners is available from The HSUS Communications Department.

Photography is an important and effective means for animal professionals and the many concerned volunteers in the field to tell the story of animal care and control. SHELTER SENSE thanks everyone who participated in this and all categories of The HSUS Photo Contest.
The Humane Society of Austin and Travis County has developed a series of innovative programs working cooperatively with veterinarians. This dream of professional cooperation became a reality in June, 1972, primarily through the efforts of Marjorie Bird, Director of Shelter Operations. She and Dr. D. D. Linam proposed to Texas AM University officials that senior veterinary students volunteer their services at the animal shelter. This program gives students the opportunity to neuter cats and dogs and to observe the medical problems that can occur. Escorting by the Chief Surgeon of the College of Veterinary Medicine, the students come every Thursday and neuter about 30 animals.

Mrs. Bird sees the program as having far-reaching effects: "If veterinary students are acquainted with our work in the beginning of their careers, they will develop a continuing interest in humane work."

Another program involves practicing veterinarians in the Austin area. Each veterinarian is assigned one week of the year, and they are asked to volunteer their services for one or two hours each day of that week at the animal shelter. 1980 was the most successful year, with one hundred percent of area veterinarians participating in this voluntary program.

The shelter Emergency Rescue Service works with private veterinary clinics when a veterinarian is not at the animal shelter. Because at least one of the clinics is always available, injured animals receive emergency care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Humane Society has also developed a cooperating program for pet neutering, in which 44 of 47 Austin clinics participate on a regular basis.

The Animal Protection Association, Inc., has organized a successful spay-neuter program in cooperation with Memphis veterinarians. APA will send you a copy of their contract with the veterinarians if you send a self-addressed stamped envelope to them at 220 S. Claybrook, Suite 402, Memphis, TN 38104.

Director Beverly King says the contract demonstrated to the veterinarians that APA had researched the program thoroughly and was ready to work in a professional manner. She says the contract has also helped clear up at least one misunderstanding with one of the participating veterinarians.

In the first six months of the program, 270 animals were sterilized. King says many other surgeries have also resulted from the program because area pet owners convinced their own veterinarians to lower the surgery cost. APA plans more advertising, including a television public service announcement.

King says one of the keys to success is that the group keeps in close communication with the veterinarians to solve any problems quickly as possible.

The circuit court in Kent County, MI, has ruled that Kent County Public Health Department has the authority to operate a reduced fee spay-neuter clinic. The ruling denied a restraining order to close the clinic that was sought by the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, the Western Michigan Veterinary Medical Association and two individual veterinarians.

The judge supported the county's position that "there is a significant relationship of animal control and management by the clinic and the health, safety and welfare of the general public." The Michigan Public Health Code charges local health departments to "continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health through organized programs, including prevention and control of environmental health hazards..."

The Kent County clinic was opened in 1975 and became part of the health department in 1979. (Kent County Animal Shelter, 711 Ball Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49503)
--You can “buy a bed” for the Rutland County (VT) Humane Society. They’re asking for donations of $30 to buy a fiberglass resting board for each dog run. Other organizations have held similar “buy-an-item” programs.

--The Animal Humane Association of New Mexico, Inc., collects contributions of old newspapers and sells them to an area insulation manufacturer for recycling.

--In Hot Springs, AR, the animal control department, the local humane society and the kennel club co-sponsor a dog show.

--One humane society got members of a club at the high school to paint the shelter education room with paint donated by the Kiwanis Club.

--Students from a county youth home are cleaning kennels at one animal shelter, working at the minimum wage.

--One local stamp club provided the postage for newsletter mailings for one year for their humane society.

If you want to hold a contest for school children -- for example, asking them to write essays on responsible pet ownership or holding a coloring contest for younger children -- give them subscriptions to HSUS’s youth publication, KIND, as prizes. Editor Charles F. Herrmann III will give you a discount price of $3 per subscription for this purpose.

If you are the animal licensing authority in your community, you can invite anyone who has not licensed their pet to purchase a license during Be Kind to Animals Week with no penalty.

The Connecticut Humane Society has been holding a variety of public events to celebrate its 100th anniversary, including a special art exhibit and benefit sale. The Hartford Courant Magazine picked up on these events with a special feature on the anniversary.

Take a few minutes to hold a brainstorming session with other staff members at your shelter -- you’ll be surprised at the number of opportunities for special events in your town.

This issue’s Reproducible is a pamphlet designed to help adopters while they are getting acquainted with their puppies. It includes suggestions for books to read on complete dog training.

Your printer can reproduce the pamphlet on both sides of a heavier paper (colored, if you wish) and fold it in half. The illustrations were prepared especially for SHELTER SENSE by artist Harold Smelcer.

Many pet owners end up giving away animals because they have grown frustrated over behavior problems -- problems that could have been solved with a little better understanding of how animals behave. If your shelter provides this information to new adopters, you will increase the chances of those adopted animals staying in their new homes and leading happier lives. Our next issue will include a similar Reproducible pamphlet on kittens.
Cruelty to livestock: another aspect of humane work.

Three communities in West Virginia are now sharing a new centrally-located animal control facility. The City of Huntington, Wayne County and Cabell County have built the facility for $426,619, and it will be administered by Huntington Animal Control Director Pat Thomas. Wayne County approached Huntington about a shared program because the city's program had proved successful and the county had had difficulties locating a suitable site for a shelter. Cabell County had been criticized by veterinarians and by the public for conditions at a private shelter there.

After nine months of discussion, the three jurisdictions began to design and build the facility, which opened last fall (the existing shelter in Huntington was sold). Huntington City Manager Richard Barton told SHELTER SENSE, "We are extremely pleased with the success of the venture and look forward to many years of mutual cooperation.

The St. Joseph County Humane Society (2506 Liberty Dr., Mishawaka, IN 46544) was called to rescue a piglet that had been greased and turned loose in the halls of the St. Joseph High School. One compassionate student managed to capture the animal and asked the administrative office to call the society. The piglet was suffering from lung congestion, possibly due to the trauma of this incident, and was ill for several days. It was cared for by the students and then placed on a local farm.

Even some of the adults at the school found the situation amusing until they learned how ill the animal became. The society is trying to use the incident to make the students understand how such pranks can result in animal suffering.

In another cruelty case, a North Las Vegas man has been sentenced to four months in jail after pleading guilty to starving his dog nearly to death. He is quoted in the area newspaper as saying, "I didn't get around to him." The Doberman was saved when a concerned utility worker notified the Clark County Humane Society. The dog is recovering under the care of new owners.

Every case in which this kind of cruelty is handled professionally by humane investigators and treated seriously by the courts is another step toward better treatment for animals.

Volunteer Virginia Cardinale reports that the Erie County (NY) SPCA is taking shelter puppies for regular visits to several Buffalo nursing homes. The nursing home administrators have found that the puppies bring a welcome change of pace for the residents. The visits are a great success and provide much-needed enrichment.
elderly residents, reviving memories of dogs they owned in the past.

The SPCA volunteers who make the visits learn techniques for communicating with the nursing home residents, such as speaking slower (not louder) to the hard of hearing. Cardinale says that "some depressed patients consistently respond to pet visits with laughter - something absent from their typical day."

Mark Brender took these photos when Arlington (VA) Animal Rescue League staff took shelter animals to a local nursing home.

In a similar program, staff members from the Humane Society of Kent County (MI) have taken shelter puppies and kittens to a local nursing home. Director Betsy Pullen comments that the visits are "therapeutic for the residents of the home but they also provide a pleasant release for those people charged with killing animals day in and day out."

The San Francisco SPCA may begin a responsible pet ownership project in public housing facilities that would allow many elderly people to keep pets.

Last fall, the Housing Authority ruled that no one in low income public housing could own more than one dog or cat, no one living above the second floor could have either, and no new pets could be acquired. Now, the SPCA is requesting permission to begin an owner education program with its own funds to demonstrate that pets can be beneficial to the community if they are handled responsibly.

According to SPCA Director Richard Avanzino, the project would involve hundreds of pet owners, primarily the elderly and handicapped. He says the SPCA is asking for the opportunity to "prove that responsible pet owners should be allowed to keep their pets."

If the pilot project is authorized (a decision is expected in April) and proves successful in controlling pet problems, a model program will become available to the many communities dealing with pet problems in low income housing.

Lehigh County Humane Society (640 Dixon St., Allentown, PA 18103) is improving staff morale with monthly meetings that include time for "airing gripes" between staff members. Director Jane Schram reports that tension and anxiety are reduced because of the opportunity to discuss problems. Staff members are also encouraged to submit ideas to the shelter suggestion box for discussion at the meetings.

In December, 1979, SHELTER SENSE featured a debate on animal control officers carrying firearms, with two "pro" statements and two "con." One of the "pro" writers, John Seales of Hot Springs (AR) Animal Control, has changed his position.

In an item in the Southeast Animal Control Workers Association newsletter, Seales says, "I have recently disarmed my Animal Control Officers. I do not feel sidearms are necessary in performing our jobs...Animal Control Officers have police radios in their units for assistance in the case of an irate citizen. I believe if an Animal Control Officer wears a neat clean uniform, and conducts him or herself in a professional manner, people will respond with respect."

The Humane Society of Oak Ridge, TN, has paid one-half of the cost of sending two city animal control officers to the Animal Control Academy in Tuscaloosa, AL -- a good example of cooperation between local humanitarians and municipal animal control. The Academy has now graduated more than 125 animal control students. For complete details on the Academy program, write Director Hurd "Bill" Smith at 4851 Springhill Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35405.

If you have received a humane education questionnaire from Kathy Savesky of HSUS's National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, please answer and return it. Kathy is surveying animal organizations and agencies throughout the country to find out what humane education programs are taking place. This survey is important to all animal professionals, and if you complete and return it, you will receive a summary of her findings. NAAHE is at PO Box 562, East Haddam, CT 06423.

Dade County Animal Services (7401 NW 74th St., Miami, FL 33166) says there has been a 46% drop in reported dog bites, from 8538 in 1972 to 4604 in 1980. Complaints answered by Animal Services field units in the past fiscal year are down 8% from 1977-78, and total animals impounded are down by 20% from 21,164 in 1977-78 to 19,271 in 1979-80.

During the first three months of 1980-81, dog adoptions were up 7% from the same three month period the year before. However, the percentage of impounded dogs redeemed by their owners has dropped by 40% in the last four years, from 16% of impounded dogs in 1975 to 9.6% in 1979. Director Ronald F. Petty says one factor that may be influencing redemptions is the economy "which would inhibit hard-pressed dog owners from making a vigorous search for missing pets. It is also possible that more dog owners are exercising better control over their animals so that fewer owned dogs are being picked up, resulting in a change in the owned/unowned population mix in the shelter."

Petty has also asked SHELTER SENSE to request that licensing departments around the country include complete responses on the license tags. He says his shelter has received dogs with tags that have serial numbers but nothing indicating which city or county issued the tag. (See Dade County tag in margin.)
The State of Oregon driver’s manual states, “You cannot carry a dog outside a vehicle unless it is protected by framework, carrier or other device to keep it from falling from the vehicle.” The State of Oregon thinks this is believed to be the only state provision against carrying dogs outside a vehicle (as in the open bed of a pickup truck). If your city or state has similar laws, send a copy to SHELTER SENSE. (Submitted by Kathie Flood, Tri-Agency Animal Regulation Authority, Eugene, OR.)

The sheriff of Marion County, IN, denoted a sergeant for abandoning a dog at an Indianapolis city park. The sergeant was dropped to the rank of deputy, which will result in a substantial pay cut. SHELTER SENSE notes the incident because of the sheriff’s willingness to penalize another law officer for breaking the animal laws.

National Dog Registry has handled the same Siberian Husky four times recently. The dog was moved from its home in Minnesota to a family friend’s home in Idaho while a new baby settled into the Minnesota residence. The dog, however, has been escaping from the fenced area at its temporary home in an effort to get back to its former family. Many people think it’s a simple matter to find a new home for a dog - this story illustrates how difficult that adjustment can be for the dog.

Six members of Animal Aid (5360 East 28th St., Tulsa, OK 74114) have received awards from the Tulsa Veterinary Medical Association for their animal rescue services and activities. The group received highly complimentary press coverage for the awards. At a time when the humane community and veterinary associations are not always on the best of terms, the Tulsa veterinarians’ appreciation of their local humane organization is welcome.

The Southeastern Animal Control Workers Association will hold its seventh annual animal control seminar, June 25-27 at Columbus College, Columbus, GA.

Hurt “Bill” Smith of HSUS’s Animal Control Academy will speak on animal euthanasia and on violator confrontation in the field. Two other Academy instructors, Dr. Michael Hyde of the University of Alabama and Dr. David Neil of Colorado State University, will speak on different aspects of the animal control officer’s relationship to the community.

Other speakers will come from the American Humane Association and from several animal control agencies. For complete information, contact SACWA, c/o Fulton County Animal Control, 860 Marietta Blvd., NW, Atlanta, GA 30381.

Beginning with our next issue, job announcements may be placed by SHELTER SENSE subscribers only. The maximum length is 25 words plus your address. To appear in the June issue, announcements must be received in writing before April 24.

WANTED -- Assistant Animal Control Director. Responsible for accounts payable, inventory, staff schedule, correspondence, public relations. Experience in office procedures, humane education, animal control, shelter management, animal husbandry, cruelty investigation all desirable. Send applications to Don Johnston, Personnel Director, Saginaw County Court House, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602.

WANTED -- Kennel and office personnel for West Coast’s largest shelter, 45 minutes from the ocean, 30 minutes from green mountains. If you are experienced, dedicated, and attuned to HSUS philosophies and would like to work with progressive management, send your qualifications to Warren Brodrick, Executive Director, Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley, 2530 Lafayette St., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

POSITION WANTED -- Director of medium size humane society with 8 employees wants to relocate in the Southeast. Six years experience as director and licensed cruelty investigator, all phases of humane work. Started many new, innovative programs. Contact David Patterson, c/o Humane Society of North Central Illinois, 1000 S. LaFox St., S. Elgin, IL 60177; (312) 697-2880, office, or (312) 741-7247, home.

POSITION WANTED -- Humane Officer desires to relocate. Experienced in cruelty investigation, animal control, sodium pentobarbital euthanasia, humane animal handling, emergency rescue operations, disease prevention, citation systems, court room procedures, with HSUS-accredited shelters. Contact Elizabeth Tucker, 718 West Dodds St., Bloomington, IN 47401.

POSITION WANTED -- Cruelty Investigator/Community Relations. BA in Anthropology, eight years in shelter procedures, cruelty investigation, humane education, public relations, fund raising. Willing to relocate. Contact Linda Belden, 1100 Oakwood Ave., Dayton, OH 45419, (213) 293-6415.

POSITION WANTED -- Public relations, publication, consultation position sought with progressive animal organization. Six years shelter experience, including administration. Background with three newspapers, free-lance photography, writing and public relations. Reply to Box 265, New Freedom, PA 17325.

POSITION WANTED -- Executive Director desires position with more progressive organization. Experienced in all aspects of shelter management, budget, cost control, employee and volunteer supervision, humane education, fund raising, advertising, public relations and cruelty complaints. Will work only with a concerned and involved board of directors. Contact Rod Hale, 880 Glen Valley Dr., Sparks, NV 89431, telephone (702) 331-7520.

POSITION WANTED -- B.A. in English with experience in public relations seeks position as humane educator or other employment for humane society or shelter or other animal protection organization. Special skills include writing, public speaking, fund raising, photography and research. Willing to relocate. Resume on request from Deborah Clark, 641 W. Drayton, Ferndale, MI 48220.
Materials

Changing Your Image, a videotape for training animal control and humane society employees is available from the Film Library, 2 Patton Hall, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Produced by VPI with HSUS, the tape covers:

Part I - Recordkeeping
Part II - Shelter Sanitation and Cleaning
Part III - Field Services

(A fourth section titled "Attitudes on Euthanasia" is in production; watch for details in SHELTER SENSE.)

All three parts come on one tape for $85.

Gaines will send you one free copy of a booklet on the importance of vaccinations for dogs. The booklet includes information on parvovirus. Send your request to "The Vaccination Story," PO Box 1007, Kankakee, IL 60901. If you are interested in ordering a quantity to distribute at your shelter, tell Gaines how many you need and they will give you the charges.

Bide-A-Wee Home Association (410 East 38th St., New York, NY 10016) will send you a poster on pet care in summer for $1 for postage and handling. The poster was produced for the group by an advertising agency.

HSUS has a limited supply of Christmas cards available in boxes of 25 for $2.50 each. You can resell these locally as a fundraiser. Send your order to Anna Pagi, HSUS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

HSUS has a toll-free hotline for locating lost pets. They also receive special pet ID tags and other materials, and they can authorize emergency medical treatment for their pets through the system.

The Humane Society of Weld County will send you information and floor plans used for their new shelter building, constructed last year. The unique concrete dome building with special energy conservation systems is saving the society hundreds of dollars monthly on heating and insurance costs, according to Executive Director Ken Nixon. The ventilation system exchanges the air 12 to 15 times an hour, but heat loss is minimized with the use of a heat recycling coil.

Nixon also says his shelter records show that more people have turned in their animals rather than abandoning them since the modern facility was completed. He will send you details for $2 to cover postage and handling; write Humane Society of Weld County, PO Box 398, Greeley, CO 80631.

KISS Manufacturing Company has informed HSUS that they make control choke leashes available at $35 per 100. The leashes are made of six feet of ski rope with a nickel-plated "0" ring. Giving an item of this kind to new pet adopters can result in goodwill for your shelter as well as encouraging responsible pet ownership right from the start. KISS Manufacturing Company is at Route 2, Box 302A3, Franklin, NC 28734.

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Pressure delivery system (or capture gun) where a dart is projected by compressed air from either a rifle or pistol powered by carbon dioxide or a powder charge.

A blow-projectile system with a special dart and syringe has been used at zoos but has not been field-tested for use on free-roaming dogs. The blow-projectile can be effective up to 15 or 20 feet.

The syringe pole, theoretically at least, is the safest for animal and man; however, its use on the street is limited. Like the blow-projectile, it generally causes minimal damage and minimal stress to the animal, and it is fairly reliable and doesn't require as much operator skill as other methods.

The pitfalls of the syringe pole and blow-projectile are that they have a relatively short effective range, they tend to be fragile and they can be costly.

The pressurized delivery system, in trained and experienced hands, can be effective at 25 yards or more and can be very accurate with the proper tailpiece and syringe (3.0 ml. size). The dangers with the pressurized systems are:
- Poor shooting or miscalculated distances can break bones, imbed darts in body cavities and tear tissue.
- All systems emit some noise.
- The dart can fail to go off on impact.
- Misses can be dangerous to both humans and animals.
- Carbon dioxide weapons can be affected by heat or cold.

Also, the direction of the darts can be affected by the wind with these delivery systems.

When you must decide on a capture method in the field, these are the factors you should consider:
- What are the capabilities of the officers? Have they been properly trained and are they capable of using equipment effectively?
- How close can you get to the animal?
- What kind of terrain are you in? Can you observe the animal after it has been hit with a dart or is this an area where you are likely to lose sight of the animal when it reacts to the impact? (Since no drug available is effective in less than five minutes, this is crucial.)
- Which capture system will best protect the animal's rights as well as those of the owner and the community?

Selecting a drug once you have made the decision to use chemical capture is relatively easy since all clinically safe immobilizing agents are restricted to use by a veterinarian or under veterinary supervision. The ideal chemical capture drug should be:
- Safe for the operator.
- Safe for the animal.
- Cause minimal tissue damage.
- Be absorbed rapidly and easily eliminated from the body.
- Have an antidote.
- Be inexpensive.
- Be available under any applicable regulations.
- Be effective in all kinds of weather.
- Work rapidly.

The two drugs now available that best meet these criteria are Xylazine (Rompun) and Ketamine hydrochloride (Ketaset, Ketalar). A combination of these might be even better. Cooperation with your veterinarian will be important in working with these drugs.

However, any drug is only as safe and effective as its user is able to:
1. Judge the health status of the animal. Is the animal sound enough to withstand the stress of being tranquilized by dart?
2. Accurately judge animals' weights. The lack of this ability is probably the Number One reason for drug overdose in the field. All field officers should learn how to judge weights by practicing estimating the weights of shelter animals and then weighing them as a check. The ability to estimate weight quickly in the field is critical to successful chemical capture.

The dose given in package directions for Rompun is .5 to 1 milligram per pound of the animal's body weight. The veterinarian who obtains the drug for you should help you determine the proper doses for the animals you handle. Chemical capture is not suitable for any animal under 25 pounds.

3. Offer emergency service if a bad reaction occurs. You should learn about first aid from your cooperating veterinarian before you put chemical capture into practice.
4. Track the animal until you are able to restrain and handle it humanely for transportation to a veterinarian or to the shelter. You should always remember that the reaction to the drug and to being "shot" may make the animal run faster and farther than it would have had you tried coaxing or some other method of capture.

In summary, chemical immobilization is not for everyone and should be a last resort method. The use of chemicals and various drug delivery systems should be restricted to those who have had adequate training. Continuing education should be a must.

Humane animal control agents must have complete information and proper training in chemical capture if you are to use this method with the greatest safety, for both man and beast.

This case was reported in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association by C.M. Smith, DVM, MS, and David C. Huse, DVM, University of Illinois.
Ellen Goodman, newspaper columnist and book author, has written a column about her dog biting an electrician who was working in her home.

She describes the "false images" of dogs that she had grown up with -- the snarling Doberman versus the "assorted Disney dogs" that she had seen in the movies. She talks about her family's amazement that their household pet, which clearly belonged in the Disney category, would be capable of giving somebody a good solid bite ($82 in medical bills). She says, "Now we have come to terms with reality, come to accept the fact that our Zachary is, after all, an animal."

I believe Goodman speaks for many pet owners who do not have a clear picture of what a pet dog or cat really is. Biting is only one part of this problem. Many people think that because cats have an excellent sense of balance, they won't be injured in a fall. Many people think dogs don't need protection from the cold because they have fur. Some people think that pets should somehow know that a sofa costs $600 and stay off!

Some pet owners think their animals are "almost human." At the other end of the scale are the people who think their pets are like machines that have no needs of their own and that simply shut down when the people are away.

The truth is that dogs and cats have many characteristics that make them similar to people as well as many characteristics that make them completely different. One of the most important jobs your shelter can do is to communicate this to the public. This issue of SHELTER SENSE has a Reproducible for new dog owners that will help you. Next time, we'll have one on cats.

Every shelter staff member should take the time to read at least one of the books recommended in the Reproducible. It is part of your responsibility as an animal professional to be able to help pet owners with basic questions on animal behavior - or at least to suggest a good reference book.

I realize that, with the numbers of animals being processed through your shelter, there is a limit to the time you can spend on each individual animal. But when you take the time to get a pet owner off to a good start or to help with pet behavior problems, you give the animals a better chance at satisfactory placements and you generate goodwill for your shelter.