BE KIND TO YOUR DOG--DON'T LET HIM END UP IN A POUND LIKE THIS

A large majority of small town or county dog pounds in the United States look very much like this one. Learn what the pound in your community looks like, and what care it offers lost or homeless animals. Learn how you can help.
Inadequate Animal Control Programs

The Reason the Surplus Animal Problem Has Not Been Solved

Most communities have some type of animal control program, and some place where captured animals are confined for a set number of days and then destroyed. If these programs are properly operated, they have a good system of recording reports of lost dogs, advertising found dogs, encouraging the public to adopt animals, and, perhaps, even informing the public on the laws governing the keeping of dogs, such as licensing, rabies shots, and control of a dog on the owner's property. Very few go beyond this point to attempt to solve the problem of all the surplus animals that continue to be brought into the pound. One notable exception is the City of Los Angeles. There they have taken some of the money from dog license sales to establish a low-cost spay and neuter clinic. It has been so successful that two more clinics are being established. But even then, the several pounds in Los Angeles continue to release animals for adoption without proper arrangement for spaying or neutering. So long as this situation exists, the more homes that are found for animals, the more unwanted animals there will be during the next year to be brought to the pounds to be destroyed. Every year, instead of reducing the surplus animal population, these pounds add to it by releasing animals that will produce more surplus. Every year more money will have to be spent on animal control, so long as this situation continues.

Look at the facts:

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

A good control ordinance, requiring owners to keep their pets under control at all times.

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

An educational program to advise students and adults on good care and control of pets, and the importance of having pets neutered or spayed.

A low-cost spay and neuter clinic.

A low-cost rabies vaccination clinic where dog licenses can be purchased at the same time.

A lost and found service, with advertising of found pets.

A higher license fee for unspayed or unneutered dogs, or perhaps no fee required to obtain a license for a dog that has been spayed or neutered.

A good system of enforcing license requirements.

A system of requiring a permit to keep a dog or a cat.

A requirement that all adopted animals be spayed or neutered.

A method of destroying unclaimed animals without stress, or pain.

Dedicated staff who are concerned for the welfare of every animal.

The need for animal control was first realized when a few pet dogs wandered off from early settlements and became feral--living as wild animals. They began preying on livestock and something had to be done about the problem. Some states sought to solve the problem by offering to pay a bounty for every feral dog anyone killed. Until 1965 Pennsylvania still had such a law that paid $2 for every pair of dog's ears sent to the state capitol. Imagine the shock a man in Florida received when the post office sent him a package that contained a coffee can full of dog's ears, that should have been sent to Harrisburg!

There are very few laws regulating cats, because they haven't caused the problems that dogs have, and it is also quite difficult to control cats. Many of the control programs that went beyond the archaic bounty system were based on the control of rabies, even though cats and other warm-blooded animals can get rabies, too. Dogs are still the animals most likely to encounter a rabid wild animal, because they like to wander in the woods, and are inclined to investigate any other animal they meet.

Summer is a good time to learn just what type of animal control program exists in the community in which you live. It's the kind of project you could plan and report on, in our animal-helping project contest (see your May newsletter). Visit your local pound and learn all you can about how it is operated, what laws there are, and what happens to the animals that are cared for there. Decide what could be done to make it a better program, and then ask some questions that might get the officials in charge of the pound to begin thinking about improvements they might make. Who knows? You may be able to help many animals, and, by selecting the most important things that will help reduce the surplus animal problem, you may even lead the pound to conduct a program that, after a few years, would no longer cost as much to operate, because there will be no surplus of animals, and no longer so many unwanted animals to care for.

Summer Contests

Don't forget to plan to enter one or both contests this summer. Any photograph of animals or projects helping animals might win a prize. Any plan for a project that will help needy animals may also win a prize, whether you have been able to put it into action or not. Remember, all entries--as many as you want to send--for both contests must be postmarked no later than September 1, 1973.
Steel workers must be strong because they have a rough job to do. When a squirrel took up residence in a 42 story building they were constructing, they named him Herman. As the building neared completion, they had to find a new home for Herman. Charles Gilberg built a box trap, and Herman was captured on the 41st floor. He seemed frightened, so Louis Wapp dropped some nuts and seeds into the trap for him. The two men carried Herman to Esterbrook Park and released him. Herman tore out of the trap and headed to the top of the nearest tree.

Photos by Erwin Gebhard
Courtesy of The Milwaukee Sentinel

HUMANE SOCIETY SAVES LIVES OF BURROS

Quick action taken by The Humane Society may save the lives of about 200 wild burros living on the China Lake Naval Weapons Center in California's Mojave Desert. In spite of the federal Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, the navy had obtained a permit from the California Department of Agriculture to kill the burros, because 'there were too many for the available food supply.' The navy maintains the federal law doesn't apply to military lands; we think they're wrong, and even believe they would have to file an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act.

An immediate protest was registered when it was discovered that the navy had obtained permission to kill these animals. An inspection of the burros revealed animals that appeared healthy and well-fed, in spite of the claim that desert vegetation could not support this size herd.

HELP FOR THE GRAY WOLF

New York has added the gray wolf to the list of animals that are endangered, which means no wolf, or any products from the gray wolf, may be sold. A similar bill, Senate Bill 142, has been introduced in Colorado by Senator Fay Deverard.
VIRGINIA GOVERNOR HOLTON SIGNS INTO LAW A BILL TO IMPROVE THE STATE’S ANTI-CRUELTY PROVISIONS. DELEGATE JOHN L. MELNICK, SPONSOR OF THE BILL, AND GIRL SCOUTS WHO FOLLOWED THIS BILL THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, URGING SUPPORT FOR ITS ENACTMENT, LOOK ON WITH SATISFACTION. Photo credit Eugene R. Capozio

HELP THE POUND by Phyllis McKenzie

Hi! Anyone in this area of KIND, please take interest enough in our suffering animals to read this. Do you love dogs and cats? Eight out of ten people do, but don’t care enough about them to find a good home for them or pitch in about 75¢ a day to feed them.

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

The Bear In The Roadside Zoo

His fur looked dry and dusty, It was bare in one big spot, And I knew from looking at him That his cage was much too hot.

He paced and paced around ‘round His water dish was dry. Then suddenly he stopped and turned And we stared—eye to eye.

I thought that bears were proud and strong, And scary when they’re mad. I never knew until that day That bears could just be—sad. Marsha Gochnauer

Vermont now has a law banning non-returnable containers. The second state to pass such a law, it follows Oregon’s example.

Dear Mr. Hylton:

I have obtained some information about our pound. 1200 animals are handled every year. It costs the community $7500 per year. 5% are claimed by their owners and 5% are adopted by new owners. Adopted animals do not have to be spayed or neutered. The animals are kept 20 days before being put to sleep, by an injection. About 1000 animals are destroyed annually. I plan to grow a large garden this year in the hope of selling produce and raising money for spaying my cats and building new hutches for my rabbits. I would also like to help the pound, and send money to KIND. I am also enclosing a list of spay and neuter prices in my area.

Your friend, Tom Vogelsang
Sunman, Indiana

EDITOR’S NOTE: Tom lives in a county that has 21,138 population, according to the 1970 census, yet this community destroys 1000 pets every year! It is unusual for a pound to hold animals 20 days, but most of the other facts he reported are fairly typical.

Dear Mr. Hylton:

The Cary School branch club called Cary Defenders have earned $9.00 which we are sending you. We want this money to be used to help stop the trapping of animals. We have 24 people in our club.

Your friends of the Cary Defenders KIND Club
Michelle Moreno, Secretary

SCOUT TROOP HELPS DOG AND PUPS

Boy Scout Troop #52 of Audubon, New Jersey, found a mother beagle and her pups in the woods. She was too afraid for them to help her, so they borrowed a humane trap from the Animal Welfare Association of Camden County. With the trap they were able to rescue the dog and bring her and her puppies to the shelter. Concerned scouts were: Bryan Roth, Luke Bryant, Don Storch, Mark Eckert, Bryan Pinto, Douglas Pinto, William Casey, Dave Harmon, Jim Plant and Mitch Laney.

Discover what emergency veterinary services are available to pet owners after office hours, on Sundays and holidays. Report name, address and telephone number of veterinarians or answering service for participating veterinarians that offer these services in your community.
AVAILABLE FROM KIND

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

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

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

HSUS Special Report on Trapping — 3¢ each.

"ELBEE," A SHIH TZU
THAT GOT LOST, HIS
OWNERS TOOK OUT PAID
ADS, WROTE TO EDITORS
OF NEWSPAPERS, AND
REFUSED TO GIVE UP
ADVERTISING FOR HIS
RETURN. HE WAS RETURNED
to His OWNERS 7 WEEKS
AND 1 DAY AFTER HE GOT
LOST. ADVERTISING LOST
PETS IS MOST IMPORTANT,
YOU CAN URGE OWNERS OF
MISSING PETS NOT TO
GIVE UP EASILY, BUT TO
KEEP ADVERTISING.

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R. Dale Hylton, Editor

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