Adoption Contracts: Shelters Pursue "Get Tough" Policy

by Debbie Reed

When a man in one small Maryland community failed to neuter his dog, according to the terms of the contract he signed when he adopted the animal from the local shelter, he probably didn't realize the legal and public skirmishes that would result. This man's case is just one of a growing number nationwide in which animal-shelter officials are pursuing adoption contract violators through legal channels and either winning through court or out-of-court settlements. Such cases are delivering the strong message that adopted shelter animals must be responsibly cared for by their new owners and that shelter adoption contracts shall not be violated!

In January 1985, Rodney A. Brown of Westminster, Md., adopted an eight-week-old, beige, male dachshund from the Humane Society of Carroll County Inc. (2517 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21157). He signed an adoption contract, which, among other
requirements, specified that the animal be neutered by seven months of age (the contract has since been revised and requires that male dogs be sterilized by nine months of age, females by seven months). According to Nicky Ratliff, shelter director, when the June neutering deadline was one month overdue, the society mailed Brown a reminder notice. Brown’s response, according to Ratliff, was a telephone call to the society to announce that he would neuter the animal when he chose or would shoot it.

On Aug. 15, the organization issued a $100 ticket to Brown through certified mail, as stipulated by the contract. The society claimed the ticket was never received, and resubmitted it to the society. In late August, the society filed an application for a statement of charges with the District Court commissioner, alleging violation of Section Eight of the Carroll County Animal Control Law, Ordinance #26. In September, the $100 ticket was resent to Brown through the regular mail service. Several days later, a man claiming to be Brown entered the society, accompanied by a neutered male dog. The animal warden advised the man that he would have to send the society a receipt from his veterinarian as proof his pet had been neutered. The man reportedly became angry and left, leaving behind his copy of the ticket and Ordinance #26, which he apparently had received in the mail.

In late September, someone identifying himself as Brown telephoned Ratliff to express anger over the dog and neutering situation. According to Ratliff, he admitted he had the receipt for the neutering in his wallet, yet he refused to send it, or a copy of it, to the society. Ratliff said she made attempts to reason with the man, telling him that she would ask to have the charges against him dropped if he would mail the receipt to the society. She said he refused.

In late October, Brown was present at a preliminary hearing concerning his case, and, later, he brought the receipt to the society. In good faith, Ratliff wrote to the state’s attorney’s office in an attempt to have Brown’s case dismissed. Ratliff said she made attempts to reason with the man, telling him that she would ask to have the charges against him dropped if he would mail the receipt to the society. She said he refused.

The case generated some publicity, including an article in an October issue of The Baltimore Sun that some people found to be frightening, according to Ratliff. Ratliff can’t agree. The newspaper article made people aware of the need for an animal-

SHelter SENSE (ISSN 0734-3078) is published by The National Humane Education Center, a division of The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037, (202) 452-1100.

Subscription rates (in U.S. currency): new issues—$16; renewals—$8; two years—$12 additional subscriptions to the same name and address—$6 each

HSUS Vice President, Companion Animals .......................... Phyllis Wright
Editor, SHELTER SENSE .......................... Deborah L. Reed
Editorial Assistant .............................................. Yuri Kusuda

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A Mississippi animal-control division recently obtained free designs for a future animal shelter while educating some local high-school students about the need for community animal control.

The City of Jackson Division of Animal Control (658 S. Jefferson, Jackson, MS 38205) asked the Jackson Public Schools Career Development Center for permission to conduct an animal-shelter design contest for sophomore and senior industrial-drafting classes. Student participation in the contest would be voluntary and could earn them extra credit towards their grade. According to Allene Maldonado, education coordinator for the animal-control division, “The results were far beyond anything we anticipated. We were very pleased!”

Six students volunteered to create individual designs after Maldonado visited the two classes to announce the contest and answer questions. “It turned into a regular ‘question and answer’ session, with students inquiring about the need for animal control, what staff members do on a daily basis, and more,” said Maldonado. She answered their questions for approximately one and one-half hours.

The winning design was created by senior Delano White, who received a trophy, along with the second and third runners-up, at a city council meeting. (The wooden trophies were designed by a local company, including a mixed-breed dog on top.) The awards ceremony offered the division the opportunity to stress to city council members the urgent need for a new, better equipped and designed animal shelter. As the councilman who oversees the city architect, who reviewed White’s design and estimated it could be built, with slight alterations, for approximately $300,000. Maldonado now is waiting for a city bond issue to be addressed, and the city has started to make necessary repairs on the existing shelter.

The winning shelter design includes holding, adoption, and storage rooms; separate kennels for holding, adopting, and quarantining animals; a storage area; separate public and employee bathrooms; showers and lockers for employees; office space; separate employee and animal food-preparation areas; and a conference room. The current facility lacks many of these accommodations, a matter of great concern to shelter staff members.

Maldonado visited the classes after the contest ended to thank the students. “It was very hard to decide which was the winning design,” she said (she chose the winner with the help of Mike McKuen, president of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Architectural Association). “Trying to educate high-school students about responsible pet care can be difficult. The contest helped students to realize the importance of community animal control!”

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) highly recommends its Architectural Plans, Description, and Recommendations for Prototype Animal Shelters, a 12-page booklet with six floor plans for large and small shelters. To order a copy, send a $3 check or money order to The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037. Please specify order #AC0003.

Continued on next page
In an attempt to come up with a workable solution that would provide inexpensive, temporary housing for puppies and kittens at its shelter, the Missouri Bootheel Humane Society (P.O. Box 261, Kennett, MO 63857) tried a suggestion offered in Shelter Sense several months ago. The staff at the shelter is delighted with the results and has offered Shelter Sense readers an idea in return!

According to society president Elaine Garrison, an inexpensive solution to the animal-housing shortage that occurs each spring is a plastic swimming pool "pod" that holds kittens or puppies. This setup is easy to clean, easy to disinfect, and gives the occupants plenty of room. Best of all, compared to manufactured cages, it is very inexpensive.

The society purchased two children's plastic swimming pools from a local discount store. The pools each are about five feet in diameter. Using welded wire the staff had on hand, a ring of wire about four and one-half feet tall was set inside one pool. The other pool was fitted over the top.

So far, the pod has been used for a nursing mother cat and her two kittens and for a litter of six-week-old kittens.

To clean the pod, workers must lift off the top pool and take out the ring of wire, which requires a little more effort than usual but is worth it, according to Garrison.

Garrison suggested another handy shelter idea. "Occasionally I will see that a shelter is collecting cardboard trays or shallow boxes for use as disposable litter pans. The alternative for individual cat cages seems to be the costly stainless-steel pans you see advertised. We solved this problem several years ago when one of our board members, a photographer, suggested inexpensive plastic eight- by 10-inch photographic developing trays."

The trays are perfectly sized for small cages. They are durable, lightweight, and can be scrubbed and disinfected easily. The

trays usually come in sets of three to a box; are white, yellow, and black; and can be ordered from any photographic supplier. Their sides are about two inches tall, and they are designed with a pour spout in one corner. Their only disadvantage seems to be that after two or three years of use, they sometimes begin to stain.

When one North Carolina animal-control officer began searching for ways to improve the image of animal control, she decided to paint her animal-control truck with cheerful, educational messages and pictures. The results have been positive, and she believes other animal-control departments might want to use her idea!

In January 1985, Elaine Bridges, animal-control officer for the City of Laurinburg (503 Hall St., Laurinburg, NC 28352) arranged for her truck (pictured above and left) to be painted by a local sign artist for only $150. The newly decorated truck announces "Animal Control and Protection" on the back, including a picture of various dogs and cats. On the left side of the truck is pictured a boy with a dog on a leash and the slogan "Love - License - Leash." The other side of the truck contains the headline and art from a Shelter Sense reproducible, "Is Love the Tie that Binds?", including a neglected dog and cat within a heart.

"Everyone seems to like my truck," said Bridges. "I live in a small town that has had its share of uncaring 'dog catchers.' We have a very supportive, effective humane society that houses the stray animals I pick up until they are claimed by their owners or are put up for adoption."

When asked whether or not she would change the truck in the future, Bridges said, "I wouldn't change anything. In fact, I would like more messages on it, but we ran out of space! A lot of people won't take the time to read material you hand to them, but all of us seem to read bumper stickers while waiting at a stop."
Advice on ways to inform and influence local officials

by John McArdle

For 30 years, animal-welfare advocates have fought to stop the release of pet cats and dogs from animal shelters for use in biomedical research. Many of you, individually or through your shelters, have been involved in that struggle.

Although there have been victories for shelter animals in states such as Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wisconsin, it is time to press for a national ban on releasing shelter animals to laboratories!

U.S. Rep. Robert J. Mrazek, D-N.Y., recently introduced legislation (HR 4871) in the U.S. Congress that would effectively stop the use of pet animals in research. The Mrazek bill would prohibit the expenditure of any federal money awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the purchase or use of cats or dogs acquired directly or indirectly from animal shelters. Because NIH provides the funding for nearly all uses of cats and dogs in biomedical research, enactment of HR 4871 would virtually mean an end to the use of pets in such experiments.

To support this effort, there are several actions you should take immediately:

1. Write your representative in Congress, preferably on your letterhead, asking him or her to co-sponsor HR 4871. Send The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) a copy of your letter and the responses you receive.

2. Notify your organization's members that HR 4871 has been introduced, and ask them to help.

3. The HSUS has a sample resolution to request Congress to stop the use of pets in research. Ask your local civic groups, churches, dog clubs, and city and county governments to pass this resolution. Send the original to your representative in Congress and a copy to The HSUS.

4. Post one of the new HSUS anti-pound seizure poster sets on your shelter walls. One set is available free to any humane society or animal shelter working to stop pound seizure.

Thirty years is long enough for some of this nation's pet cats and dogs to suffer in research laboratories. You can help to stop it!

Choosing a Database Program: The Basics of Databases

by Randall Lockwood

A shelter or humane society has to keep lots of information on hand, including records of animals handled, adopted, euthanized, and licensed; complaints; and donors. A great deal of time usually is spent filing, retrieving, and reporting this data. This is when a computer really can demonstrate its usefulness. The software you choose to handle these tasks is very important. Since so many Shelter Sense readers have asked about database programs, the next few installments of "Computer Talk" will focus on the problem of handling large amounts of data.

Let's review some of the basic terms we will be using (for a complete glossary of computer terms, see "Computer Talk" in the October, November, and December 1984 issues of Shelter Sense). At the moment, the various records for your organization probably are filling one or more filing cabinets. That entire set of materials is your database: a collection of information used for specific purposes (for example, fund raising, licensing, and so on). Within your database are individual files, perhaps occupying separate file drawers or folders. In computer database terms, a file is a collection of related materials (for example, an adoptions file, an animals-received file, a mailing list, and more). Each file is a collection of records, each a record of specific transactions. You probably have a form for each animal handled, for example, and one for each complaint received, and so on. Each record has a number of blanks that are filled in, such as for a name, address, type of animal, and date. These blanks are referred to as fields. Finally, you probably refer to your files on a regular basis to generate a report that summarizes the contents of your database, such as a monthly report on the flow of animals through your shelter or a report on the response to various fund-raising appeals. The terms database, file, record, field, and report are used quite consistently in the computer business to describe these basic parts of computerized record keeping.

A computer program that handles these various functions is usually called a database management program or, more simply, a database program. There are over 100 such programs available today which share many of the same features. The market is complicated by the fact that there are three different kinds of database programs: flat-file, relational, and programmable. A flat-file program is usually a relatively simple program that lets you deal only with one file at a time. For example, you might have one file for your donor mailing list and another for your adoptions, with no capability to automatically compare the two to see if all of all those donors who have adopted dogs from your society. A relational database can work with two or more files at once, comparing any that have at least one common field. Such programs allow you to ask many interesting questions about your data. Programmable databases allow experienced users or professional programmers to write programs to handle common procedures. For example, they can be used to create a program that lets an inexperienced user produce any of a variety of reports by simply making choices from a menu.

Continued on next page
Flat-file database programs generally are less expensive than relational and programmable ones. Most of the more advanced (and more expensive) programs are both relational and programmable. Fortunately for those with little money or experience, it is usually possible to start with an easy-to-learn flat-file program and move to a more advanced program that can use all the data you already have entered painstakingly into your old program.

Here are some basic things to check when choosing a program for your application:

* Storage capacity - There are several important considerations in evaluating how much data a program can handle. It is essential to understand the number of records that the program can handle. Some can store only 1,000 to 3,000 records per database, so a shelter with a mailing list of 5,000 would have to divide the records, which can be a problem. Others can handle millions or billions of records, limited only by your system's disk storage capacity. It is also important to know the number of fields each record can hold. Many programs limit you to about 40, others are limited only by your system's disk storage capacity.

* Speed - You will need to know how quickly the program will be able to perform common tasks such as pulling up a particular record. It seems foolish to computerize files if your system takes three minutes to locate something that a human file clerk can find in 30 seconds! Some database programs must look at each record when searching for a particular piece of information. If you have 5,000 entries, this can take a long time.

* Ease of learning and use - Power and speed are important, but they are worthless if you can't figure out how to use the program! As with word processing programs, the best database programs are those that let you do simple tasks without extensive training, but that are capable of advanced applications when you are ready for them. Look for programs with on-line help and clear manuals that include many examples, a good index, and a "tutorial" section. You and your staff might need some special training or outside assistance in tailoring the most advanced programs to meet your special needs, but the added costs associated with using the best programs most definitely will be offset by greater efficiency.

* Form design - One measure of the "friendliness" of a database program is the ease with which you can create new files. Many programs allow you to create new files by simply typing a blank form on the screen. This allows you to rapidly convert your current paperwork to a computerized format. As you grow comfortable with the program, you are likely to find all kinds of innovative applications. It is also desirable to be able to add or delete fields without starting from scratch, but not all programs are this tolerant of change.

* Security - You might not want everyone using your system to have access to all of the information it contains. For example, you probably will restrict information in personnel or accounting files to a very few users. More advanced database programs provide options for several levels of passwords, which might allow some users to only read records in a file while others can read, edit, and delete records and others cannot even gain entry to the file.

* Report generation - It isn't enough simply to store and retrieve data. At some point, you will want to generate reports that might include totals of animals, average donations, and so on. When considering a database program, you should find out about the kind of reports you can generate. Some can generate tables while others can display data any way you specify. Many programs include ready-to-use report forms for common applications such as mailing labels.

* Import/export capabilities - If you begin using a simple database program and decide to move on to something more powerful, you might wish to take all your data with you. The best programs are this tolerant of changes. Some programs allow you to add or delete fields without starting from scratch, but not all programs are this tolerant of change.

Executive director for Birmingham Humane Society (BHS). Requires experience working with animals, strong management skills, knowledge of board functions and operations, familiarity with the legal process, public relations skills, and innovative program development and initiation. Progressive board, active education program, and modern facility. Nongovernmental organization. Send resume with three letters of reference to Melinda Norton, 3018 Woodland Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405. Closing date, Sept. 1, 1986. Only Shelter Sense subscribers may advertise. Ads must be submitted on your organization's letterhead no later than six weeks before month of issue. Please limit to 35 words (including address). Sorry, we cannot print "position wanted" ads.
Registration for the day-long primate symposium on Wednesday, Oct. 22, costs $10. Hotel room rates are $62 for a single; $67 for a double. Eastern airlines has been named as official air carrier for the conference. To obtain an unrestricted discount of 60 percent off the normal round-trip coach fare to and from Miami, call Eastern toll-free at 1 (800) 468-7022 (outside Florida) or 1 (800) 282-0244 (within Florida), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time, and give the agent the HSUS account number EZ10P41.

A rabies diagnostic test has been developed which does not require euthanization of a suspected rabid animal; however, the test's usefulness has been questioned by some officials at the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

At Kansas State University's (KSU) Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, research scientist Dr. Dennis Howard developed a rabies diagnostic test that could provide rapid results without injuring the tested animal. The test involves a skin biopsy, taken from tissue near the tactile hairs on an animal's muzzle, that is examined for specific rabies immunofluorescence (the rabies virus, if present, can be identified by using a fluorescent dye). An animal need not be killed, unlike for traditional rabies tests whereby an animal's brain tissue is examined after decapitation and removal of the brain. The new test's results can be available the same day the test is performed.

According to a KSU information sheet on rabies (for reasons unrelated to Shelter Sense, Howard declined to be interviewed for this article), researchers at the university believe that quick diagnosis can be helpful, especially in cases when large animals, such as horses, are suspected of having rabies. For example, horse owners could be informed quickly of an animal's status without it having to be euthanized; the test's results are positive, the animal should be humanely euthanized, and treatment should begin immediately. Unfortunately, the test is not yet 100-percent accurate, according to Daniel Fishbein, M.D., and Leigh Sawyer, D.V.M., of the Viral and Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch of the CDC in Atlanta, Ga. They said a negative result doesn't guarantee that rabies is not present, and since rabies is always fatal if not treated, a diagnostic test must be 100-percent accurate to be useful in deciding whether or not to begin rabies treatment on a bite victim. Therefore, the new biopsy test, under most circumstances, would not have much bearing on such a decision. Fishbein also said that since the biopsy test requires careful preparation and freeze-drying of the tissue sample, it is impractical to administer when compared to the brain tissue test.

Rabies in its early stages is difficult to detect by any test. Officials deciding whether or not to begin rabies treatment on a bite victim should quarantine the suspected animal for 10 days for observation, even if the new test results are negative.  If test results are positive, the animal should be humanely euthanized, and treatment should begin immediately.
A humane society recently held its fifth annual, local telethon to raise funds and gain exposure for its programs and services. Such an event requires organization and cooperation among community officials and residents, but the results can be worthwhile.

The Nevada Humane Society (P.O. Box Kind, 200 Kresge Lane, Sparks, NV 89431) held the telethon on local television station KAME, Channel 24, last spring. According to Steven Ricker, fund-raiser and assistant director for the society, the organization’s 1986 goal was to raise $50,000. Since, for the first time, it allowed people to pledge for pledges (one pledge for $5,000 turned out to be false), Ricker estimated the group will have raised approximately $54,000 by the time all pledges are accounted for. He said the society hopes to net close to $32,000! By comparison, the July/August 1982 issue of Shelter Sense reported on the society’s first telethon which netted approximately $7,000. The organization spent $22,271.71 on the telethon (air-time on KAME-TV cost $17,000). Expenses included postage, telephone rentals, printing, art supplies, banners, signs, petty cash, office supplies, and advertising.

Three local businesses pledged a total of $3,600: Nevada First Thrift, Meadowood Mall, and Warehouse Markets. Each paid $1,200 in return for a one-hour telethon slot, during which the company was heavily advertised. Also during this hour, a large banner with each company’s name was displayed, and references to each sponsor were made through a character generator (the company names could be read by viewers) and three verbal acknowledgements. In addition, the businesses received acknowledgment in the society’s newsletter, Kind Times, and in the Reno Gazette-Journal. Pre-telethon advertising for the sponsors was donated by radio station KMO, which announced the telethon several weeks before the event, as did KAME-TV. Pledge gifts, including jewelry boxes, T-shirts, dinners, hotel accommodations, and food for the volunteers, were donated by local companies. All organizations that donated something were acknowledged in Kind Times, and some of the more generous sponsors received certificates of appreciation during the telethon.

The 12-hour event was organized by a committee made up of six people: a telethon coordinator, who oversaw all operations of the telethon and was largely in charge of publicity, securing the hosts, VIPs, and free materials; a producer, who oversaw the physical layout of the set; an entertainment director, who was responsible for pre-taping entertainment and lining up live acts; a pledge center coordinator, who handled all aspects of the pledges, as for example, verifications, envelope stuffing, and mailing; a volunteer coordinator, who organized the approximately 200 volunteers (the society had to turn some away); and, a food and beverage coordinator, who obtained all food consumed during the telethon, much of it donated.

Eight regular and four VIP telephones were used. Operators for the regular phones were changed every two hours and for the VIP phones, every hour. Many local celebrities acted up as telephone operators and provided entertainment throughout the telethon. (entertainment was easy to find since many lounge acts operate in the Sierra area). VIPs mostly included local media personalities, corporate heads, local politicians and community leaders.

"Adoption Contracts"
Continued from page 2

control law and an adoption contract, and, in this way, we are educating them," she said. "Now, more people know that we mean business when we require a certain kind of care for adopted animals. We try to keep unwanted pets off the street because they are plentiful and 'cheap' and some people have no regard for them. I and my staff have to kill all these surplus animals, so this is a very important law."

A Wisconsin humane society recently regained custody of a dog adopted from its shelter by a man who subsequently gave the animal to another household to which the shelter earlier had refused to adopt. The man also failed to have the dog licensed and neutered, and he adopted the animal under false pretenses. The case was resolved in court, and the dog eventually was placed in a new home.

According to Patti Trudgeon, executive director of the Elm-Brook Humane Society Inc. (P.O. Box 172, Brookfield, WI 53005), the problem began in February 1985 when Robert Horvath of Brookfield adopted a three-month-old St. Bernard/shepherd-mix puppy and, shortly thereafter, gave the animal to a party whom the shelter previously determined unfit to adopt a shelter animal.

The society’s adoption contract, signed by Horvath, clearly stated "No animal will be adopted for research, guard duty, resale or breeding purposes; and, if this adoption does not work out for whatever reason, the animal shall be returned to the Elm-Brook Humane Society." Thus, when Trudgeon learned of the contract violation, the society filed a complaint in small claims court, asking for return of the animal and for costs incurred as a result of the violation.

During the December 1985 court proceedings, Trudgeon said she testified that there were three additional adoption contracts...
violations by Horvath: The dog was not licensed in the city in which it lived (she had checked earlier that morning to be certain); the dog was not neutered; and the dog was adopted by Horvath under false pretenses because, while he allegedly had claimed the dog was for him, he gave it away (the new owners reportedly claimed he sold the animal to them).

On Dec. 2, 1985, the Honorable Harold J. Wollenzen of the Circuit Court, Small Claims, Waukesha County, in the State of Wisconsin, passed judgement in favor of the humane society and against the defendant. He ordered the dog returned immediately to the humane society and ruled that, if the humane society requested the assistance of a sheriff in obtaining custody of the dog, the sheriff, or someone delegated by him from the sheriff's department, should assist the society in obtaining possession of the dog.

Trudgeon and other society staff members, assisted by a sheriff's deputy, went to the house where the dog was located, but the occupants claimed the dog was lost. The deputy informed the people that they would be in contempt of court if the dog was not found to be on their property or held by a friend or relative. Trudgeon recovered the dog at a relative's house two days later through the cooperation of a sheriff's deputy, who spotted the dog on the person's property. The society did not pursue the contempt-of-court charges. Trudgeon said a thank-you letter was sent to everyone who helped the shelter regain custody of the dog, and copies were sent to their supervisors. Within two weeks, the 70-pound dog was placed in a new home, and, at last check, was approaching 100 pounds!

As a result of this experience, the humane society revised its adoption contract so that it is more explicit about caring for and keeping an animal as a pet and not disposing of it in another manner: "I certify that I am adopting this animal as my own pet and will not give it another party as a gift, nor will I sell the animal, nor will I allow it to be used for research, guard duty, or breeding purposes. If this adoption does not work out, for whatever reason, the animal will be returned to the Elm-Brook Humane Society."

"We are extremely happy with the results of this case," said Trudgeon.

The Norfolk SPCA has pursued adoption contract violators for several years. This, combined with a strong effort to help animal owners understand the terms of the adoption contract and the need for the animals' sterilization, is helping to control such troublesome cases.

According to Kathryn J. Strouse, shelter director since 1982 for the SPCA (916 Ballentine Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23504), the main contract violations are these: Failure to have adopted animals spayed or neutered and/or giving animals to other people before the animals have been sterilized. Several cases have gone to court.

"Some people are against the SPCA's pursuit of these violators, but the publicity hasn't hurt us," said Strouse. "The main reason

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Is Your Adoption Program Keeping Up With the Times?

by Phyllis Wright

Wright is vice president of Companion Animals for The HSUS

Times are changing in virtually all areas of our lives. This nation has a growing population that is more transient, including many who live in large urban areas. This signals a change in the ways pets are being kept and treated. There was a time when a family lived in one home for many years, for example. Now, many families move several times, and pets can suffer as a result.

Is your organization keeping up with the times? Our cover story on adoption contract violations reemphasizes the immediate need for humane organizations to review their adoption qualifications, applications, and contracts. The '80s have brought forth many new city, county, and state ordinances that cover the sterilization of dogs and cats adopted from animal shelters.

Your organization only adds to the burdensome, surplus animal population when it fails to adequately follow up animal adoptions with requests for proof of sterilization and adequate humane care. If you fail to follow up adoptions, you fail to see those animals that fall victim to abuse and neglect. When you don't see those horrors, your organization has not prevented cruelty to animals.

Legislation can be one of your organization's most powerful weapons in the battle to protect companion animals. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) recently updated a model ordinance and discussion of animal-regulation and -control problems. Titled Responsible Animal Regulation, the booklet will help you convince your local government about the importance of establishing strong laws and programs to protect both pets and people in your community. To order, send a $1.50 check or money order to The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Specify order #AC4008.

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