Youth volunteers for summer

"Every night, I came home disgusted with people who didn't understand the responsibility of pet ownership. Yet, my faith in people was constantly restored by the people who took the time to play with a dog or cat, asked questions about the animals and took time to study the breed they were adopting."

That's what one 14-year old said after spending last summer as a volunteer at the Humane Society of Tucson, Arizona (as reported in their newsletter).

There are lots of shelter projects youth volunteers can do for you in the upcoming summer months—bathing and grooming animals for adoption, exercising and socializing animals, painting and other shelter fix-ups, canvassing the community to find unlicensed pets or to raise funds. Here are some tips on getting young people organized:

--Check to see if the local schools will allow you to ask for the names of potential volunteers while school is still in session.

--Have each interested young person come to your shelter for a one-half day orientation. This will help you weed out those who are simply curious and don't really want to work.

Continued on next page
--Don't let good friends work together—you'll see more play than work.
--If you do want a group activity, make sure that an adult is supervising at all times and that the activity is well planned.
--It's better not to put young volunteers in contact with the public until the young people have proved they are mature enough to handle such contacts and they fully understand your agency's policies and procedures. (Thanks to Toni DeStefano, Humane Society of Wichita County, TX, for these tips.)

You should also check with your insurance agent about coverage for the young volunteers. Your insurance policy may require that you have strict safety procedures to protect the young people—but that's part of your responsibility in any case.

Also, you should become aware of other activities in your community that will compete for young people's attention and schedule your activities accordingly.

Lee County Humane Society (PO Box 1448, Auburn, AL 36830) runs a Humane Society Youth Organization for youngsters 7-17 years of age. The group has monthly meetings with an average attendance of 30; the complete membership list has about 60 names. The members view films, take field trips and run their own events such as a county-wide children's contest for photographs and essays. They earn money for shelter projects with such events as dog washes (always supervised by a veterinarian or adult society member).

The Mobile SPCA (PO Box 66223, Mobile, AL 36660) has been named an Explorer Post (Explorers are part of the Boy Scouts). The Mobile Explorers were surveyed about their hobby and career choices, and enough were interested in animals for them to begin working with the SPCA.

In one project, the Explorers surveyed retail establishments in Mobile that sell live animals, under the supervision of the SPCA. The young people were introduced to the needs of various kinds of animals—and the SPCA got valuable background information on how animals are being cared for in Mobile stores.

Wisconsin Humane Society (4151 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212) holds week-long Animal Awareness Camps during the summer for students ages eight to eleven. Students hike, take field trips and participate in other activities that teach them about animals in an interesting way. WHS charges a registration fee of $15 for each student.

The Animal Control Academy held its 100-hour Animal Control Certification program at Peninsula Humane Society’s Humane Education Center in San Mateo, CA, in February, co-sponsored by Marin Humane Society. Forty-four students came from five states, including Alaska.

HSUS’s Animal Control Academy opened its doors in October, 1979, in partnership with the University of Alabama’s Law Enforcement Academy, to answer a critical need for professional training in animal control. Some 200 animal workers from around the country have attended the 100-hour animal control program or the 25-hour euthanasia program. The demand for more Academy training led to the San Mateo session and a session this month in Ann Arbor, MI. Academy instructors include recognized authorities in animal care and control, university professors and law enforcement officials. The students take an entrance exam; then, after two weeks of rigorous study, they take the same exam to demonstrate their achievement. Students at San Mateo improved their scores by as much as 20 points. The highest final grade was 98 out of a possible 100, and the class average was 99. Students also get eight units of continuing education credit...plus, and perhaps more important, they get the opportunity to exchange ideas and information with other participants.
The Internal Revenue Service has issued a ruling affecting full-service veterinary clinics run by humane organizations. The following report was provided by Roger Kindler, HSUS Associate General Counsel:

In late 1981, the Internal Revenue Service ruled the operation of a full-service veterinary clinic by a humane society was not an activity promoting the society's exempt purpose but rather an unrelated business activity whose income was fully taxable.

The ruling, which was made at the instigation of the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, was directed at a local humane society in Michigan but has legal implications for any society operating a veterinary clinic offering a full range of veterinary services to the general public. (Organizations operating clinics offering only spaying/neutering operations are unaffected by the ruling, although any organizations considering expanding their service beyond spaying/neutering should take heed of this restriction.)

The IRS memorandum, noting the veterinary clinic in this particular case was a "very substantial part" of the organization's activities, concluded that "providing veterinary services for a fee to owners of pets is an ordinary commercial service which has no causal relationship to the prevention of cruelty of animals. The animals for which the services are provided are neither unwanted nor the victims of any cruel or inhumane treatment." The IRS rejected the society's argument that profits from the veterinary clinic supported the animal shelter and other clearly exempt activities, saying the organization's need for funds or the use it makes of the profits from the trade or business does not convert the income from unrelated business to tax-exempt income.

If you are in doubt about whether your organization's activities might be affected by the ruling, you should consult a tax attorney and familiarize him or her with the details of your group's income and operations.

DVM Magazine reported on this ruling as well as on the agreement to settle out of court a civil suit brought against the humane society in Michigan by three veterinarians and the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association. DVM says the society agreed to settle because it was outside the SPCA's powers granted to it by its state charter. Although a number of details have to be worked out, the result is that the SPCA has disassociated itself from the clinic.

The Pet Animal Health Letter is a new monthly publication available for $24 a year from Veterinary Letter Publications, Inc., PO Box 450521, Atlanta, GA 30345. Managing editor is G. Lee Parham, DVM, a frequent guest instructor at The HSUS's Animal Control Academy. The premiere issue of the new newsletter includes information on canine parvovirus, antifreeze poisoning, dental care and other topics.

Materials

Materials are mentioned as a service to our readers; no endorsement from The HSUS is implied.

IRS ruling

Pet Loss: A Thoughtful Guide for Adults and Children is a new book published by Harper & Row and available in hardback for $10.95. This well-written book has chapters on understanding grief, helping children with pet loss, making the decision to euthanize and getting a new animal after the death of a pet. Check your local bookstores.

Wood Fires Forever, PO Box 507, Sunbury, OH 43074, has sent SHELTER SENSE a sample pair of their gloves for animal handling. Although these gloves would not stop a cat's teeth, they are heavy duty and they do protect the forearm. They are available in men's and women's sizes and cost $24.95 for a pair plus $2 postage. Write Wood Fires Forever for a flier.

Arm & Hammer is offering animal shelters quantities of a pamphlet on cat care in connection with the introduction of their new product, Cat Litter Deodorizer. You can hand this out at community events or include them in your cat adoption package. Please note, however, that the pamphlets do not promote pet sterilization--your spay-neuter materials should accompany each copy. Arm & Hammer will send you as many copies as you wish free of charge; send your order to Cat Care Leaflets, PO Box 637, Riverton, NJ 08077.

"How to Select a Boarding Kennel: The Pet-Owners Guide to Successful Boarding" is a new 32-page booklet published by the American Boarding Kennels Association. The price is $1 each, but your agency can buy quantities at a discount and then resell them at $1 each or simply give them away as a public service. The booklet tells how to select a kennel and how to prepare pets for their stay; it also gives the names of all AKBA member kennels. Contact AKBA, 111 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

Materials

Full-service veterinary clinics: conflict over caring.
Vet letter helps animals

Humane officers for the Mercer County Humane Society, Inc. (PO Box 1392, Bluefield, WV 24701) distribute a printed letter written by a veterinarian about the danger of neglecting to protect animals from the sun.

Executive Director Kitty Woolridge asked Dr. James Bailey to prepare the letter, and she reports that it has been very effective in convincing people to provide better shelter for their animals. The letter and Dr. Bailey's testimony were instrumental in a cruelty conviction last summer. The owner of several ponies refused to heed the society's warnings including Dr. Bailey's letter about not providing shade for his animals. He was convicted and sentenced to 30 days in jail plus a $50 fine and court costs.

To help you prepare your campaign for protecting animals from summer heat, here is Dr. Bailey's letter:

One of the cruelest and most inhumane acts committed by man to animals is confining these animals so they cannot escape the blistering heat and damaging rays of the sun in the warm months of the year. This form of torture is one of the most ancient used by people to punish criminals and their enemies. It is my opinion that animal owners are unaware of the damages and suffering inflicted on animals so confined.

Exposure of animals to the sun can bring on heat strokes, permanent damage to the skin, malignancies and death. There is really no way to describe the suffering that is brought on by insects that aggravate these animals while exposed to the direct sunshine. It is absolutely imperative that animals so kept should have natural or artificial shade provided for them when kept under such conditions.

A flat roof barn for ponies and horses or a doghouse for dogs absolutely does not provide sufficient shade or protection for these animals.

WANTED - Assistant to Executive Director for modern progressive Animal Welfare Agency with a staff of thirty-eight. Will assist in conducting all phases of shelter operations. Must be experienced. Send resume to Robert D. Rohde, Denver Dumb Friends League, 2080 S. Quebec St., Denver, CO 80231.

POSITION WANTED - Animal Control or Shelter Director. Three years ACO experience, municipal and county, all areas. Special skills: management, accounting, secretarial, writing, public speaking. Will relocate. Lorraine C. Langston, Rt. 1, Box 155, Wilson, NC 27895, (919) 291-5925 or 291-7705.

POSITION WANTED - Individual with excellent background and experience in animal health and welfare is seeking a position as director of an animal shelter. Write M.A. Waterman, PO Box 41, Cabery, IL 60919.

SHELTER SENSE Reproducible

A continuing feature to provide animal control agencies and humane societies with material that will help educate the public on community animal control and responsible pet ownership.

5 Steps to a Great Vacation with Your Pet

If your pet is in good health and enjoys riding in the car, you can safely take it on vacation with you if you follow these guidelines:

Have your pet examined by a veterinarian and get health and rabies certificates. You normally won't need these within the continental U.S., but you should have them on hand. If you're leaving the country, be sure to check on quarantine and certificate requirements. Make sure pets are welcome wherever you'll be staying.

Remember to pack food and water dishes, bedding, leash and first aid kit. Your pet should wear a collar and ID tag at all times—the tag should carry the name and phone number (with area code) of someone who knows how to find you while you travel.

Feed your pet a light meal several hours before driving. Keep a bowl of ice cubes in the car to provide your pet moisture without allowing it to take big drinks. Stop frequently for exercise, but never allow your pet to run loose. A nylon cord with snap snaps allowing a maximum length of 15 feet makes a good travel leash. (Cats should also wear harnesses.)

If your pet cannot be held by someone in the car or confined by a harness, get a solidly-constructed pet carrier with good ventilation for the pet to ride in. Several days before the trip, open the carrier and let the pet get acquainted with it. Cover the bottom with shredded newspaper for the trip. Never allow your pet to ride with its head out the window.

Never leave your pet unattended. If you leave it in a parked car on a warm day, it can suffer heat stroke in minutes—or it could become a target for dog thieves or pranksters.

Make sure you're prepared to take good care of your pet and to enjoy its company before you decide to take it on vacation.

The message above can be clipped out and reproduced in quantity by your local printer for you to distribute at schools, shopping centers, libraries and other community locations. Remember to add your organization's name, address, and telephone number in the space by typing, typesetting or affixing your group letterhead. You can also purchase advertising space in your local newspapers for the reproducible or use it in your organization's newsletter.
Items...
The Marshall County Animal Rescue League (PO Box 13, Glen Dale, WV 26038) has human-size dog and cat costumes for League staffers to wear in parades and at other community events, thanks to a high school home economics class. The class made the costumes with fake furs costing about $60 and paper mache to shape the animal heads.

Deposit slip

The San Francisco SPCA (2500 16th St., San Francisco, CA 94103) distributes this clever handout (actual size is 7.5" x 11") to help keep the city free of dog litter.

Emergency care available

Residents of the Augusta, Maine, area who come across animals in need of medical attention can take them to the Pine Tree Veterinary Hospital, where the animals will get immediate care under an agreement with the Kennebec Valley Humane Society (28 Haven Lane, Augusta, ME 04330). If the owner is not found or if the patient is a wild animal, the society will pay for the veterinary care. About $2,000 is budgeted each year to cover the costs. In one recent month, sixteen cases were handled.

Donations from book reviews

In each issue of News & Views, Wisconsin Humane Society (4151 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212) reviews books about animals. When a reader buys these books from a local bookstore called The Book Nook, the society gets 15% of the purchase price. Readers can order the books with the coupon in News & Views or they can buy the books right at the store and mention the 15% contribution to the clerk.

New developments in cruelty investigation

Washington County Humane Society (PO Box 66, Eighty Four, PA 15330) reports that a local man has been fined $200 for abandoning a dog in the society's parking lot after hours.

Michigan Humane Society (1700 Brown Rd., Pontiac, MI 48055) reports that a man was convicted of maliciously maiming an animal for shooting a pet cat named Sugar. This is believed to be the first time the state felony animal protection law has been used in a case involving a cat. The man had to pay a fine of $500 and is on probation for one year. He was also ordered to spend 12 hours per month for a year working for an animal welfare group. Sugar has recovered from her injuries.

Deposit Your Dog's Deposits!

Debts

Please withdraw your dog's deposits!

Society writes newspaper column

If you hold a raffle, by sure to check into any applicable state or local regulations.

Raffles

The Pets Are Wonderful Council (500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60611) has announced the winners of their first Shelter Awards Program. Honored in the Adoption category were Connor Animal Shelter (Kennebec Valley Humane Society), Augusta, ME, and Geauga County Humane Society, Chardon, OH. Animal Rescue category: Animal Rescue League, Des Moines, IA, and Hot Springs, AR, Animal Shelter. Fund Raising category: Humane Society of Pomona Valley, Inc., Pomona, CA. Humane Education category: Dallas, TX, SPCA and Humane Society of Parkersburg, WV. The winners have received plaques from PAW.

Some of the contest entries are appearing in SHELTER SENSE; we'll also announce details of next year's contest when they become available.

The Humane League of Lancaster County (PA) has a regular column called Pet Set in the Lancaster Sunday News. The League originally proposed a question-and-answer format to News editor Harold Eager, who agreed to give it a try. But the column now includes practical articles on pet care, guest articles, HSUS news releases, material from veterinary journals, children's animal stories and other information. The column is written by League member Dr. Connie Kondravy, who says her readership seems to prefer articles about individual animals. One of the most popular subjects was Duke, a dog that the League rescued from severe neglect and finally placed in a good home. The stories about Duke included "before and after" photos. Kondravy says her readers followed Duke's story eagerly and many sent in contributions.

Kondravy says she has no trouble coming up with ideas for filling the weekly column. If you'd like to see samples, write her at 610 N. Lime St., Lancaster, PA 17602.

To raise funds for an animal emergency assistance fund, Lancaster-Fairfield County Humane Society (PO Box 1109, Lancaster, OH 43130) raffled cash prizes of $100, $50 and $25 with raffle tickets costing $1 each. A sponsor paid for printing the tickets, and the society's active members sold them. Of 1000 tickets printed, 901 were sold, bringing in $726.

The Humane Society of Southern Hillsborough County (24 Ferry Rd., Nashua, NH 03060) raffled a van the society had been using as an emergency vehicle. Tickets were priced at $5 each. A sponsor paid for printing the tickets, and the society's active members sold them. Of 1000 tickets printed, 901 were sold, bringing in $500.

The Humane Society of Des Moines (1111 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311) has announced the winners of their first Pet of the Year Contest. Honored in the Companion animals category were Chelsea, a cat from Animal Shelter, Hot Springs, AR, and Duke, a dog from Humane Society of Pomona Valley, Inc., Pomona, CA. In the Working animals category were Pete, a dog from Humane Society of Southern Hillsborough County, Nashua, NH, and Ashley, a dog from Humane Society of Des Moines.

By now you may have received from us a survey concerning the release of shelter dogs and cats for use in teaching or research laboratories. This survey is to assist us in evaluating and refining efforts to end the use of shelter or pound animals for experimentation. Your role is to help us ascertain how many shelters and animal control agencies are currently releasing animals for use in research. By promptly completing and returning this survey, you can be of enormous help in this project. If for some reason you haven't received our mailing by May 15, please write to us at 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037, and we'll send you one.
The Connecticut General Assembly's Environment Committee has voted down a proposal that would have required cat owners to license their pets. The Hartford Courant reported that legislators did not want to add more work to an already-crowded legislative agenda but that the lawmakers privately admitted they did not want to face protests from cat owners.

Cat control measures have always been a hot issue in animal control. In the summer of 1980, the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, began requiring rabies vaccinations and licenses for cats. Many cat owners did not want to pay the $13 cost of the shot and license and turned their pets into the animal shelter, but this added only about 100 cats to the normal shelter population of 600 to 800 cats per month in summer.

The local newspaper, without checking into the usual number of cats euthanized, blamed all cat euthanasia taking place at the shelter on the new ordinance. After that story was published, hundreds of Charlotte citizens called in to protest. Because of the press coverage, they mistakenly believed that there was a significant increase in the number of cats being destroyed. Many complained about the ordinance itself, saying, "No one actually owns a cat."

The Associated Press picked up the story and it appeared in a number of newspapers around the country, with headlines such as "Anti-rabies Law Leads to Extermination of Hundreds of Cats." Animal Control Superintendent Diane Quisenberry says she explained that the number of cats euthanized was not extraordinary "until I was blue in the face. But the sensationalism of the story won out."

Quisenberry reports that 15,000 cats were eventually licensed during the first year of the licensing requirement, and more cats are being reclaimed from the shelter because they have license tags. She says that although "an occasional crank" will call in to protest the law, more people are accepting of the cat license requirement. "The city holds rabies clinics, and cat owners are allowed to save their cars right to the veterinarian's capable so cats can be vaccinated without having to be taken out of the cars. When cat owners protested that a dangling license tag posed a danger to their pets, the city issued license tags with two holes drilled in so the tags can be attached to garages."

The license fee is $2.50 now but will be increased to $15 for fertile cats and $5 for neutered cats in July. Animal control officers routinely cite cat owners who have not licensed their pets.

Quisenberry also points out that while humane agencies frequently find themselves on the opposite side of an issue from veterinarians, the cat licensing measure is supported by the veterinary community in Charlotte. (City of Charlotte Animal Control Division, 2700 Toomey Ave., Charlotte, NC 28203)

Lafayette, Indiana, has both cat licensing and control provisions. Kevin Ludwig, Director of the Tippecanoe County Humane Association (PO Box 134, Lafayette, IN 47902), which operates the shelter facility, says about 10% of licensed animals are cats. Cat owners complain less about rabies vaccination than about the leash law. Ludwig says many people living in the semi-rural area regard cats simply as mousers. He says the city has not been aggressive about enforcing the laws, but the Animal Control Commission does hand out a pamphlet on cat control with a mail-in license incentive.

The State of Oregon has given counties and those cities with more than 100,000 people the authority to pass cat control measures. Burgess says that hearings on such measures have been well attended by very vocal groups of people. He says, though, that the lawmakers have stated that the proposed laws were necessary to raise new revenue and to get legal authority to destroy cats picked up by animal control. These statements have infuriated cat lovers. The Animal Control Center serving Baton Rouge, Louisiana, licenses 8000-9000 cats a year through area veterinarians who vaccinate the pets against rabies. There is a $5 fine for failure to comply. Cats are also required to be in the physical possession of their owners. Animal Control Director V.J. Gianelloni, Jr., says that because of lack of personnel, enforcement is primarily through response to complaints and cat impoundments. An education effort is also underway. The ordinance sets some requirements for cat housing and makes the pet owner responsible for the behavior of the pet, dog or cat. (Animal Control Center, 2680 Progress Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70807)

The City of Omaha (contact Nebraska Humane Society, 8801 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134) licenses cats and reports that about 8500 cat licenses are issued annually in the community of 380,000 people. The number of cat bite complaints has gone down. City officials report that most cat owners seem to feel that they should be responsible for licensing their pets as dog owners are. Rabies control is mentioned as an important reason for a licensing program.

According to data obtained by the Animal Humane Association from the Albuquerque Animal Control Center, 15,000 cats are licensed annually in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with a human population of 450,000 in the metropolitan area. The ordinance does require owners to keep cats on their own property, and cats in the area are reportedly not happy about the control provision. However, the number of cat-related complaints has been reduced by this ordinance. (Animal Humane Association, 615 Virginia St., SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108)

Albuquerque, New Mexico, has both cat licensing and control provisions. Kevin Ludwig, Director of the Tippecanoe County Humane Association (PO Box 134, Lafayette, IN 47902), which operates the shelter facility, says about 10% of licensed animals are cats. Cat owners complain less about rabies vaccination than about the leash law. Ludwig says many people living in the semi-rural area regard cats simply as mousers. He says the city has not been aggressive about enforcing the laws, but the Animal Control Commission does hand out a pamphlet on cat control with a mail-in license incentive.
In this issue, we report on the conflict between the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association and a Michigan humane society that involved a civil suit and a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service. The civil suit affects only the parties involved, but the IRS ruling is important to any humane organization that is offering full-service veterinary care versus spay/neuter only.

This case is important because some of you have indicated to me that you would like to offer full veterinary care as part of your service to the community. It is important also because the Michigan veterinarians received financial contributions from the American Veterinary Medical Association and veterinarians from more than 30 states to support their efforts.

Although this case began with one humane society and one group of veterinarians, it clearly has national impact—not only because the IRS ruling has general application but also because veterinarians around the country became involved.

I think it is an extremely unfortunate development for both humane organizations and veterinarians—but most of all, for the animals. Animals are not helped when the two groups that are in the best position to solve animal problems are busy fighting legal battles.

It may seem to you that a full-service clinic is a natural extension of your services to the community. As HSUS President John A. Hoyt has written, "...the fundamental reason why animal welfare organizations are moving in this direction is that they are motivated by a concern for the health and welfare of animals."

On the other hand, Dr. Harold W. Knirk of MVMA describes the settlement of the civil suit in these terms in a letter to Modern Veterinary Practice: "Phase One of the continuing battle against the tax-exempt status of a humane society-operated full-service veterinary clinic was successful for the veterinarians and the free-enterprise system. The fight against the clinic, spearheaded by the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, has been waged on two fronts: in civil court and before the IRS."

This marks a new turn in the long relationship between humane societies and veterinarians, and a discouraging turn compared to some of the highly successful cooperative efforts that have been developed between the two groups in recent years. I sincerely hope that we will soon be able to turn our attention back to the real issue at hand—solving community animal problems.