VETS HELP SURPLUS ANIMALS

One of the major subjects on the agenda at the last American Veterinary Medical Association's conference was the problem of surplus animals. The Association's special Council on Veterinary Service presented recommendations to the Association.

The AVMA Council report supported spay and neuter surgery as one of the contributing solutions to the surplus animal problem. Other recommendations, with which the Humane Society heartily agrees are:

- Strict enforcement of animal control laws and development of better laws.
- A much higher license fee for unspayed and unneutered pets.
- Licensing and control programs for cats as well as dogs.
- An intensive public education program.
- No domestic animal to be released from any shelter or pound until it has been spayed or neutered.
- Encourage spaying and neutering until a less expensive sterilizing method can be perfected.
- Development of a pet identification system.
- Cooperation with humane societies for pet population control.

The most common idea of
birth control for dogs and cats is a pill. Research has been going on for several years but no such pill has yet been perfected. The Humane Society holds out little hope for a pill, since federal regulations require years of testing before marketing.

The Humane Society, in cooperation with The Animal Welfare Institute, had a booth at the AVMA convention, with the title: "Pet Population Control, Will Veterinarians Lead the Way in Finding a Solution?" The report of the Council suggests good evidence that they might. The booth was very popular, and was even given special mention. When we understand the veterinarian's point of view, and attempt to enlist his help in solving the pet population problem, we shall have a much better chance of achieving our goal.

The vets have appropriated $47,300 for a humane education program "designed to teach pet owners to be more responsible and concerned." The accompanying photos show some of the scenes from the first educational film strips they have produced. Write to KIND for further information on these educational materials.

WHOOPING CRANES SPARED NOISE OF BOMBING PRACTICE

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas--Recently the bird watchers here noted a restlessness among the small flock of Whooping Cranes. They linked the nervous behavior of the birds to the U.S. Air Force. They have been holding practice bombing runs over nearby Matagorda Island.

The low altitude swoop of the bombers seemed to be disturbing the Cranes. News of the problem reached the press. Rogers Morton, Secretary of the Interior felt that the noise created by the practice flights was too great a risk to take with this endangered species. He wrote to Secretary of Defense Schlesinger and asked for a halt to the bombing practice.

Mr. Schlesinger, a bird watcher himself, recognized the problem. He ordered a halt to the practice flights during the winter when the Cranes are in residence.

Back in 1938 there were only about 14 Whooping Cranes known to be alive in North America. Efforts of the U.S. and Canadian Governments to protect the Cranes have helped to increase their numbers. Today, the total population is estimated to be approximately 80 birds. Some are in captivity but most are in the wild.

Someday, through the efforts of responsible Government officials, we may see the name of the Whooping Crane erased from the list of threatened wildlife. The Air Force's decision to change their practice plans is a step toward that goal.
ACROSS
1. A kind of operation that helps prevent surplus cats and dogs.
2. What professional dog handlers call a leash.
3. Popular furry little pets.
4. fish are good pets but they won't come when you call them.
5. Place where a kitten might sleep.
6. A command that you would give to a dog if you didn't want it to move.
7. Every pet needs this.
8. It's a good idea to have your dog obedience ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
9. A balanced diet helps your pet ___ ___ ___ into an adult.
10. Tigers are ___ ___ ___ animals.
11. Men's best friends.

HUMANE SOCIETY SEEKS PRIORITY FOR SHIPMENT OF ANIMALS

The energy crisis threatens to affect animals being shipped by air. With the restricted availability of high-octane fuel, several airlines have begun curtailing or cancelling some flights. Some cargo freight now must wait for later flights. Animals being shipped by air are sometimes held many extra hours before there is room on a plane to take them to their destination.

To solve this problem, the Humane Society has filed a formal petition with the Civil Aeronautics Board, asking they issue a policy statement to give live animal shipments priority. It also asks they instruct the airlines not to accept live animals for air shipment when they cannot guarantee the animals can be given immediate shipment on the next flight.


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COUNTRY TRANQUILITY
FROM THE EDITOR

It seemed a futile search. I didn't have enough ready cash for a down payment on country property with a house. The only thing I could hope for was unimproved land, and plan to build my own cabin. But I wanted a hill, a stream, and not less than five acres. I searched all summer. I almost gave up.

Finally there it was. Not just five acres, but ten, a hill with a superb view, and a stream. The water was clear and cold, fed from a spring located in a limestone quarry just a mile upstream. The tranquil waters and the cool shade of huge trees invited the weary to rest and reflect and be thankful.

I climbed halfway up the hill to the head of a small glen and sat down to rest and admire the view of the hill across the stream. Here was the ideal cabin site. I decided that a bulldozer would not scar this tranquil site. The cabin would perch on the hillside, and only one small pine would have to be moved. No other trees would be disturbed by building here.

Spring came and time to make the big move. Friends helped move my furniture from the city apartment. We stacked it in two rows on the hillside. We left space between them for food and clothing to be stored. Then we covered them with plastic. Soon we began to dig the foundation.

Two weeks later my vacation ended. We were to have put the roof on by then. In fact, we had just begun installing the floor. With no walls and no roof, I was near panic. Could we, working evenings and weekends, even hope to have the cabin completed enough to rough it through the first winter before the snow came? I doubted it.

But friends were faithful and slaved each weekend from dawn to dusk. In good weather it was a joyful experience to sleep out under the stars. When it rained, it was dismal and cold and cramped in the station wagon and under the plastic tent. Our muscles ached. It was chilling cold each night and blazing hot at mid-day. We felt guilty each day we took just half an hour to cool off and bathe in the cold spring waters of the stream, but it sent us back to work with new vigor.

When the first snow came, the cabin was tight and snug.

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Hylton,

A friend and I are two students from our Oceanography class who visit grade schools and talk about the importance of saving the whales. I have also just sent a small contribution to help protect animals.

Sincerely, Tina Clark, age 17

Not all the work was done by any means, but it was livable. It was then that I realized that I had gotten a little soft. I was not made of quite the same stuff our pioneer forefathers were. They endured everyday hardships I never had to face until I started my cabin. I know now my plans were too ambitious. I should have proceeded more cautiously. I would never take such a gamble again, but I'm glad for the experience, and for the peace and quiet I now have in the country.
EASTER ANIMAL POSTER

Thirty-two states have no laws protecting baby chicks, ducklings, and bunnies from being sold as Easter toys. These baby animals are cute and cuddly, but most little children do not possess physical skill to handle tiny baby animals gently and carefully. They may squeeze them too hard. The experience of seeing a cute, cuddly, living toy die has got to be bad for the child.

Ask store managers to stock soft filled toys instead of live animals for Easter. Order posters--12 for 25¢--to provide one to each store that agrees. If your state doesn't have a ban on the sale of baby animals as Easter toys, find out why it doesn't. Perhaps it will be the next state to enact such a law.