Humane societies and animal-control agencies have a primary obligation to the public and to the animals in their care to only place for adoption animals that are healthy and without foreseeable behavioral disorders. Once a shelter gains the reputation, whether or not deserved, for placing sick animals, people will look elsewhere for pets. By so doing, they may patronize and promote undesirable sources of animals such as the backyard breeder or the irresponsible pet owner who allows his or her cat or dog to breed indiscriminately.

Animals should be healthy for several reasons. Sheltered animals with unknown social and medical histories likely have been exposed to numerous communicable diseases. Even if a shelter is extremely attentive to disease prevention, it cannot, and should not, guarantee an animal's health. A veterinarian should always examine

Continued on next page
As for behavioral problems, animals that exhibit them rarely make good pets, are often dangerous, and are often abused. An adopter should be happy with an adoption choice, not distressed because it is a problem animal that destroys furniture or is uncontrollable. Such an animal cannot be properly cared for by the average person since it would require great patience and hours of retraining. More likely, that animal would be misunderstood and would become the target of abuse by an angry or frustrated owner. Additionally, if a known or suspected aggressive animal is placed for adoption, humane societies or animal-control agencies may be held legally liable for any harm that befalls individuals.

The HSUS considers human companionship to be essential to the lives of happy, healthy pets. Therefore, the emphasis of an adoption program should be to place pets as companion animals. Too often, guard- or hunting dogs end up chained in yards for their lifetime, devoid of human attention. Cats that are mousers are often turned loose outdoors, exposed to the elements, accidents, and disease, while never given human attention or veterinary care.

People and animals should be carefully matched, and a person should not have a pet unless he or she has responsibly and carefully thought through the decision to do so. Pets do not make suitable gifts, and such adoptions should be discouraged. It is also the agency's obligation to match potential pet owners with available animals. For example, a sedate or elderly person may not be suited to a shepherd-mix puppy that hasn't been housebroken, while an adult cat may be the ideal pet for that person.

The shelter should be interested in lifetime, responsible homes, not just immediate homes, for the animals it places. It should also care about what could happen when an owner/pet combination is unsuitable or when, five years later, the pet owner has to move. Rather than permit animals to be bounced from home to home, if a known or suspected aggressive animal is placed for adoption, humane societies or animal-control agencies may be held legally liable for any harm that befalls individuals.

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Advice on ways to inform and influence local officials
by Ann Church

The Inside Track

Advice on ways to inform and influence local officials
by Ann Church

O ne of the most important ways to achieve legislation is to directly talk with legislators about it. Letters are invaluable, but, in most cases, one-on-one lobbying is absolutely necessary, especially right before a vote or committee hearing.

Anyone with a sincere interest in an issue can lobby effectively. Just keep the following tips in mind:

* Know the status of the bill.
* Call ahead for an appointment with the legislator. If time does not permit that, try to approach the legislator before a committee meeting or vote.
* Always identify yourself to the legislator, and point out whether you are one of his or her constituents. Don't place the legislator in the position of trying to remember your name at the same time that you are busy trying to explain your facts.
* Clearly identify the subject you'd like to discuss.
* Listen closely to what the legislator says; read between the lines. If you are asked questions, answer them honestly. Then, try to analyze why that question was important to the legislator. This will usually tell you what is his or her main consideration about the issue.
* If a legislator is neutral on an issue, ask if any parts of the bill cause him or her particular concern, and why. Offer to provide more information on a specific point. If a legislator does not want to take a position, don't be so insistent that he or she ends up opposing you out of frustration.
* Get to know the staffs of various legislative offices. They have great influence with legislators and can be invaluable for passing information along to you.
* Give the legislator a minimum of written material. If certain points are important, underline them. Summaries or fact sheets are the best lobbying tools.
* Do not get into heated arguments with a legislator. Your side never benefits from this. Someone who develops a strong personal dislike for you may decide to work against your issue. You may need his or her assistance on a different animal-welfare issue in the future.
* Be firm but flexible and willing to consider different approaches.
* Don't repeat stories about one legislator to another. Also, if a legislator confides in you, keep that confidence.
* Be certain to thank legislators for any positive action they have taken in the past.

*The Inside Track* will be featured in every other issue from now on.

Recently, the Royal Bank of Canada returned the check of one Canadian Shelter Sense subscriber, written in Canadian dollars, because their minimum charge for processing a check in U.S. dollars exceeded the amount of the check.

To avoid a similar problem in the future, foreign subscribers should send payment for Shelter Sense subscriptions in the form of a money order in U.S. funds. We don't want unnecessary check processing delays to cause our foreign friends to miss one single issue of Shelter Sense.

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The newly placed animal for signs of disease, congenital abnormalities, or temperament problems.

Some animal diseases are very costly to treat. Not every adopter can afford costly medical bills, however; therefore, some sick animals may not receive veterinary treatment and may die. Also, since nearly all animal diseases are highly communicable to other animals, placing a sick animal may introduce a disease into a community.

As for behavioral problems, animals that exhibit them rarely make good pets, are often dangerous, and are often abused. An adopter should be happy with an adoption choice, not distressed because it is a problem animal that destroys furniture or is uncontrollable. Such an animal cannot be properly cared for by the average person since it would require great patience and hours of retraining. More likely, that animal would be misunderstood and would become the target of abuse by an angry or frustrated owner. Additionally, if a known or suspected aggressive animal is placed for adoption, humane societies or animal-control agencies may be held legally liable for any harm that befalls individuals.
Best In Show Chocolate Candy Animals (P.O. Box 164, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598; telephone, (914) 962-7776) specializes in life-like, three-dimensional chocolate candy busts of animal breeds, and several purebred models can be modified to look like mixed-breeds -- perfect for humane-society fund-raisers, contest prizes, or awards.

Rona Rosen, who created the idea, makes approximately 50 breeds, including dogs, cats, and a horse, in semi-sweet-, milk-, white-, and peanut-butter-chocolate candy confection. The busts may also be shellacked to preserve them, rather than eaten. Additional breeds are currently being produced. Each head sits on a chocolate candy pedestal.

The busts weigh between 16 ounces and 20 ounces, and they cost $17.50 each for standard models, plus shipping. All items are gift boxed. Discounts are available for clubs, organizations, and bulk orders. Allow four weeks for delivery. For further information about special, individualized orders, and to request a price list, contact Rosen at the above address and telephone number.

WANTED - Executive director for progressive humane society in central Oregon, which shelters 6,000 animals per year. Responsibilities include fund raising and public relations. Salary commensurate with experience. Send application letter, resume, references, salary history by May 31 to Executive Search Committee, 61170 S.E. 27th St., Bend, OR 97702.

Only Shelter Sense subscribers may advertise. Ads must be submitted on your organization's letterhead no later than six weeks before month of issue. 

MANY of you are routinely called upon to assist in live trapping nuisance or stray animals. Such a community service is very necessary and is part of a humane solution to certain animal-related problems.

The HSUS wants those of you who purchase and professionally use live box traps to be aware that the Woodstream Corporation of Lititz, Penn., has purchased Havahart Traps, a manufacturer of live box traps. The Woodstream Corporation is also the largest manufacturer of the cruel steel-jaw leghold trap.

The HSUS wants those of you who purchase and professionally use live box traps to be aware that the Woodstream Corporation of Lititz, Penn., has purchased Havahart Traps, a manufacturer of live box traps. The Woodstream Corporation is also the largest manufacturer of the cruel steel-jaw leghold trap.

Any purchase of a Havahart trap directly supports fur trappers’ lobbying efforts to maintain legal use of the steel-jaw leghold trap. Many of you have assisted the HSUS in its fight to end the use of this torturous device, which maims and kills wildlife as well as domestic pets. Most of you have been asked to remove pets from steel-jaw leghold traps, and, thus, have witnessed the horrible cruelty involved in the use of this device. Because of that, we want you to be aware that you are inadvertently subsidizing the trapping industry when you purchase a Havahart trap.

Following is a list of other manufacturers of humane traps, none of which are connected with the manufacture of the steel-jaw leghold trap:

- "Arrestor #3" Stendal Products Inc. 986 E. Laurel Road Bellingham, WA 98226 (206) 398-2353
- "BD Tru-Catch Trap" BD Tru-Catch Inc. Box 327 Dickinson, ND 58602-0327 (701) 225-0398
- "FARU" (Fireplace Animal Rescue Unit) ZODON Enterprises c/o Animal Pest Control Inc. 7216 Boone Ave. N. Suite 89 Minneapolis, MN 55428 (612) 533-2255
- "Hancock Beaver Trap" Hancock Trap Company Route 1, Box 38-2 Buffalo Gap, SD 57722 (605) 833-6530
- "Mustang Live-Catch Traps" Mustang Manufacturing Company P.O. Box 10947 Houston, TX 77292 (713) 682-0811

Continued on next page
The HSUS urges you to learn the facts about trapping and trapping manufacturers before you purchase a live box trap and to consider how your money is being used, especially since many groups such as yours are supported by donations to prevent animal cruelty and suffering. Don't subsidize cruelty.

The HSUS has developed a "Trapping Case Report" form to help local organizations document cases where domestic animals and wildlife are injured or killed by steel-jaw leghold traps. This documentation will focus attention on the need for laws that ban steel-jaw traps. Many of you recently received this form in the mail, along with an explanatory memo. If you did not receive the form, we will send you one along with additional information about trapping, and ideas for stopping the use of the steel-jaw leghold trap. Write to The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037. Together we can stop this cruelty.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is setting up a permanent educational display of paraphernalia used to inflict pain and death upon animals, and humane organizations are invited to contribute relevant items and receive credit for them on the display.

The HSUS needs a cock-fighting spur, spiked choke collar, branding iron, sledge hammer, seal club, wire training bit, and any other similar item. Contact HSUS Director of Data and Information Services Guy Hodge at (202) 452-1100 before sending any objects. The HSUS already has a steel-jaw leghold trap, bucking strap, electric-shock collar, cattle prod, and glue boards.

Every year around this time, thousands of junior and senior high-school students participate in local and national science fairs. Although this type of experience can be mentally stimulating and rewarding, science experiments that involve live animals may cause physical and emotional distress for both animals and students. Humane organizations should be prepared to respond to parents', teachers', and students' concerns about such projects.

Experimenting with the delicate, intricate system of a living creature requires more knowledge and technical skill than that of students with only a basic high-school biology background. Many animals are used in science fair experiments that are, among other things, poorly planned, repetitive, and scientifically invalid. Parents often lack the necessary educational background to advise their children about specific animal needs during an experiment. Even teachers fall prey to recycled exhibit ideas that have proven unnecessary, redundant, and severely distressing or debilitating to animals.

By encouraging students to perform painful and destructive experiments on animals, parents and teachers nurture in them a lack of empathy and a disrespect for life. A child's thinking becomes "mechanistic" as he or she learns that animals are merely tools to be used, that an animal's pain and suffering is necessary and acceptable in the name of science, and that although the child may feel sorrow and disgust at what he or she is doing, these feelings ought to be repressed in order to become a good scientist. Even dissection of dead animals encourages "mechanistic" thinking, which minimizes a child's appreciation of a living creature as a whole entity.

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abandoned, or placed in unsuitable homes, animals should be returned to the shelter, and shelter workers should decide their disposition. Follow-up is an integral part of a responsible adoption program, and any information that assists in follow-up should be solicited.

Wild animals do not make suitable pets, and shelters should discourage such ownership. Not only are most people unequipped to handle wildlife and uninformed about its proper care, such animals pose real threats to owners and other people. Likewise, wildlife rehabilitation is a highly specialized field, best left to those specifically trained, equipped, and licensed to handle wildlife. Shelters are basically prepared to handle dogs and cats, and it is a full-time job to handle such animals responsibly and correctly.

Animal-control agencies and humane societies should be careful not to differentiate between dogs, cats, and other animals that come into their charge. Adoption standards should not vary between a dog and a horse, for example, because the obligation of respect and care is the same for each species.

A "blacklist" is part of a responsible adoption program. Again, it is the shelter's obligation to find lifetime, responsible homes for animals. Anyone who has shown in the past that he or she is not a responsible, humane pet owner should never be permitted to adopt an animal.

The adoption contract and its enforcement may be the only protection an animal has against unsuitable adopters. Besides adoption care, a surgical sterilization requirement should be clearly part of the adoption contract so that all parties understand this obligation. Each year, over 10 million animals are euthanized in shelters across the country, so there is an ethical and economic responsibility for every shelter to strictly enforce sterilization.

Too often, shelters operate as a "revolving door" for a community's domestic animals. Adopting out a fertile animal, while failing to require or enforce sterilization, assures that a shelter will eventually receive litters of puppies and kittens -- the offspring of the originally adopted animal. It is unconscionable for a shelter to become the source of surplus puppies and kittens, the majority of which are born only to be euthanized or to later die of neglect, abandonment, or mistreatment. The sterilization requirement and its enforcement is the only way to solve the pet overpopulation problem. Shelters must follow up adoptions, preferably within four months of placement, and require written confirmation of sterilization. Good intentions expressed at the time of adoption do not solve the pet overpopulation problem.

Animal-control agencies and humane societies are ethically and legally obligated to enforce animal-welfare laws. Puppies and kittens are easily injured, whether mishandling is intentional or unintentional. Young children must be closely supervised when they are with infant animals. Since this may be an unrealistic expectation, the adopting agency should have adoption guidelines designed to prevent such mishandling.

Recently, at least two local humane societies that operate shelters have been sued, or threatened with legal action, by former owners of dogs brought to the shelters as strays, held by the societies for the required time period, and adopted out to new owners. In both cases, the old owners demanded that the dog be returned, and the sensitive question of whether to reveal the identities of the new owners immediately arose. Both cases resemble recent legal attacks on the confidentiality of human adoption records and may predict a trend of which sheltered animals may want to be aware.

In one case, the society was also sued for money damages for "loss of use" of the dog. Such cases obviously have great potential for disrupting the animal adoption process and diverting the time and energies of society officers towards defending lawsuits.

There are a few steps a sheltered society can take to strengthen its legal position in anticipation of challenges by an animal's former owner, assuming that the society's policy is that stray animal adoptions should be final, with the new owner's identity protected:

- Review the shelter's internal procedures to ensure that it is complying with local law mandating that animals be held for a certain period before being adopted out or euthanized. A record-keeping system that identifies each animal received and can prove the length of time each was held is vital in this regard.
- Examine the local statute or ordinance under which the shelter receives stray animals, adopts them out, or otherwise disposes of them. The statute or ordinance should be written so as explicitly give legal ownership of the animal to the society after compliance with the holding period and other required procedures. This is a critical matter, since the shelter needs to pass good and clear title to the adopter or else remain arguably vulnerable to a suit for conversion of property. In addition, be sure the statute or ordinance covers both animals that are picked up off the street by shelter workers and those that are brought to the shelter by third parties. If the

Lisa Morris is director of Accreditation for The HSUS.

The HSUS emphasizes that dog owners must have fenced yards or have other humane provisions for an animal's adequate exercise. Dogs that are chained for a lifetime do not receive proper exercise and are often deprived of human companionship. Frustrated and unhappy, such dogs resort to nuisance barking and, sadly, aggressive behavior.

Most dogs and cats that come to a shelter as strays are actually owned animals that were permitted to roam or where lost. Identification and other required tags are a simple form of protection from loss and could save many animal lives. Shelters should promote all forms of responsible ownership, including disease prevention (inoculations) and control (licensing). This country's animal problems may be solved with the help of responsible citizens.

SHELTERS

Shelters

Face Adoption

Dilemma

by Roger Kindler

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statute or ordinance does not adequately protect the adoption process, the society should try to have it amended by the appropriate local legislative body.

In spite of these advisable steps, a shelter that is confronted by a seemingly worthy former owner who appears shortly after adoption may choose, as a matter of common sense and compassion, to act as an intermediary by personally visiting and explaining the circumstances to the new owner and simply asking if he or she is willing to return the animal. If the new owner refuses, the shelter need not take any further action to recover the animal and should protect the new owner's anonymity.

Roger Kindler is associate general counsel for The HSUS.

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Painful and destructive experiments on live animals are not necessary in order to succeed in high-school biology, nor are they necessary to become a successful scientist. The fact is, most children do not become scientists, but all must deal with living creatures, including fellow human beings, on a daily basis. Children must develop insight and understanding, and these qualities are learned, with society's help, through everyday experiences.

Parents have the right, and perhaps more important, the responsibility to question anything their children may be asked to do in school and elsewhere. If parents, children, or teachers call your organization to inquire about the use of live animals in science fairs projects, encourage them to consider the stress such projects may place on the animals and the undesirable consequences. There are alternatives to using live animals that are interesting and fun. Promote the following ideas:

1. Observational studies of live animals could be encouraged in the classroom as well as in wild and semi-wild settings such as zoos and farms in order to stimulate the study of biology, natural history, and wildlife conservation.

2. Pre-service and in-service programs should be developed to train teachers in the use and handling of animals for the classroom, as such training is presently not adequately provided.

3. Emphasis should be placed on the need to "clean up" educational materials (texts, films, and workbooks, for example), which promote an involuntary, interventive approach toward animal studies.

Encourage concerned individuals to write The HSUS for information about the use of animals in high-school science fairs. The HSUS offers a free set of Guidelines for the Study of Animals in Elementary and Secondary Schools and a Code of Practice for Animal-Related Projects in Science Fairs. Ten sets cost $1. Send a check or money order to The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037. Specify #HE01002 when ordering.

Lauren Wetherby is assistant to the director of Laboratory Animal Welfare for The HSUS.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and The Action Line Group are co-sponsoring a unique, weekly, one-half hour television series about domestic and wild animals, and we urge you to encourage your local Public Broadcasting System (PBS) station to air it.

Pet Action Line, hosted by broadcaster and consumer advocate Sonny Bloch, features authorities from the animal field, who discuss subjects such as responsible pet ownership, ending the seal hunt, wildlife refuges, and pet therapy. In addition, each weekly program contains several short segments, "Pet Tips," ranging from building a proper doghouse to handling the death of a pet. Other short segments feature "Close Up Reports" on controversial topics like illegal drugging of race horses or inhumane treatment of laboratory animals.

The HSUS recently mailed a letter and list of local PBS stations to numerous animal organizations across the country, asking them to urge the general manager and/or program director of the nearest PBS station to preview a scheduled March 21 satellite airing of the first Pet Action Line show. (That show was tentatively scheduled for general TV viewing on April 30.) Whether or not your group received this notice, please call your local PBS station now (check the local yellow pages listing for the phone number), and request that it air the series.

If your local station did not tape the first show, ask them to contact The Action Line Group, 1410 15th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20005; telephone, (202) 332-1462, and ask for Gale Nemec, Pet Action Line producer.

Many of you may have ideas for future Pet Action Line shows, and they are welcome. Send them to Patricia Forkan, vice president of Program and Communications, The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037. List people you think would make the best guests, including yourself; any additional materials that may be available to viewers; and any film footage and/or color photos or slides that would be appropriate.

Two organizations produced 1983 Christmas fund-raising brochures using the free services of various supply, printing, design, and production houses. Now is the time for other groups to plan ahead for similar end-of-year promotional appeals.

The Indianapolis Humane Society (7929 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268) used the same Christmas brochure design for two years in a row, changing only the paper and ink colors. The group asked several vendors to donate their services, and they've done the same with other Indianapolis companies for similar projects. Terri Peterson Smith, the Society's public information officer, said they have a good relationship with several local advertising agencies, which do much of the design work and copyrighting for their brochures without charge. "Vendors don't necessarily want to help," she said. "Sometimes it takes several tries to find, for example, a printer who will do the job gratis. Sometimes we get the job at cost. We're very careful to go back to these vendors for bids when we have projects that we can pay for."

Continued on next page
The humane society mailed 7,000 Christmas brochures to members, receiving approximately $15,000 in donations to date. It cost $400 to mail them, while the labeling, sorting, and delivery to the post office was handled under a yearly $10,000 contract with a local company, according to Claudia Bell, secretary to the general manager.

The Kentucky Humane Society (241 Steedly Drive, Louisville, KY 40214) also produced a Christmas promotional brochure using donated services. According to Executive Director Gloria Fedele, approximately 10,000 brochures were mailed, and although the Society's cost to produce and mail them could have reached $8,000, it totaled approximately $800. By the beginning of 1984, the group surpassed the $12,000 in donations it received in 1983.

Many organizations contributed their services to produce the Christmas brochure. They included an advertising illustrator, a paper company, someone to handle printing, folding, and scoring, a bank marketing director who helped coordinate the project and wrote copy, a TV station employee who handled layout and design, and an advertising agency typesetter.

The humane society purchased the Ladies Home Journal mailing list for the Louisville area, containing approximately 6,000 names, for only $315. Fedele, who formerly worked in advertising, said women tend to donate the most money; therefore, the group focuses on readers of women's magazines. (Descriptions of similar mailing lists, including prices and delivery information, are available from Carolyn Crowe, Names Unlimited Inc., 183 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016; telephone, (212) 725-5522.)

This spring, the Society modified the Christmas brochure and mailed it to 29,000 people. The group paid approximately $2,441 for a new mailing list and for postage. (The Society purchased the Better Homes and Garden mailing list, which can be ordered by calling (515) 284-2891 and asking for Ron Davis.) Once again, the fund-raiser was made possible by donated services.

The Evergreen Animal Protective League (P.O. Box 2517, Evergreen, CO 80439) maintains lost and found dog records on a computer, using the animals' main colors as a reference point.

"We practically ignore breed, as everyone sees a different breed in mixed-breed dogs," said Susie deDisse, League president. The group files information concerning dogs' general-body, tail-tip, paw, eye, and collar colors; whether their ears stand up or flop over; approximate ages; and the losers' /finders' telephone numbers and addresses.

DeDisse said their method has proven successful, particularly in cases where a dog reported lost two months before, for example, is returned to its owner only to be reported lost again by someone other than the owner. The animal's previous records can be extremely helpful in addressing the problem.

Send a brief description of your organization's experience setting up and using a computer system. For starters, write about unique uses for your computer, computer problems encountered and how they were solved, interesting results from computer use, or helpful computer companies or representatives with whom you've dealt.
A Healthy Pet Is a Happy Pet
What About Yours?

In warm weather, your pet may spend more time outdoors, walking with you or playing in its yard. Protect your dog or cat against disease and injury.

Use this handy checklist:

☐ Heartworm—This deadly parasite is transmitted by mosquitoes and may infect your dog. Have your veterinarian check it now for heartworm. If none are present, begin preventive medication. If your dog has heartworms, do not give it preventive medicine. Discuss treatment with your veterinarian.

☐ Fleas and ticks—Fleas transmit tapeworms; ticks carry disease to people and pets. Talk to your veterinarian about protecting your cat or dog against these insects. Remember, flea collars contain pesticides; don’t let them get wet. Never use flea collars on kittens or puppies less than two months old. Flea and tick medicines for dogs can harm cats.

☐ Rabies—Have your pet inoculated against deadly rabies to protect it and the community.

☐ Booster shots—Consult your veterinarian about annual shots against common cat and dog diseases.

☐ Other responsibilities—Give your pet a collar, identification tag, and other required tags. Don’t let your cat or dog roam, and make certain females are spayed and males are neutered.

(This space for your organization’s name and address)

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