In the midst of one of the worst rabies outbreaks in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and the Mid-Atlantic region, over 100 humane, animal-control and health department officials and area game wardens, park managers, licensed wildlife rehabilitators, and veterinarians received instruction about proper wildlife handling techniques during a meeting to discuss the outbreak's containment.

Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and held at the Laurel Ridge Conservation Education Center in Vienna, Va., the March 10 meeting was attended by those from as far away as Pennsylvania and West Virginia. All were invited to bring samples of their public relations materials and other guidelines for dealing with the outbreak.

Barry Lape, a game warden for the Fairfax County Department of Animal Control (4500 West Ox Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030), described
as the "heartland" of the rabies outbreak, demonstrated ways for animal professionals to ensure human safety while humanely handling wild animals.

“There is no final solution for handling rabid animals,” said Lape, whose own methods have proven successful for him over the last few years. Rabies, a disease caused by a virus that attacks the spinal cord and brain and causes convulsions, paralysis and death, can infect all warm-blooded animals. It is most likely found in raccoons and skunks in the Mid-Atlantic region, while rodents rarely contract the disease.

Lape outlined three priorities for dealing with suspected rabid animals in the field: public safety, handler safety and humane treatment of animals. "The simple fact that you are dealing with a sick animal does not alleviate your responsibility for handling it as humanely as possible," he said.

A dead animal is obviously the easiest animal to handle, Lape said, but it is no less dangerous. To avoid contracting rabies virus through cuts or sores on one's hands, he advised handlers to always protect their hands with plastic, disposable surgical-type gloves. An animal should then be picked up, sealed in a plastic bag, and promptly labeled (time, date, location, disposition) to avoid confusion, for example, about which animal may have bitten a person or other animal.

An animal in the "dumb" rabies stage will likely appear lethargic, move very little, and it may not try to escape. Such animals are very easy to handle, said Lape, who prefers wearing cuffed cowhide gloves for added protection. Lape picks up the animal with a catch pole, slipping the noose over the animal's neck and tightening it just enough to allow it to be lifted into a carrying cage. "The smaller the cage, the better," he said. A small cage prevents an animal from sliding around and injuring itself, and it is easier to handle upon return to the animal facility.

An animal that is obviously very sick but seems likely to try and escape may be in the "furious" rabies stage and is probably aggressive. "['Furiously rabid animals] have no direction in particular, they just go," said Lape. "If the animal is in a confined area, it may be cornered and caught with the catch pole. If it is in an open field, Lape sometimes anesthetizes it using a combination of drugs such as Ketamine and Rompun. (Check with a veterinarian about the proper dosage.) Continued on page 8

Photo credits:
Cover, HSUS/Oesterreicher;
Page 5, Helen Patton, Macon County Humane Society Inc.;
Page 7, HSUS/Smith;
Page 8, HSUS/Wright;
Page 11, HSUS/Harshfield

© 1983, The Humane Society of the United States, all rights reserved.

8/SHELTER SENSE/MAY '83
Wisconsin humane societies and animal shelters are finding they must obtain a seller's permit and collect and remit sales tax on goods and services -- including adoptions -- according to the Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies Inc. (P.O. Box 504, Stevens Point, WI 54481).

"Even though our adoption contract states that the adoption fee is a donation," said Federation President Betty Seefluth, "the Wisconsin Department of Revenue considers that such donations are the same as any other cash receipt and are, therefore, subject to the sales tax."

HSUS Associate General Counsel Roger Kindler urges groups to consult with an attorney to determine how their state's tax statutes define a "sale" of products or goods, whether adopted animals can be considered "products" or "goods" on which tax is chargeable, whether a donation is actually voluntary and, if so, whether the voluntary nature of the payment makes a difference in an organization's sales-tax liability, and whether there are special exemptions for charitable organizations.

ACTION '81 INC. ( Rt. 2, Box 151, Berryville, VA 22611) is a citizen effort to prevent and expose nationwide, organized theft of privately owned dogs and cats.

Formed in 1974, the group emphasizes that pet theft is a form of larceny difficult to prove. It usually occurs when owners are absent -- often at night -- according to Kathy Edwards, assistant to ACTION '81 President Mary Warner. (Edwards personally paid ransom to retrieve her dog after it was missing for two weeks.) Fear of reprisal may make witnesses reluctant to report thefts, said Edwards, and the intent to steal can be difficult to establish.

The group publishes Voice of the Missing, a quarterly newsletter that reports updated information about pet thefts, animal dealers, legislation, and more. According to ACTION '81's Report on Dog and Cat Theft, 8,081 pets were reported missing in Virginia in 1980. Purebred dogs accounted for 66 percent of the total. Since pet owners often believe their pets have strayed, it is difficult to document their disappearance and possible theft. Cats reported missing totaled 1,846 in Virginia in 1981. The rate of returned pets in high-theft areas is close to zero.

The current trend for animal research facilities to upgrade the type of laboratory dogs used in certain experiments may be related to the dog theft problem, according to the report. Many laboratory contracts specify breeds, sizes, numbers, and dates for shipment of manageable, healthy dogs. The group is pushing for a more stringent policy for checking the true sources of cats and dogs collected and sold for research.

ACTION '81 INC. is also concerned with the sources of pet-store animals, the theft of show dogs and cats, animals stolen for hunting or security purposes, and animals used in dogfight training. It is presently surveying animal organizations nationwide to gain more information about the dog theft problem. Please help by answering their questionnaire and returning it promptly.

The conference about the human/animal bond and coping with grief (April '83 Shelter Sense, p. 4) has been re-scheduled for three days: Friday, May 20, through Sunday, May 22, 1983. Contact Meeting Planners at (617)451-2751 for more information.

The Macon County Humane Society Inc. (P.O. Box 81, Franklin, NC 28734) has added a new sun room for cats, removing them from continuous sheltering in cramped cages and increasing their appeal and chances for adoption.

The sunny play area, designed and funded by anonymous donors, provides a less stressful, more healthy environment and permits the cats to be viewed in attractive, natural surroundings. During the three-month period after the room was built, 76 cats were adopted out as opposed to only 49 adoptions made during the three-month period before the addition, according to Society President Geraldine S. Iley. [Some] animal shelters treat cats and kittens like second-rate citizens, relegating them to cramped quarters where they have little opportunity to act like the graceful, playful animals they are," she said.

Cats are now released early in the morning to scamper into the play room, where food and water bowls as well as litter boxes are readily available, and lots of toys are scattered around for play and exercise. The room contains a scratching post, an artificial tree with intervals along its length and a real tree trunk with stubs of branches to provide lots of climbing space. Cats can sun on towel-lined shelves or on floor mats.

In the evening, the cats are returned to their cages, which are cleaned and re-stocked with food and water during the day.

An animal health care conference to explore the role of government, humane organizations, and veterinarians in providing health care for companion animals is scheduled at Chicago's Hyatt Regency O'Hare, June 9-10.

Co-sponsored by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), American Humane Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association and the Pet Food Institute, the conference will focus on spay/neuter clinics and programs and the establishment of veterinary hospitals by animal-welfare organizations.

The keynote speech by noted author, columnist and ABC-TV correspondent Roger Caras will be followed by brief presentations by representatives of the Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation; the Michigan Humane Society; the Multnomah County, Ore., Department of Animal Control; the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, Calif.; and several veterinary hospitals and associations. HSUS President John Hoyt and Vice President for Companion Animals Phyllis Wright will be among The HSUS representatives. Topics will include delivery of animal health care in the local community, workable cooperative programs and innovative programming for future cooperation.

The two-day conference is open to the public and costs $75, including two luncheons. For further information and a registration form, write The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently named a senior staff veterinarian to head support activities for national programs on animal welfare and horse protection, according to APHIS News. 

Dr. William C. Stewart, formerly with the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, will also monitor current issues such as the animal rights movement and farm-animal welfare. Dr. Stewart's animal experience includes laboratory diagnosis of swine and cattle viral diseases, testing and evaluation of veterinary Live Virologists for large and small animals, and field work in brucellosis, tuberculosis and hog cholera. 

In a related report, the USDA imposed penalties in 15 cases involving violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act between Oct. 1, 1982, and Jan. 31, 1983, while seven new charges of violating the act were filed. These cases resulted from periodic, unannounced compliance inspections by USDA personnel, according to the report. 

Some examples include: 
- Two Kansas dog dealers, in business as partners, fined $1,200 and ordered to cease and desist from future violations after selling dogs in 1981 and 1982 without a dealer's license. 
- Inspected on two occasions, their premises did not meet federal standards. The two paid the penalty, their premises were improved, and a license was issued. 
- A major airline that paid a $6,000 penalty to settle charges of shipping dogs and a polar bear under substandard conditions. The polar bear died shortly after arrival at its destination, and the carrier agreed to instruct its employees in the proper handling of live animals. 
- For further information about these and other cases, contact the USDA News Division, Room 404-A, Washington, D.C. 20250. 

Fundamentals of Search and Seizure: Warrantless Seizure of Evidence 
by Tim Greyhavens 
Second in a series 

There are some situations where evidence can be seized without either a search warrant or the owner's permission. This fall under two main legal concepts known as "open fields" and "plain view," which are somewhat complex. They require a thorough understanding of the applicable laws in order for either to be enacted in accordance with an individual's Constitutional rights. 

In general, the courts have upheld that anything left in "open fields," as literally defined as pastures, meadows, rangelands and similar areas -- does not fall under the protection of the Fourth Amendment. This interpretation is made because the Fourth Amendment protects the privacy of individuals, and anyone who places a possession in an open field obviously does not intend that possession to be hidden from view. 

If an investigator, for example, determines that several horses in a pasture have been neglected and these horses can be seen from a road or other public viewing point, a search warrant will not usually be required in order to seize or inspect the animals. However, although the horses would not be subject to Fourth Amendment laws, they would still be protected by other Constitutional amendments that protect a person's right to their own property. Thus, although a search warrant may not be required for possessions in "open fields," most jurisdictions would require a court order for the seizure of animals, unless their lives were in imminent danger. 

More complex is the warrantless seizure of evidence known as the "plain view" doctrine. In general, the courts have ruled that if a person can observe an object from a position in which he or she is legally entitled to be, that object is said to be in plain view. 

Some examples include the view from a public highway or street, from a public building into a backyard, or from a normal route of entrance or exit from a property if the neighbor has given express permission for the person to be on that property. Under certain circumstances, binoculars or telephoto lenses may be used to view the objects, but their use has been restricted in many recent court cases. In addition, the courts usually have upheld that unless there are facts to indicate the contrary, home owners or occupants do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy as to what can be routinely viewed from their driveway, sidewalk, doorstep or other normal routes of entrance or exit from their homes. 

In order to protect the Fourth Amendment rights of individuals, the courts have very strictly defined "plain view." As defined, "plain view" relates only to the search for an object since it deals primarily with the question of whether an object can be seen from a legal viewing point or whether it is hidden from view by the general public. The actual seizure of that object, however, still requires a search warrant unless two very critical exceptions are present. 

First, there must be some sort of "exigent circumstances" to justify the failure to obtain a warrant. One example is the observation of animals that are evidently near death and would die if a delay occurs in removing them. Another is where one observes evidence of a crime being removed or destroyed, such as illegal dogfighting paraphernalia being removed from a property. The courts reason that if time is taken to obtain a search warrant, the evidence for which the warrant is issued may no longer be on the property or, in the case of animals, death or further injury may occur if immediate aid is not given. 

To summarize, "plain view" seizures can occur when: 
1. The observer is in a legally accessible viewing point; and, 
2. A situation exists that demands immediate action in order to preserve the evidence. 
Both factors must be present for a "plain view" seizure to be legal. 

Despite these brief outlines of some cases in which a search warrant may not be necessary to seize evidence, a good rule of thumb is that when in doubt and when no emergency exists, a search warrant should be obtained. 

Tim Greyhavens is a field investigator with The HSUS/Great Lakes Regional Office, 725 Haskins St., Bowling Green, OH 43402; (419) 352-5141.
"If you suspect that a rabid animal is still in the area, you can trap it," said Lape. In the furious stage, rabid animals are still attracted to food and odors. However, he emphasized that it is dangerous to use a firearm on a rabid animal. "A firearm must only be used as a last resort when a rabid animal has come into contact with a human being or domestic animal," he said.

Not only does a firearm threaten public safety in urban or suburban areas because a bullet may ricochet, as Lape said, but a head wound may destroy the small portion of the brain that is "a head wound may destroy the small portion of the brain that is necessary for judging distance," he said.

Continued from page 2

When positive that an animal is rabid, it must be humanely euthanized. Be careful to avoid contact with the animal at all times. Lape and his co-workers use a handy device fashioned by Fairfax County Chief Warden John Smith (see diagram below) to safely and quickly inject an animal from a distance with sodium pentobarbital.

Lape reminded his listeners that catching a skunk requires extra precautions because it may spray defensively. After caging it, he suggested covering the cage with a heavy blanket or piece of canvas but not a plastic bag. The heavier covering won't blow away and is harder for the animal to shred.

Pole Syringe for Animal Euthanasia

For euthanizing wild or hard-to-control animals in a confined area.

Very effective for skunk euthanasia.

Parts needed:

- Twelve-gauge-shotgun cleaning rod; four sections total 48 inches in length.
- One-quarter-inch by 3-inch bolt with threads that match the cleaning rod threads. Bolt head is ground down to accept rubber cap from syringe.
- Twelve-cc syringe; exterior cylinder with the open-end flange removed.
- Piece of one-half-inch by 3½-inch gas-line rubber hose, which has a one-quarter-inch inside diameter to fit over the bolt.
- Rubber cap from the 12-cc syringe, to fit over the head of the 3-inch bolt.

Use:

- Slowly inject the syringe needle into the animal. The rod will act as the syringe piston. Use desired needle size.

Approximate cost of materials: $6

Lape closed his demonstration with this advice: When dealing with the public, take all necessary steps to reassure citizens that constructive action is being taken. Always assume that an animal is sick, but don't over or underreact to this serious problem.

Conferences discussed the need for a coordinated public relations and educational effort to alert citizens to the steps they must take if a suspected rabid animal is in their area. These include:

- Never approach, touch, capture or kill a wild animal.
- Rabies has infected an animal or when its saliva touches open wounds or mucous membranes.

On the contrary, it is possible for a non-rabid animal that is considered nocturnal to wander about during the day; no animal should be subjected to inhumane treatment by frightened people.

- If a suspected rabid animal is seen, call the humane society, animal-control agency, police or other proper authority to report it.
- Immunize cats and dogs against rabies; obey leash and licensing laws.

Reported incidences of rabies in cats has risen above that of dogs. (Now is the time for groups to push cat licensing and immunization requirements in their areas.)

- "Raccoon-proof" homes to avoid wildlife encounters.
- Seal garbage cans. Hang moth balls from the sides, or place a rag at the bottom, dampened with ammonia.
- Remove other outside food sources; feed pets inside.

When certain wildlife is not inside, cap chimneys with screening, and cover flue liners with hardware cloth and heavy staples.

- People who occupationally deal with animals and may be subjected to rabies should be inoculated against the disease.

According to Dick Amity, director of the Fairfax County, Va., Department of Animal Control, the county pays for pre-exposure immunization for all county people, including clerical workers, who risk contracting rabies through their occupations. The vaccine consists of three one-tenth-cc doses of human diploid cell vaccine, given subcutaneously. While the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., recommends a booster every two years, according to Amity, Fairfax County will give a booster every two years to those at moderate risk and an annual booster to those at high risk.

Pet Promotion Problem

Planning workable pet-of-the-week features is a puzzle for the Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley (2530 Lafayette St., Santa Clara, CA 95050), so the group is seeking readers' advice about the best way to promote pet adoptions while maintaining its important system of screening potential adopters.

"The two goals seem mutually exclusive," said Community Relations Director Jane Hutchison. "We've had everything from unexpected fistfights in our lobby to a lottery to determine who would get the animal. If we advertise one specific animal, everyone wants only that animal -- not even one that looks exactly like it. And you should see what happens if the "pet of the week" is adopted before its picture appears in the paper! I welcome suggestions from other groups."

continued on next page
Materials
Free Outdoor Advertising

The Humane Society of Seminole County Inc. (2001 East 25th St., Sanford, FL 32771) was recently granted free outdoor advertising in its effort to raise funds for completion of a new shelter for abused and injured animals.

"We urge all organizations to look into the possibility of free outdoor advertising in their area," said Society Board Member Joanne Prager. The outdoor advertising industry contributes annually on both a national and local basis for public service messages. Local groups may obtain space by discussing their programs with a local member of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America (OAAA) Inc. Otherwise, contact OAAA Inc., 485 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10017.

In a letter to the Peterson Outdoor Advertising Company of Orlando, Fla., Society President Helen Wolk explained that Seminole County had leased a piece of property to the humane society with the stipulation that its proposed new shelter be completed and operative by October 1983. A charitable foundation will match the $50,000 the society hopes to raise by Aug. 1, 1983.

Please Help Us...
We need your donations, NOW!
HUMANE SOCIETY Seminole Co., Inc.
323-8685

Job Announcements

WANTED - Director of emergency services to create and manage an emergency-rescue, pet-transport, and cruelty-investigation program. Resumes and inquiries to Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, P.O. Box 2982, San Bernardino, CA 92406; (714)882-2934.

WANTED - Animal-welfare superintendent to oversee shelter and field operations. Resumes accepted through May 20, 1983. Personnel Department, 201 Channing Square, Room B8, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. EOE.


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.

This message can be clipped out and reproduced in quantity by your local printer for distribution at schools, shopping centers, libraries and other community locations. Credit must be given to The Humane Society of the U.S. Remember to add your organization's name, address, and telephone number in the space by typing, typesetting or affixing your group's letterhead. You can also purchase advertising space for it in your local newspaper or use it in your organization's newsletter.
With the onset of summer vacation season, many people will pack up their things and go -- with or without the family pet. Your organization must be prepared to handle animal problems that inevitably arise during this time.

Ready your shelter now to receive an influx of animals that are sick, injured or abandoned. Make your group visible -- an organization to be trusted and reckoned with by vacationing pet owners.

Update and distribute educational materials to pet owners, listing relevant ordinances and necessary steps pertaining to travel with a cat, dog or other animal. Located in a tourist area? Give the local tourist bureau as well as motels and camping sites a list of the ways your organization can assist tourists with animal care and emergency situations. Warn travelers of the penalties for abandoning animals once vacations are over.

Print up cards to slip under car windshields at beach-area parking lots to warn pet owners about the danger of heatstroke in animals confined to automobiles. Provide emergency instructions. Alert the public to beware of sunburn, allergies and unsupervised swimming areas when traveling with pets (and children). Tell owners to leash, license and identify their animals at all times.

Dogs may be more susceptible to heartworm in humid, mosquito-laden regions, so remind owners to have their dogs tested for the disease before starting them on a regimen of preventive heartworm medicine and ask the veterinarian about tick and flea prevention. If pet owners plan to leave pets home when they vacation, give them information about reputable local kennels and proper pet care while they're away.

Advance planning and thorough information are your best weapons against the "vacationing pet" blues. •