SPRING CLEANING
(and inspecting and fixing)

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING AT YOUR SHELTER IS ALSO TIME FOR A CAREFUL INSPECTION. FINDING PROBLEMS AND CORRECTING THEM EARLY CAN SAVE YOU THE MONEY YOU'D SPEND ON MAJOR REPAIRS LATER.

HERE IS A CHECKLIST SUGGESTED BY HSUS GULF STATES REGIONAL DIRECTOR BILL MEADE, WHO IS A SHELTER ARCHITECT--CHECK THESE AREAS IN THE SPRING AND IN THE FALL:

HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS--HAVE A QUALIFIED PERSON INSPECT AND MAKE ANY NECESSARY REPAIRS, INCLUDING CLEANING COILS, FILTERS AND GRILLS, CHECKING FREON LEVELS, CHECKING THERMOSTATS, AND

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Maintaining your shelter properly makes it a safer and more pleasant place for you to work in as well as making it more attractive to the public. Next time, we’ll talk about long-range maintenance programs that should be included in your budget.

**Easter pets**

April 11 is Easter Sunday. It’s time to inform people in your community that buying baby bunnies, ducks and chicks is a big idea. Remind them that these little animals are extremely fragile and need special care. A child who is delighted with an Easter pet will be equally upset if the animal dies because of improper care and handling. Make sure your public is reminded that baby ducklings grow up big and adult ducks—does the enthusiastic Easter buyer ready to make a decision about what to do with the animal then? All Innocent-looking baby animals can carry disease that is transmissible to humans. Purchasing baby rabbits, ducks and chicks for pets is illegal in many jurisdictions. If it is illegal in your location, make sure the public is aware of that. Although there will always be shopkeepers who violate the law and sell the animals anyway, you can prevent much animal suffering by preventing law-abiding citizens from making the purchases. Also, you should try to enforce the law by prosecuting or at least officially warning the shopkeepers that they are in violation of the law. If you do not have enforcement powers and the local police are reluctant to get involved, begin this season to keep statistics on how many animals the shelter receives or rescues because of Easter buying. If the numbers are substantial, you’ll be able to persuade law officials next year that the problem merits their attention.

If your area has no protective legislation, you may want to use the following Florida statute as a model: "It is unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, or give away as merchandise premiums, baby chickens, ducklings, or other fowl under 4 weeks of age; rabbits under 2 months of age to be used as pets, toys or retail premiums. This section shall not be construed to apply to any animal or fowl, including but not limited to rabbits, rabbits, ducklings, and ducklings to be used or raised for agricultural purposes by persons with proper facilities to care for them or for poultry or livestock exhibitions." The statute also prohibits dying these animals. Violations are second degree misdemeanors. ■

**Celebrity auction**

Planned Pethood, Inc. (2700 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43606) earned $1500 holding a Celebrity Auction, in which items donated by celebrities were auctioned at a special event. Using information from a book titled How to Reach Anyone Who’s Anyone (by Michael Levine, published by Price Stern, available in paperback), the group wrote 220 celebrities in different fields to ask for donations of personal items. Their request letter explained the importance of spay-neuter programs in reducing animal suffering.

Sixty celebrities sent items for the auction. Carol Dunn of Planned Pethood says the national celebrities were even more responsive than local personalities. Former First Lady Betty Ford sent a scarf, and Jack Lemmon provided a keychain. Elizabeth Taylor’s canvas carryall bag sold for $5 to $10 each.
Planned Pethood advertised the event with a professionally-produced poster distributed throughout the area. The poster artwork was resized to post card size, and the printed cards were sent as special invitations to the group's major contributors. A local radio announcer, who served as one of the hosts for the auction, gave the event plenty of publicity on his radio program.

Bidders had to sign up in advance, and their names have been added to Planned Pethood's mailing list. About 70 bidders attended the auction, each paying a $2 entry fee. The auction was held at an area hotel, and a cash bar was provided. Although Planned Pethood did not receive the earnings from the bar, Dunn reports the availability of drinks seemed to increase the amounts of money bid for the donated items.

The group accepted Visa and Master Card, which also seemed to encourage bidders to spend more. The arrangements to accept the cards were made through a local bank, and there was a small rental fee for the card imprinter.

The $1500 profit from the event included the money made from the sale of donated items and some additional donations that came in as a result of the publicity.

As we mentioned last time, April has been named National Pets Are Wonderful Month by the Pets Are Wonderful Council. Comedian/actor Bill Cosby will chair National PAW Month, which culminates in Be Kind to Animals Week, May 2-8.

The PAW Council has sent a kit of materials to 2600 shelters; if you have not received your kit, contact the PAW Council at 500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60611. HSUS has reviewed the PAW kit; it has ideas and materials for many activities--best of all, it's free! We suggest you look through the materials and select the activities best suited to your community.

Materials

National Volunteer Week is April 18-24, and the National Center for Citizen Involvement will help you celebrate with a volunteer recognition kit. Including posters, signs, decals, certificates, bookmarks and other items, the kit will help you recognize the special contributions of your shelter's volunteer staff. For complete information, contact The Center at PO Box 1807, Boulder, CO 80306.

"How To Raise a Happy Healthy Pup" by D.C. Askey, DVM, is a 27-page paperback, which covers health care and training for puppies. It includes instructions for building a sleeping box with a toilet "annex" to simplify housebreaking. The booklet explains how important the sense of smell is to dogs. It also offers suggestions for "socializing" puppies. Order from Fairview Publications, 3525 Fairview St., Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7N 2R4. A single copy is $1.25; for orders of 50 or more, the cost per pamphlet is $1. If you care to order more than 100 copies, ask about the quantity discount.

Two good articles from humane society newsletters have come to our attention, and the two newsletter editors have agreed to send copies to you if you send them self-addressed, stamped envelopes.

"It's All in a Day's Work" appeared in Wisconsin Humane Society's New Start View; it's a log of a typical day for a WSHA driver in the field. You can follow the format to write an article for your own publication on how much your drivers accomplish in a day's work. Send your request to Lori Otto, Manager, Education and Publicity, WHS, 4121 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

"How About a Giraffe for Your Yard?" appeared in Animaldom, published by the Pennsylvania SPCA. The article discusses the widespread interest in owning exotic pets and explains some of the difficulties and dangers of exotic pet ownership that people don't think about until after they buy. Send your request for a copy of this article to Elaine Newton, Pennsylvania SPCA, 550 E. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19154.

Last spring, the Humane Society of Huron Valley held a Dog Walkathon, that earned the group $11,000. Executive Director Susan Schurman says the advantage of this event is that printing and publicity are the only overhead costs.

The group will send you a copy of the Dog Walkathon brochure, which gives quite a bit of information about how the event was organized. Send $1 with your request to Humane Society of Huron Valley, 2100 Cherryhill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

The ASPCA in New York City has issued the 1982 edition of its publication, Traveling With Your Pet. The booklet includes pet travel tips, information on regulations affecting pet travel, and health requirements for pets entering 50 states and 177 foreign countries. The booklet is available from ASPCA Education Department, 441 East 92nd St., New York, NY 10028.

WANTED - HSUS-accredited humane society seeks experienced shelter workers. Send resumes to Lyn Devantier, Operations Manager, Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherryhill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

WANTED - The South Lake Tahoe Humane Society has a position open for a Road Supervisor. Requires Animal Control, Law Enforcement and Supervisory experience. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Sharon Sawyer, Director, South Lake Tahoe Humane Society, Box Pet, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731, telephone (916) 577-1766.

POSITION WANTED - Certified Animal Health Technician graduate with BS in Education and Laboratory Animal Technician certification seeks position in a shelter in Midwest US. Request resume from Nancy Watson 407 S. State, #7, Champaign, IL 61820, or telephone (217) 359-8978.

POSITION WANTED - Seeking position with humane organization. Experienced in unrelated field (business, sales, management, etc.) but can offer sincere desire, dedication and interest. Prefer Northeast. cliff Friedman, 93 Mountwood Rd., W. Barnstable, MA 02668, telephone (617) 428-3846.
Dutchess County SPCA (PO Box 1616, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) operates a pet tag program that helps identify lost pets and also serves as a fund-raiser. The group purchased a supply of red aluminum ID tags. Pet adopters are urged to purchase a tag for $1; the tag is engraved with the message, "I AM LOST." Call SPCA (914) 452-1640, and attached to the pet's collar. The message on the tag also includes a code number which corresponds to the animal's card in the SPCA's file. The card gives a description of the animal, the owner's name and phone number and an emergency number to call in case the owner cannot be reached.

The SPCA has also sent tags to people on their mailing list and requested donations—they report that a donation of $5 covers the cost of 20 tags.

A number of pets have been reunited with their owners through this tag system, although it should not be regarded as a replacement for regular licensing. The key advantage of this kind of program is that it helps identify which owners or adopters are continually allowing their animals to run loose and get lost. This give the shelter the opportunity to educate these owners about pet control or, if necessary, to enforce the animal control laws with citations.

A Fort Lauderdale (FL) police officer helped rescue a kitten that had crawled up under a car and had gotten its head pinned between a spring and the left rear tire. The car owner had driven 30 miles and had parked the car when he heard meowing and found the kitten hanging by its head.

Police Officer Richard Schmitt happened to be nearby and was able to release the kitten by using his night stick to widen the space where it was stuck. He was so taken with what he described as the kitten's spunk that he decided to adopt it. He was quoted in an area newspaper as saying, "I guess this is a turning point in my life. I don't even like cats."

Dr. Charles Owens, University of Alabama psychology professor associated with HSUS's Animal Control Academy, was featured in a United Press International story on the stress of animal control work.

Carried to newspapers throughout the US, the story covered Owens' studies of animal control officers at the Academy, including the effects animal euthanasia and other difficult assignments have on their health and personal lives.

In the story, Dr. Owens was quoted as explaining that euthanizing animals is the most stressful task "because in some cases, the animal control officer must kill animals whose only fault may be that no one wants them."

Dr. Owens will participate in the Academy sessions taking place this month: The 100-hour (two-week) Animal Control Certification Program will be held March 29-April 9, and the 25-hour (three-day) Euthanasia Technician Program will be held April 19-April 21. The euthanasia program teaches students techniques for euthanizing but also offers them guidelines on how to cope with the emotional burdens of the job.

For complete information, write Animal Control Academy.
United Humanitarians of Orange County (PO Box 477, Garden Grove, CA 92642) is serving the public and raising funds by holding bazaars for low-cost dog vaccinations. The group located a veterinarian who is willing to provide not only rabies shots but also vaccinations against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and parvovirus (DHLPP) at reduced prices.

UH volunteer Hazel Mortensen says the group begins by getting permission to hold clinics in city parks and school parking lots. She then gets this permission in writing, reporting that the veterinarians who don't participate in the clinics have sometimes pressured city officials to cancel the clinics.

The group publicizes each clinic by sending about 30 public service announcements to radio and television stations and to newspapers. They also invest about $30 in paid newspaper advertisements. Volunteers distribute fliers throughout the community.

The clinics are held Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm—however, the veterinarian often stays until late afternoon to serve all the pet owners who come. While the owners wait in line, UH volunteers advise them on what shots are needed. The volunteers fill out a form for each dog, and the owner presents this form to the veterinarian and then to the cashier. UH buys disposable dishes to provide each dog with water in a clean dish.

Mortensen says about 20 volunteers are needed to run each clinic. The most shots given in a single clinic was 1187. UH receives $2.43 from each $3 vaccination, and the clinics are "cash only."

A number of humane agencies have "Pet of the Week" or similar features in local newspapers. Humane Society of Huron Valley got a good public response from an ad they ran reporting that a previous "Pet of the Week"—Justine, the cat—had been placed in a good home. The ad went on to encourage the community to support the society so that more animals could be placed. Reporting this success story brought in 47 new members for the society. (Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105)
lives nearest the location. The agent checks out the case by phone or visit, as necessary. The SPCA handles about 30 complaints per month, more when the weather is extremely hot or cold.

Most of the cases are resolved by educating the animal owners about proper pet care or by persuading them to give up the animals. However, the agents do make clear that they have enforcement powers. Cruelty convictions carry a maximum fine of $300 and 10 days in jail.

Butcher reports that, contrary to his expectations, local police are always available when his volunteer investigators need help with preparing citations or warrants or making arrests. He says local judges are also helpful, especially when the agents act as prosecuting attorney, which they must do before District Justices.

Canyon County Pet Haven (PO Box 481, Nampa, ID 83651) printed the Idaho cruelty statutes in an issue of their newsletter. Now they report that their members are using the information to show careless pet owners in the community that animal neglect and abuse are against the law.

An Ohio woman has been convicted of cruelty for allowing her Great Dane to starve to death, reports Cleveland Heights Chief Animal Warden Harry C. Dodge (2953 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118). A concerned neighbor notified the animal wardens about the dog being neglected; however, the animal was already dead when the wardens found it chained to the backyard fence.

A veterinarian under contract to the city performed an autopsy on the dog. The woman was found guilty and was given a sentence of a $750 fine and ten days in jail; this was reduced to $500 and eight days in jail. Dodge also mentioned an ironic note to the case: the police lost the photos of the dog that were used as evidence, and now the animal control wardens have been authorized to acquire a camera.

The Houston Chronicle carried a feature story on Lt. Guy Clark, who heads the animal cruelty division for the police precinct serving northeast Harris County (TX). Clark has nine volunteer reserve deputies, although he is attempting to get paid staff.

One of Clark's assistants is George T. Huebner, Chief Humane Investigator for Houston's Animal Rescue League. Because Huebner also works for the Chronicle, he has been instrumental in bringing Houston's cruelty cases to the attention of the public.

Clark has been praised by Houston humanitarians for arresting dog fighters and cock fighters and for investigating other cases of animal cruelty. Some residents have criticized Clark for spending so much time on animal cruelty when crime against people is so widespread; Clark was quoted as responding, "My argument has always been that the people who abuse animals are often the same ones who abuse people. Cruelty to animals is just one step away from cruelty to humans."

The article also said that more animal cruelty cases have been reported to Clark's office since area humanitarians began to praise his efforts publicly. "I think it's finally hit home," Clark said.
Several items in this issue of SHELTER SENSE deal with animal cruelty investigations. The item from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, tells about a dog that might have been saved had the concerned neighbor who called authorities acted just a few days sooner.

Record-breaking bad weather increased calls to animal agencies this past winter. Soon, we'll be getting calls about animals suffering in the summer heat. The Humane Society of Greater Akron reported that cruelty calls increased sharply after publicity was generated by the group's recent fund drive.

None of us is short of work to do, but we've all been involved in cases where an animal would have been saved—or at least euthanized to spare it further suffering—if only the caller had acted sooner. This month's Reproducible should help you make concerned people more aware of the importance of acting immediately when they see animal cruelty.

When people do call, you have to be prepared to respond to the problems. Some of the calls you get will be aggravating, some just plain silly—but these people care about animals and deserve a prompt and courteous response.

If the complaint is not valid and the caller simply is not well informed about animals, politely educate him or her. If the call may be valid, check it out thoroughly. Be sure to let the caller know what happened. I guarantee you'll make a friend for your agency if you take the time to let a caller know that you've acted on the complaint.

Some police officials are reluctant to get involved in animal cruelty cases because there appear to be so many more pressing crime problems. If this is the case in your town, make sure these officials know how many animal cruelty calls you're getting; make sure they know how much public demand there is for animal cruelty investigation.

We can't stop cruelty to animals if we don't know about it. Try to get your community involved in reporting cruelty when it appears—and be ready to act on the calls when you get them.