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Sheltered Wildlife Has Special Needs

by Debbie Reed

Last December, Nicky Ratliff, director of the Humane Society of Carroll County Inc. in Westminster, Md., made room in a shelter run for Spot. Spot would require a three-person team of shelter workers to care for him during his stay and a special diet of chicken. A little over one year old, Spot weighed approximately 100 pounds. For part of his life, he'd been chained to a doghouse in his owner's backyard. He seemed to be well-cared-for by his owner, but after he bit a neighbor's dog, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources cited the owner for keeping an animal for which there is no USDA-approved rabies vaccine. Spot was transported to the shelter until his case could be resolved.

Spot is not a dog....He's a jaguar.

Continued on next page
Shelters occasionally face the problem of caring for native or exotic wildlife, whether equipped to do so or not. Many states neither regulate nor ban the ownership of wildlife or exotic animals (some do prohibit such ownership, while a few require permits). Often county or municipal laws more strictly regulate who can keep wildlife or an exotic animal and under what circumstances. Shelter workers should familiarize themselves with their state and local laws and should learn as much as possible about handling wild animals in the event one arrives at the shelter or is encountered during an emergency outside of the shelter.

Wild animals are unsuitable for home rearing and handling because they have complex needs for food, warmth, and species interaction that cannot be met by most people. Wild animals should be kept in captivity only by professional zoological facilities or by individuals who, as licensed wildlife rehabilitators or, in some cases, as breeders, care for wild animals.

Every year, people and animals suffer because wildlife and exotic animals are brought into unnatural situations and kept there by people who don’t know how to handle them. An animal could die because its needs are not being met. It could seriously injure people -- even kill them -- or it could transmit to them diseases such as rabies, hepatitis, ringworm, and more.

The Humane Society of the United States' (HSUS) Captive Wildlife Protection Department regularly receives telephone calls from individuals who, having purchased an exotic animal or captured a wild animal, are faced with behavioral problems, dying animals, or other difficulties. Local humane organizations frequently ask the HSUS for help in dealing with such animals.

The department developed a uniform model bill to deal with wildlife and exotic pets, substandard animal exhibits, and traveling animal acts in order to prevent unqualified people from acquiring and keeping these animals. The bill serves as a guideline for state and local legislators and citizens who are considering enacting or upgrading a wild animal law. This bill establishes a permit system to limit possession of wildlife and exotic animals to people with legitimate reasons for having them. Such individuals or organizations can obtain a permit as long as they meet minimum care standards adopted by the appropriate enforcement agency.

The HSUS for help...
increase promised soon. With the additional staff, Curtin has had time to upgrade necessary paper work and to restructure the fine system. All animal-ordinance violations now are written on one ticket instead of issuing a separate ticket for each violation. This saves time in the field and decreases office paper work.

Curtin also developed a better work schedule. He no longer works 24 hours a day; instead, he serves a rotating shift with the other animal-control officer.

The animal-control committee also met with the chief justice of the district court who agreed to strictly enforce the payment of fines. When there are special dog hearings each week where citizens cited for animal-control violations can testify. “We threw out the whole ‘ball of wax’ for people to see. The citizens saw it, got mad, and contacted their city officials,” Curtin said.

Curtin’s next step is to obtain the town’s approval for legislation that would allow money generated by the animal-control unit to be returned to it. Currently, a portion of the money collected from adoption fees and licensing pays basic county administration expenses; a portion is deposited into a county dog fund which reimburses other towns’ animal-control units for various expenses they’ve incurred; the rest is returned to the towns in amounts based on the number of dogs licensed in each. Curtin would prefer that after administrative expenses are paid, some of the money be used to purchase new equipment for the animal-control officer.

Part of the money collected from citations for animal-control ordinance violations and from impoundment fees is used to pay court fees; the rest is placed into a general city fund, portions of which can be appropriated by any number of town programs like education, garbage collection, and more. Once the court fees are paid, Curtin would like the remaining money to go back into an animal-control account.

If the legislation is approved by the town at an upcoming town meeting, it will be forwarded to the general court in May.

HSUS Needs More Dog Bite Information....

As announced in the November 1985 Shelter Sense, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is collecting information about fatal and nonfatal incidents of dog biting. We encourage you to continue to send shelter bite reports, new ordinances related to dogfighting and dog bites, and other documentation related to dog bites. Since pit bulls and pit bull-related breeds currently are in the news, we have received many reports about them. In order to complete our survey, we need more information about other mixed and pure-bred dog biting incidents. Please send information to Kate Rindy, The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

A new safety collar for dogs and cats that has a patented design to reduce the risk of collar-related injuries or strangulation is available to humane groups and animal-control agencies for fund-raising purposes.

Although the idea of pet safety collars is not new, the Second Chance collar represents a dramatic advance in design which qualified it for a U.S. patent.

The dual-action collar provides all the functions of a standard collar but has a small alteration that can save a pet’s life: a separation held together by Velcro strips that will pull apart if a pet is entangled in a fence, a wire, or a branch. A pet simply has to give a strong tug to free itself from the collar. Nevertheless, the Velcro is strong enough to keep the collar fastened during a pet’s normal activities, and the tension release is adjustable for each animal’s strength.

The Second Chance collar also is designed not to pull apart when it shouldn’t. Each side of the separation has a metal ring: When both rings are held together, the collar will not release.

Cats benefit greatly from this collar. The durable construction and the unique safety feature helps owners to keep identification tags on their cats and helps to prevent cats’ injury or accidental death.

To obtain literature and prices, write or call Second Chance Pet Products Inc., 660 Main St. South, Woodbury, CT 06798; telephone, (203) 263-4545.

There is a resource for foundation grants that could help humane organizations locate needed funds.

The Foundation Center is a non-profit organization that collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about private foundations. The Center provides complete listings and information on more than 22,000 foundations in the United States, including Internal Revenue Service (IRS) information containing fiscal data, addresses, telephone numbers, officers’ names, and grant lists; foundation annual reports; foundation grants by subject; reference materials; and information on other sources of funding.

The Center has two national libraries, located in New York City (79 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003) and in Washington, D.C. (1001 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 210, Washington, DC 20036), that provide free weekly orientation sessions for beginning grantseekers. Reference librarians are on duty to assist visitors, and the Center also has field offices in San Francisco, Calif., and in Cleveland, Ohio. Publications and supplemental resources are available to the public through over 145 cooperating libraries in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Great Britain.

In addition, the Center offers for sale several reference materials such as A Foundation Grants Index Annual ($44), which lists descriptions of actual grants awarded by over 460 major U.S.
 foundations; a series of computer listings called Comsearch that includes printouts of foundation grants listed under major broad categories ($32 per category list); lists of actual grants given in the past year in specific geographical locations and in 59 different categories including animal welfare and wildlife; Foundation Fundamentals: A Resource Guide for Grantseekers, which contains guidelines in applying for foundation grants ($9.95); and much more.

Candace D. Kuhta, coordinator of public services and director of the New York Library of the Center, advised that the Center is not a grantmaking institution and does not refer grantseeking individuals or organizations to specific foundations. The Center only provides the information and tools necessary for grantseekers to identify the appropriate sources of foundation funding.

For a complete listing of publications and resources, contact directly The Foundation Center library nearest you.

Nominations are open for the 1987 AVMA Humane Award, established by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to recognize a veterinarian or non-veterinary organization that has demonstrated exceptional compassion for the welfare of animals. The award includes a plaque and $500, presented to the winner or a charitable organization of his or her choice.

Nominations are accepted from humane societies, animal-welfare organizations, veterinary societies, and veterinarians. All nominations must be received by the AVMA no later than June 30, 1986. Supporting documentation that describes the nominee’s exceptional compassion for or humane efforts on behalf of animals must accompany each nomination. There is no limit to the number of individuals or organizations that can be nominated.

The AVMA Executive Board will select the 1987 winner at its spring meeting. Thirty-five people were nominated for the 1986 award, and the board will select that winner from three finalists, who will receive the 1986 award at the AVMA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Ga., this July. The 1985 award was presented to Roger Caras.

For further information and nominating petitions, contact the Council on Public Relations, American Veterinary Medical Association, 930 N. Meacham Road, Schaumburg, IL 60196, or call Michael E. Walters, director of the AVMA’s public information division, at (312) 805-0870.

A day-long seminar on fund-raising techniques is being sponsored by The HSUS New England Regional Office (NEGO) on Saturday, March 22, at the Worcester Marriott in Massachusetts.

According to John Donners, HSUS regional director, “This much-needed seminar specifically will be tailored for animal-protection organization leaders who are looking for new ways to raise money and build membership. I rarely meet with a group that doesn’t begin on the topic of fund raising in some capacity such as a new shelter, rescue vehicles, video equipment, educational materials, training program expenses, and so on.”

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Fund-raising consultants and other outside experts will present sessions on a variety of topics to give participants useful, practical ideas and techniques that generate money and support. A display of promotional products and modular museum exhibits will be included. For information and registration details, contact The HSUS New England Regional Office at P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423; telephone, (203) 434-1940.

A new product claimed to be an alternative to declawing cats may be hazardous to both cats and owners.

Producers of cat claw kits, which contain several little wooden beads and a tube of glue, claim that furniture and pet owners will be protected from cats that scratch to sharpen claws or to defend themselves once the beads are glued to the tips of the animals’ claws. The beads supposedly will stay on the claws’ outer skin until the skin is naturally shed.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), which is opposed to surgical declawing, nevertheless believes that these cat claw kits are an unacceptable alternative (a pair of cat claw clippers, used gently once a week, will eliminate the need for any surgery or other devices). Some cats might try to chew off the beads, which could lead to serious intestinal problems and/or choking. This glue, claimed to be non-toxic to humans and animals when used externally, might be toxic if swallowed internally. In addition, an owner might suffer serious scratches and bites while applying the glue, because most cats do not like to have their paws handled for a long time.

The HSUS suggests that when people see cat claw kits advertised, or sold at local stores, they write to the manufacturers and the stores to explain the problems with this type of product. (The kits cost approximately $9.)

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has opened its eighth regional office. The new office covers animal-related issues in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, and increases the number of states covered by HSUS regional offices to 36.

Launched on Jan. 1, the Midwest Regional Office (MWRO), directed by Wendell E. Maddox Jr., took over the premises and operations of Animal-Kind Inc., formerly an HSUS-accredited society run by Maddox and its president and HSUS board member Susan Selby Pepperdine. The office initially is a two-person operation, and major activities include assistance to local societies, cruelty investigations, animal control, promotion of HSUS national programs, wildlife protection, humane education, and publicity and public relations. Correspondence should be addressed to the Argyle Building, 306 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106; telephone, (816) 474-0888.

Two states covered by the new office -- Iowa and Missouri -- previously were covered by the HSUS North Central Regional Office (NCRE). The North Central office now includes in its territory North and South Dakota, which previously were outside The HSUS' regional scope.
Following is a list of the other HSUS regional offices and their directors:

**Great Lakes Regional Office**
735 Hawkins St.
Bowling Green, OH 43402-1696
Sandy Rowland, director
(419) 351-5141
(Serves Ohio, Ind., Mich., W. Va.)

**Gulf States Regional Office**
6264 Weber Road
Suite 305
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
William Meade III, director
(512) 834-3142
(Serves Ark., La., Okla., and Texas)

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Office**
P.O. Box 147
Convent Station, NJ 07961
Nina Austenberg, director
(201) 377-7111
(Serves Del., N.J., N.Y., Penn.)

**New England Regional Office**
Norma Terris Center
P.O. Box 362
East Haddam, CT 06423
John Dominers, director
(203) 434-1940
(Serves Conn., Mass., Maine, N.H., N.Y., R.I., Vt.)

**North Central Regional Office**
2015 175th St.
Lansing, IL 60438
Frantz Dantiler, director
(312) 474-0906
(Serves Ill., N.D., Minn., S.D., Wis.)

**Southeast Regional Office**
325 John Knox Road
Bldg. E, Suite 203
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Marc Paulhus, director
(904) 386-3435
(Serves Fla., Ga., Ala., S.Car.)

**West Coast Regional Office**
1713 J St., Suite 211
Sacramento, CA 95814
Charlene Drennon, director
(916) 447-3295
(Serves Calif., Idaho, Ore., Nev., Wash.)

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**Executive director** wanted for HSUS-accredited organization operating a county animal shelter in the Washington, D.C., area. Send resume, salary requirements to William N. Ruby, Search Committee, Montgomery County Humane Society Inc., 6623 Rannoch Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

**Executive director** to oversee shelter operations, humane education, cruelty investigations, animal control, and fundraising. Must have administrative and public-relations skills. Send resume, references to Search Committee, Dane County Humane Society Inc., 2250 Pennsylvania Ave., Madison, WI 53704.

**Shelter director** wanted for humane society. Responsible for shelter operation, personnel supervision, and euthanasia. Must have a minimum of two years of experience with each. Send resume, salary requirements to Melody Taylor, Executive Director, P.O. Box 362, Albany, GA 31706.

**Client-relations position** open for energetic, extroverted individual. Duties include wildlife-emergency switchboard work and patient admittance. Must be organized, articulate, and enjoy high pressure job. Contact Betsy Lewis, Lifeline for Wildlife.

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What To Look For In A Word Processing Program

by Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

A good word processing program, coupled with database or mailing-list software, can improve dramatically the professionalism of your operation. The primary use of computers among respondents to the recent Shelter Sense computer survey was word processing. This is an application where the computer immediately demonstrates its usefulness and begins to earn its keep.

Compare the effectiveness of a smeared, mimeographed form to remind a shelter client that he has not had his dog spayed, for example, to the impact of a neatly typed, personalized letter that reminds him Rover was due at the clinic by April 1. Several shelters that use the second approach find that the compliance rate to their requests is nearly 100 percent!

Word processing programs really can enhance the efficiency of routine functions such as reminders, license renewals, and fund-raising appeal letters. By using the proper kind of database programs to construct mailing lists, you can target your correspondence to the most appropriate audiences. You can send one letter to everyone who has adopted a cat from your shelter, for example, and another to all the dog owners. You can send special messages to your high-dollar donors and another to those on your “cold prospect” list. Although the system can be automated, that doesn’t mean it has to become impersonal. It is very easy to add personal remarks to any of your letters.

Word processing applications need not end with correspondence. Such programs are ideal for composing and editing articles and reports for your organization’s newsletter. Some of the more advanced software allows you to produce multiple columns, to vary fonts, and to prepare material in a form that is ready to be sent directly to a typesetter.

How can you select the program that is right for you? The bad news is that there are over 400 word processing programs on the market, ranging in price from $10 to $800. This makes choosing a program a real challenge! The good news is that nearly all of them are good, and most can handle the basic needs of any shelter. Here are some basic questions to ask yourself before making your selection:

* How are you going to use the program? Will it primarily be used for letters, or will you prepare many reports including columns of figures? Will you use it with an existing database program, or

Continued on next page

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will you buy record-keeping or mailing-list software at the same time? Do you intend to use advanced printing features such as double columns, or will you use advanced equipment such as laser printers or typesetting equipment? Be certain that the software you select is compatible with your printer and with any other special equipment you might use.

* Who is going to use it? Do you want everyone on the staff to be familiar with the software, or will it be in the hands of only one or two people? If you have many inexperienced users or a rapid turnover of staff, you will need something that is easy to learn. Look for programs with clear manuals and/or tutorial diskettes.

* What additional features do you need? Many word processing programs come with added features. A built-in spelling checker is very handy. Other frills such as a thesaurus or style checker might not be worth the extra cost to you. (The Humane Society of the United States recommends the use of some type of thesaurus and stylebook to achieve professional-looking publications. These are available in most bookstores.)

Once you consider your needs, you can shop around. The best way to evaluate a word processing program is to browse through the manual, then give it a "test drive," or watch an experienced user work with it. You usually can see such a demonstration at a local computer user's group or at better software dealers. Describe your intended applications in as much detail as you can, and be certain the program can handle them. It's best to ask to see the program demonstrate the kinds of functions you need.

The best word processors allow you to do simple things with only a little training, and they can do very complex tasks if you are willing to study the manual. Usually the better programs allow you to preview the format of the finished text on the screen exactly as it will appear on the page. This is very significant if page breaks, headers, footers, and column positions are important to your finished product.

Although there are hundreds of programs available, a few have become particularly popular. Most are for IBM computers or compatibles, but several are available in versions for a variety of machines. Here is a quick guide to some programs you should try to see demonstrated when you shop:

**WORDSTAR ($95 to $955 in various versions)** - Once considered the program against which all others were compared, this is the program most likely to be pushed upon you by a dealer who has many admirers and many detractors. While difficult to learn and often slow to use, it can be very powerful.

**MICROSOFT WORD 2.0 ($395)** - This program is complex and powerful, but simple things are handled in a simple fashion. It is very comprehensive and well-suited for use with advanced equipment such as laser printers.

**XY WRITE II PLUS 2.0 ($295)** - A powerful program chosen by many professional writers and editors. It is designed to be customized to meet your specific needs.

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*Sheltered Wildlife...* Continued from page 2

agency such as a state department of natural resources. People who have owned a wild animal for a specified period before enactment of the law also can receive a permit under the same conditions. Others not only must comply with the minimum care standards but must prove, among other things, that they intend to pursue a conservation program to significantly improve the health and welfare of the species in question, and have the skills and resources to implement such a program. The model bill specifies which animals are exempt from the law.

For Ratliff, the shelter’s experience with Spot was educational, if not time-consuming. “Spot appeared to enjoy his stay at the shelter,” she said (the animal left the shelter (251 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21157) in January after a judge granted his owner permission to move Spot out of Maryland rather than have him euthanized). “He seemed to be in good physical condition when he arrived, and he didn’t pace the way caged cats sometimes do in a zoo,” Ratliff and other workers spent time building a perch in the run and partially covering the run with tarpaulin to give the animal a varied and quiet environment. “After all of that work, he wanted no part of it,” she said, “but, we couldn’t touch him because he was aggressive toward us.” The animal was declared and uncurated, and his owner, who had purchased Spot at approximately 5-1/2 weeks of age as a gift for a young daughter, reportedly believed he had been defanged. “Well, his front fangs grew in while he was at the shelter,” said Ratliff — a perfect example of how quickly such animals can grow and change. Ratliff worries that the large cat eventually will seriously maim or kill someone… and suffer severely as a result.

Jefferson Parish, La., recently added more precise definitions to its ordinance about wildlife and exotic animals in response to an increase in the number of such animals being kept by unqualified...
people. The expanded law now defines a wild animal as one that "is incapable of being completely domesticated and requires the exercise of art, force or skill to keep it in subjection." An exotic animal is one that is not indigenous to south Louisiana. A prospective owner must obtain a permit from the animal shelter (1869 Ames Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072) and be interviewed by its humane officer to determine whether or not he or she has the knowledge, skill, and experience for proper care of the animal. The place where the animal will live is inspected. If the prospective owner is granted a permit by the animal-shelter advisory board, he or she must pay a $400 annual permit fee and have the animal's housing facilities inspected each year by shelter personnel. Some animals cannot be kept as pets, and the ordinance includes a long list of these, and some, such as ferrets, require a no-cost permit and an inspection by a humane officer.

According to Casey Burglass, shelter administrator, one of the problems that prompted the strengthened ordinance was the increase in pet ferrets locally. "Previously, the advisory board felt that it had nothing to go on concerning ferrets. Now anyone who wants to own one must obtain a permit," she said.

The HSUS believes the private ownership of ferrets should be prohibited. Ferrets are one example of exotic animals that increasingly present problems for local animal authorities. They have become popular as pets in recent years because they resemble a domestic cat, but although ferrets have been raised in captivity for generations, they do not make appropriate pets: They are nocturnal (most households are diurnal or day-oriented); they can be destructive because they dig and climb; and, people's knowledge of the animals' physical, psychological, behavioral, and nutritional needs is incomplete, making it difficult to locate a veterinarian who has the expertise to prevent, diagnose, and treat health problems. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), since 1981, five children in Colorado, Indiana, and Nevada have suffered extensive injuries during attacks by pet ferrets. Fortunately, the ferrets in each case were free of rabies, which they can carry and transmit to humans. There is no licensed, approved vaccine for ferrets. Such dangers prompted the AVMA recently to recommend that people not own these animals.

"It seems that the pet industry takes great pains to emphasize just how much like dogs and cats ferrets really are," said Nancy Blaney, assistant to the director of Captive Wildlife Protection for the HSUS. "If that is the case, then a prospective pet owner should adopt one of the 7.6 million dogs and cats that must be euthanized each year because responsible homes cannot be found for them. If ferrets were not available, chances are people would be just as happy with a dog or a cat. Wanting something unusual, a conversation piece, is not an acceptable reason for owning any animal."

As this issue goes to press, the California State Fish and Game Commission is considering whether or not to change its ban on possession of ferrets in California as a result of a case of a San Diego resident who has been permitted to keep two female ferrets as pets. The controversy reportedly is to be settled early in March and could set a precedent for similar statutes across the nation.

It is non-exotic wildlife that most often presents problems for shelter workers, and The HSUS believes most shelters' first consideration should be to give such animals a humane death. A responsible shelter will set up firm policy against wild animals and adoption. A shelter might be required to impound a wild animal, or there might be other legal reasons to keep it temporarily. Nevertheless, unlike wildlife rehabilitators, shelters usually are not equipped to care adequately for wild animals. It could take many hours to develop a program to reintroduce an animal to the wild. For example, and most shelters cannot spare staff members for this responsibility. A captured wild animal most likely is highly stressed, and this factor, added to disease, injury, or a lack of proper diet and physical comfort, could kill it. Baby orphaned wildlife hasn't had time to learn about survival in the wild.

If an animal is endangered or otherwise regulated by the state or federal government, shelter workers must check with local fish and game authorities, who can assist with its disposition. A district game warden also can help identify an animal for workers who don't know whether or not it is endangered or regulated. (Exotic, non-native wild animals should be turned over to the nearest specialist immediately. Call the local zoo or ask a game warden for a reference.)

Some animal shelters can properly handle a few wild animals. While a wild animal is sheltered, it must be given quality care: proper diet, warmth, quiet, and rest. It never should become an object of curiosity for visitors or staff members. The animal should be most comfortable in a 70-80 F, draft-free area. It should rest before it eats. A nutritious, palatable diet can be created easily from shelter supplies: Dry and canned dog and cat food, powdered milk, and a variety of fruits and vegetables. Fresh water will sustain the animal temporarily. If dog or monkey chow is too chunky to eat, it can be softened with a little hot water. Even reptiles can be fed canned dog or cat food temporarily.

Pet birds can be fed commercial foods from the pet store (carnivorous birds such as birds of prey) should be given to the federal government, shelter workers must check with local fish and game authorities, who can assist with its disposition. A district game warden also can help identify an animal for workers who don't know whether or not it is endangered or regulated. (Exotic, non-native wild animals should be turned over to the nearest specialist immediately. Call the local zoo or ask a game warden for a reference.)

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Chimneys allow entrance into homes by raccoons, squirrels, and birds. Homeowners should purchase or have installed a tight-fitting chimney cap of wire mesh. Furnace chimneys also should be capped, and exhaust and attic vents should be covered with screening.

A fireplace damper should be closed when the fireplace is not in use. A fire never should be lit if animal noises are heard above a damper. Instruct people to call the shelter for assistance if they suspect animals are there or in the attic.

Birds nesting in yards might dive or scold people. Instruct people to leave them alone and to not fear them. Reflections of the sky by picture windows confuse some birds, who fly into them and are stunned or killed. Homeowners can apply decals or tape inside windows or hang a mobile or wind chimes outside to warn away birds.

Children never should handle, disturb, or move wildlife from active nests. Mother birds will not reject a nestling that is placed back in the nest by a human because birds have little sense of smell. Unless the baby appears to be in danger or is too young to be coaxed to the nest by its mother, it shouldn't be touched. Although a person might not see the mother bird, she could be close and aware of what is happening to her fledgling.

Injured and orphaned animals need expert care, so people should call the shelter for assistance. Only a knowledgeable shelter or animal-control worker should touch a sick wild animal. Children, especially, must be taught to move away from a sick animal and to call the shelter to report its location.

Birds and animals that are trapped inside a house are frightened. Instruct people to close curtains, turn off house lights, and open doors, because animals usually will find their way outside if given a chance.

The San Francisco SPCA (2500 Sixteenth St., San Francisco, CA 94103) gives priority to rescuing animals that are injured, sick, or in danger or distress of any kind, according to Richard Avanzino, president. This includes wildlife. When dealing with wildlife indigenous to the area (if the animals have not bitten or attacked anyone, and if they are found to have no injuries or medical problems), staff members release them in appropriate open space not yet developed for human habitation.

When San Francisco residents call the society with complaints about healthy, non-domesticated animals (usually skunks or raccoons), the staff offers counseling on ways to deal with the situation. Most people can handle problems on their own, if someone will tell them how, said Avanzino.

If there is an immediate need to evict a wild animal from someone's home or yard, staff members attempt to calm the caller and explain that the animal probably is frightened, too. They suggest that people open doors, windows, and gates to help it escape. If the caller is elderly, handicapped, or particularly frightened about confronting the animal, humane officers might assist with removing it.

Some shelters are prepared to handle a few wild animals...Continued on next page

If there is a problem with continual raids by wild creatures, staff members explain to callers simple precautions to discourage their return, such as keeping lids tight on garbage cans and destroying potential nesting sites. If the problem cannot be resolved, the society urges callers to rent or buy humane traps that will confine skunks or raccoons alive and unhurt until they can be relocated.

Several years ago, orphaned or injured baby squirrels increasingly began to arrive at the Orlando Humane Society (656 Barry St., Orlando, FL 32808). Speculating that a rapid urbanization of Orange County was causing destruction of squirrel nesting sites, and concerned that no central source existed for information or assistance concerning squirrels, Dick Myers, society president, published a "how to" booklet for squirrel rehabilitators. Myers also was worried about misinformation about squirrels, such as a belief that squirrels could transmit rabies, when, in fact, no case of human rabies attributable to a squirrel bite has been recorded by the federal Centers for Disease Control.

The Care and Feeding of Infant, Orphaned Baby Squirrels. A colorful, 31-page booklet with instructions for sheltering, feeding, and releasing baby squirrels, led to a squirrel rescue program. The booklets have been sent to libraries in most states and to some veterinarians and humane societies. Assistance by over 200 volunteer rehabilitators (mainly people who have found squirrels) has enabled the program to save the lives of over 500 squirrels, according to Myers. (To obtain a copy of the booklet, mail a request to the society at the above address, including $1 for postage and handling per booklet.)

The HSUS will continue to work towards the protection of wild animals and an end to their suffering at the hands of uncaring or unqualified owners. Local animal organizations also must work to ensure the safety of area wild animals. Those who have questions or concerns about such animals can count on The HSUS' Captive Wildlife Protection Department to provide appropriate advice and support.

The Humane Society of the United States' Captive Wild Animal Protection Packet is available for 60 days. The packet includes a model bill, a fact sheet, and explanatory bill notes. Specify 1400H, and send your order to The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037.
Animal Control Academy Announces 1986 Sessions

by Phyllis Wright

Wright is vice president of Companion Animals for The HSUS

The expert training in animal control and sheltering by the HSUS Animal Control Academy prepares workers to return to the field with renewed enthusiasm and the proper technical and human-relations skills to help solve community animal problems and assure humane treatment for sheltered animals. Academy sessions offer training in law enforcement, animal health, public relations, shelter management, and more. In addition, students have ample opportunity to share ideas and concerns with colleagues and to make new friends.

When planning your 1986 schedule, be certain to allow time for staff members to attend an Academy session. Bill Smith, director of the HSUS Animal Control Academy (2606 8th St., Suite 202, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401), can send you a complete 1986 schedule and further details about the sessions listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Session Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 17-28</td>
<td>26th Session</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa, Ala.</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21-May 2</td>
<td>27th Session</td>
<td>Memphis, Tenn.</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14-25</td>
<td>28th Session</td>
<td>Des Moines, Iowa</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4-15</td>
<td>29th Session</td>
<td>Billings, Mt.</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25-29</td>
<td>30th Session</td>
<td>Tampa, Fla.</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15-26</td>
<td>31st Session</td>
<td>Marin, Calif.</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10-21</td>
<td>32nd Session</td>
<td>Chesapeake, Va.</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Before You Mail Your Next Newsletter...

Save your organization time and money, and help The HSUS to help you, by mailing only one copy of your organization's newsletter to the Companion Animals Section. A copy of each newsletter is promptly circulated to Companion Animals staff members, including Phyllis Wright, vice president; Deborah Reed, Shelter Sense editor; and Barbara Cassidy, director of Animal Sheltering and Control. Newsletters then are filed for future reference. By eliminating duplicate mailings to section staff, you'll save paper and unnecessary postage. (Continue to send copies to The HSUS library and other HSUS departments or sections if you already are doing so.)