Horses, Ponies Suffer, Too. How Can You Help?

by Debbie Reed

Horses and ponies appear to enjoy summer's breezes, fertile pastures, and sunny days. Nevertheless, some can't enjoy this season because their owners put them out to pasture and neglect them or otherwise abuse them. Shelter workers must be aware of proper horse and pony care so that they can respond to reports of inhumane treatment.

Several recent cases involving horses or ponies illustrate the types of mistreatment commonly suffered by these animals.

* On July 16, 1985, Ernest Kirksey of Rockwell, N.Car., was found guilty of cruelty for leaving his pony, "Peanuts," tied outside without care until a chain around the animal's neck cut into his flesh approximately three inches deep. The pony also had been unable to move beyond the 20-foot chain's reach and was without water or food, according to Bonnie Smith-Hoffner, cruelty

Continued on next page
The third article in a series about humane solutions to wildlife problems that began with the March 1987 issue.

O f all the problems between humans and other animals, none is as common or troublesome as the presence of mice and rats. These rodents adapt successfully to the human environment. Undoubtedly, people don't want them living in homes, offices, or animal shelters; however, some are reluctant to kill them except as a last resort. Fortunately, there are humane, effective ways to remove them from buildings.

Some wildlife biologists question the wisdom of exterminating mice or rats. Poison baits and snap traps traditionally are used against them, but usually do not provide a permanent solution. The major drawback in killing a mouse or rat is that another can replace it, making for an endless cycle of rodents repopulating a building as fast as they can be removed with poisons or traps. A house mouse can breed at four weeks of age, has an average litter of six to 10, and can produce as many as six litters annually. A large majority mature within a year and produce their own young. Under the best conditions, a mouse could produce in one year's time as many as 450,000 offspring if none of her descendants perished. Rats also reproduce at a fast rate. This enables rodents to survive most human assaults.

Two conditions promote rodent infestation: structural deficiencies, which provide entry, and poor sanitation or food storage, which makes food available. As long as a building offers a hospitable environment, reinfestation is inevitable. Therefore, it's best to prevent mice and rats from entering buildings in the first place. Pest experts call this "rodent-proofing." To avoid infestation, identify entryways, pathways, and food sources used by mice or rats. Altering the building's physical characteristics deprives the animals of shelter and food sources.

Mice travel through very small openings. They can crawl through holes the size of dimes. They also can burrow through sheetrock. Mice and rats often enter a house through loose-fitting basement windows, small holes in the foundation, vents in the basement or attic, and gaps in weatherstripping. They can scurry through holes around water pipes or electrical conduits, are excellent climbers, and can run up any rough, vertical surface. Once inside, mice and rats can climb along wooden beams and travel throughout the house, even into attics. They nest in basements, attics, sewers, subflooring, open garbage cans, piles of trash, and walls.

Mice and rats are most active in the dark. Sounds such as gnawing or scurrying provide evidence of their activity. Tiny cigar-shaped droppings (about one-eighth-inch long) are a sign of mice. Rat droppings are similarly shaped but approximately two to four times as long. Gnawing may be visible at the base of stored foods such as boxes of breakfast cereal. Nests usually are made from shredded paper or other fibrous material such as insulation. Footprints or tail markings may be visible in dust. (As an aid in tracking rodent movements, spread flour around areas where they have been seen. As the animals move about, they will leave tiny white pawprints.)
To discourage rodents from entering a building, block or screen all holes and openings larger than one-quarter inch. Make certain building materials are resistant to gnawing or prying. Patch cracks in concrete and masonry with mortar. Replace or cover any wood surfaces that contain holes with galvanized sheet metal or heavy-gauge (one-quarter-inch mesh) hardware cloth. Tightly fasten floor drains.

Mice and rats look for a steady source of food, so sanitation is important in eliminating them. They are attracted by kitchen odors and may live off the food they find there. Crumbs on a counterop or floor, or accumulated at the bottom of a toaster, are a favorite source of nourishment. Container lids left ajar, food that drops into the stove, and unground garbage in a disposal attract these rodents.

Dry goods should be stored in cabinets or on shelves at least 10 inches above the floor or counter. Food stored in bags or boxes on the counter should be placed inside metal or glass canisters with lids. In the utility room, sacks of pet food and bird or grass seed should be stored in rodent-proof containers such as large metal garbage cans with lids. Pet food should not be left overnight in an open dish.

Mice and rats eat garbage stored in open cans or plastic trash bags. Rodents even eat food scraps in backyard incinerators. They also eat fruits and vegetables decaying under trees and in gardens, bird seed collected on the ground, and garbage in compost piles. A homeowner who feeds birds,chipmunks, or squirrels should place the food in feeders, and suspend them in trees where they can't be reached by rodents. Limit the quantity to what birds or other animals can eat in one day, to avoid leftovers.

In a shelter, rodents are attracted by such things as waste material and food left constantly in feeders. Mice and rats can contaminate food, cause disease, and upset the shelter animals and workers. Shelter managers must survey their shelters to determine where and how cat and dog food is stored and how thoroughly waste material is removed from the property each day.

Weeds and tall grass around a building provide runways and hiding places for rodents. Brush piles and debris can provide a haven, too. Remove piles of materials, such as bricks, because they provide shelter. Stack firewood and lumber away from the building, and elevate it 18 inches to 24 inches off the ground so mice cannot nest underneath. Do not allow water to collect in receptacles. They become drinking fountains for rodents.

After a building has been rodent-proofed, it may be necessary to trap and remove mice or rats left inside. Live traps -- cages or metal boxes with spring-loaded doors that close after an animal enters -- should be used (such traps capture animals without killing them). Follow the manufacturer's instructions for setting these traps (sunflower seeds are a good bait). Check traps at least once a day to prevent a trapped animal from starving. Humanely captured rodents should be released away from the building.

MATERIALS

PR Firm Focuses on Humane Societies

Glueboards are the newest equipment for killing rodents. Advertisements and package instructions may mislead a consumer into thinking that a glueboard merely is another type of live capture trap. Actually, a glueboard is a cardboard tray, coated with a strong adhesive. Any mouse or rat that treads on the surface will be caught. Other small animals, such as kittens, have been known to become stuck on glueboards. Not only do glueboards cause victims prolonged suffering (torn flesh and starvation, for example) and eventual death, they are as ineffective as poisons or snap traps.

There are numerous ways to remove rodents or to make a building less attractive to them. An excellent source of guidance is a state cooperative extension service. Your local extension agent usually can offer specific advice in rodent-proofing a building. Some extension service agencies publish literature on rodent-proofing.

When the job gets too big for simple remedies, a homeowner or building superintendent can hire a pest-control specialist. Check for a reliable firm that won't try to sell a costly service contract merely to spread poison bait around the building. A handyman or home-improvement contractor also may be in the business of rodent-proofing buildings. Before a homeowner signs any contract, he or she should be certain that the person hired is a professional who is knowledgeable about rodent-proofing and is skillful in applying the techniques outlined above.

It may not be easy to solve the problem of mice or rats. It can be difficult to rodent-proof certain structures such as old homes. Success in managing mice or rats will depend on techniques selected but on skill and timing of application. Nevertheless, rodent-proofing is the most humane, effective, and permanent approach to dealing with rodent infestations, whether they occur within an animal shelter or a citizen's home.

I ncrease public awareness of your humane society, create the funds necessary for large projects or long-range goals, increase supporters, and promote responsible pet ownership with the help of Power House Marketing (PHM).

PHM, a public relations firm based in Tulsa, Okla., and headed by Steve and Stephanie House, has developed programs to raise awareness of and funds for local humane societies. PHM limits its services to humane organizations. No up-front fees or long-term contracts are required. All expenses incurred by a project, except for postage, are paid from the first donations generated by the campaign. If sufficient funds are not raised to meet these costs, PHM pays them. PHM is compensated only after expenses are paid and when the project is a success. The firm's basic fee is based on a percentage of the net income created by the campaign and varies depending on the amount of support by the organization.
New Games Teach Cat
And Dog Trivia

Two new games make learning about pet owner responsibility -- from medical disorders to nutrition and training -- fun for the entire family. Animal-welfare organizations now can sell the games and make a profit.

Marketed by K.J.R. Marketing International Inc., "So You Think You Know About Dogs* and "So You Think You Know About Cats* consist of 1,200 trivia questions about these animals with true or false or multiple-choice answers. A set of dice, a scorecard, and three ribbons are included.

Local organizations can purchase either the dog game, the cat game, or a combination of the two in quantities of 10 for $14.95 each. By reselling them for the suggested retail price of $19.95 each, organizations can make a $5 profit per game.

If organizations prefer, they can sell the games on consignment for $19.95 each, deduct $5 per game for themselves, and send K.J.R. Marketing the remaining $14.95 per game. Organizations also can place an article and coupon, addressed to K.J.R. Marketing, in their newsletters or magazines to ask readers to order games from K.J.R. Marketing for $19.95 each plus tax. Games sold in this manner also earn participating organizations $5 donations from the company.

To order games or to obtain further information, write to K.J.R. Marketing International Inc., 683 Peace Portal Drive, P.O. Box F.195-2, Blaine, WA 98230, or telephone (206) 332-5511 or (604) 581-0842.

A local humane society has designed materials to help humane educators integrate humane education with schools' mandatory curriculum. The materials can be purchased and used by humane educators nationwide.

*A Pet is ... a Friend in Need* was developed by Maggie Ongaro, director of humane education for the Denver Dumb Friends League in Colorado. The reproducible ideas are divided into categories such as math, science, games, and more. Bound in a three-ring notebook, the base curriculum unit can be expanded. When the League develops supplements for specific areas, it will notify purchasers so that they can buy them.

The base curriculum unit is available for $20, including postage and handling. Send check or money order (no cash, please) to Maggie Ongaro, Director of Humane Education, Denver Dumb Friends League, 2080 S. Quebec St., Denver, CO 80231. Allow at least four weeks for delivery.

Shelter workers and veterinarians sometimes treat dogs and cats that have been poisoned by anticoagulant rodenticides and other substances. With the help of a brochure, they now may be better able to recognize and treat accidental poisonings and to educate pet owners about the danger of carelessly using these chemicals.

"The Professional's Guide to Managing Poisoning by Anticoagulant Rodenticides," published by Chemar, a division of Liphia Chemicals Inc., discusses background on rodents, rodent control, and anticoagulants; case studies of poisoned animals; and recommended treatment of poisoned animals. It includes a color and size reference chart to help workers recognize rodenticides by sight and substance.

To order a free copy of this brochure, call 1-800-558-1003, or write to Chemar, 3101 W. Custer Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53209. Identify the brochure by name. Quantities are limited, so one brochure per customer, please.

A new product, developed by a humane society volunteer, offers a simple, organized, and easy approach to searching for lost pets.

According to Janice K. Breaux, her new "Lost Pet Search & Find Kit" was developed after she had volunteered for several humane societies and discovered that many pet owners were unable to produce readable posters to distribute throughout their neighborhoods when their pets were lost. Each kit contains five posters or cards in a single size and color and instructions and suggestions for their placement. Different colors and sizes can be mixed or matched as desired. The posters come in canary, goldenrod, slate gray, light blue, and pastel pink.

One kit of 4-inch by 6-inch cards on heavy stock costs 50 cents; 8-inch by 11-inch regular-sized posters, 65 cents; 11-inch by 17-inch large-sized posters, 90 cents; and 5-inch by 14-inch extra-long posters on heavy stock, 95 cents. Designate color choices when ordering. For further information, contact Janice K. Breaux, Animal Care Unlimited, Rte. 3, Box 1336C, Lacomb, LA 70445, or telephone (504) 882-5601.

BD&ECO, a manufacturer of animal dryers and grooming equipment, and Gerald Pellham, producer of shampoos and other grooming and pet health care products, have combined to make their products available directly to all SPCAs and animal shelters nationwide.
Among the benefits of this service are maintenance and repair, full warranties, and the promise that if a customer is not satisfied, he or she can return a purchase within 30 days for a full refund. Customers can purchase products with Visa or MasterCard, through the "1/3 Program" (1/3 payment with the order, 1/3 on delivery, and 1/3 in 30 days for equipment only), by C.O.D., or by deducting 4 percent for sending a check for the full amount with an order.

For more information, call THE REA COMPANY, EDEMCO at (805) 658-1336 or, in California, (800) 332-2033. You may write to the company at 3007 S. Bunsen Ave., Ventura, CA 93001.

Database Software Review: PFS Professional File

by Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

In this column, Shelter Sense continues its evaluation of database management programs currently used by some shelters nationwide. Future reviews will deal with other "off the shelf" software as well as programs designed specifically to handle animal licensing and control.

PFS: PROFESSIONAL FILE

PFS: Professional File is the latest version of PFS: File, which was widely distributed by IBM a few years ago under the name IBM Filing Assistant. It was one of the first database programs available for IBM PCs and compatibles, and it remains one of the best. It requires at least 256K RAM and DOS 2.0 or higher. A hard disk system is recommended.

PFS is a flat-file program. It cannot compare information from two different sets of data automatically (for example, donors and people who have adopted animals). It is not programmable for fancy applications. Nevertheless, it is suited ideally for the simple entry and retrieval of information that characterizes most shelter needs.

This program's main strength is its ease of use. To set up a new database, merely select the "design" option from the menu, and type a blank form on the screen. Form designs can be changed at any time without losing data. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has used the program to create special purpose databases in minutes, including mailing lists, survey results, and an inventory of animal-control legislation.

To retrieve records, enter the information you want to match on the blank form, and the program will search for appropriate entries. Complex searches, involving comparisons with several fields at once, are quite easy.

Despite the apparent simplicity of the program, it has much of the same power of programs that are far more costly and difficult to learn. Information can be sorted in many different ways. You can type a blank form on the screen. Form designs can be changed at any time without losing data. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has used the program to create special purpose databases in minutes, including mailing lists, survey results, and an inventory of animal-control legislation.

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The combination of power, price, and simplicity in PFS: Professional File is unmatched by any other database programs evaluated by The HSUS. Other programs do more, or do it faster, but often they require substantial professional assistance or training. This is an excellent choice for a start-up system or for applications involving only a few thousand records or simple search requirements. Also, if you outgrow the program, the data in your files can be exported easily to more powerful programs such as Dbase III+, Dbase System V, or Lotus.

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The executive director of a local humane society has alerted a manufacturer of cat cages about a defect in the cages’ design that has resulted in severe injury to some shelter animals. The company has responded positively, and shelters nationwide should note the problem and its solution.

According to David Fernelius, executive director of the Humane Society of Genesee County (507 S. Second St., Burton, MI 48529), the Schroer Manufacturing Company, which includes the trade name "Shor-Line," inadvertently designed its cages for cats and kittens to allow them to reach their front legs up to their chests between August 1 and 15. The program also can generate mailing labels up to 64 across.

Help is always close at hand with PFS. Pressing the F1 key brings up a detailed HELP menu that clearly describes current program options. The documentation is very well written, but you will rarely have to refer to the manual.

Another advantage of PFS: Professional File is that it is designed to work with the rest of the PFS series, including an excellent word processing program PFS: Professional Write, the PFS: Plan spreadsheet program, and the PFS: Access telecommunications software.

There are limitations to the program that may make it unsuitable for shelters that handle more than a few thousand records each year. Each file is limited to four megabytes or 29,500 records, which is more than enough for most applications. Search speed is the main limitation. Only the first field in your record is indexed for rapid searching. Thus, if your form starts with the field "License Number," the complete record corresponding to any of 29,500 numbers can be accessed in under two seconds. However, searching for a match with any of the other fields (for example, "Last Name") is done record-by-record at a rate of approximately 20 records/seconds for a typical file, which could entail a wait of four or five minutes to locate one name in a list of 5,000.

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The doors and the corner brackets. In this position, the animals' legs slide either downward from the upper corners or sideways from the lower corners, causing broken limbs and/or radial nerve damage, a condition that sometimes requires amputation and euthanasia.

"We have had over 100 cats and kittens caught in this fashion in the cage doors," said Fernelius. "If our humane society has had this same problem, then it is very likely that others have experienced the same problem." Fernelius wrote to the company and notified The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) about the problem. In turn, Phyllis Wright, HSUS vice president of Companion Animals, wrote to the company. It responded promptly and helpfully.

"Our salesman...was in contact with Mr. Fernelius the day we received his letter. He shipped him some 'corner closers' that we designed several months ago. Mr. Fernelius informed us that these did solve his problem, and he is satisfied now," wrote Schroer sales representative Pinky Harper to Wright. "If you hear of anyone else having this problem, please let us know, or let them know that these [the corner closers] are available to them at no charge."

Local shelters that wish to learn more about the potentially dangerous cage design or order the free protective 'corner closers' should write to Schroer Manufacturing Company, 2221 Campbell St., Kansas City, MO 64108, or telephone (816) 471-0488.


This year's conference theme, "Making a Difference ... for Animals," highlights the interesting, up-to-date sessions to be presented there. Among them are:

* a pre-conference symposium, "Humane Education: Crucial Lessons for Today's Children," including 16 different topics within a roundtable format and chaired by workshop leaders from around the nation. This event will be sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE), a division of The HSUS;

* a Thursday conference session, opened with addresses by Dr. Amy Freeman Lee, artist and educator, and Dr. Tom Regan, philosopher. Friday, guest speakers will include the Western regional director for the World Society for the Protection of Animals, John C. Walsh, and HSUS director of Higher Education Programs, Dr. Randall Lockwood. A unique forum, "Being, Becoming, and Staying Humane," will cap Friday's programs;

* a variety of workshops on Thursday and Saturday, offering conferees the latest information on many specific issues facing today's animal community;

* a Saturday banquet, as special and fun as ever but including some surprises such as the introduction of a new annual award.

As reported in the humane society's publication, Voice of Humanity (spring 1987), investigators visited the ranch and met with its owner, Larry Blackmon, last January. Unable to obtain the court's permission to seize animals or other evidence of cruelty, investigators insisted on visiting the outer corrals and pastures on the ranch. There they found pregnant mares with protruding ribs and hip bones, some stunted and skeletal yearlings, carcasses of dead horses, and more. Blackmon would not allow the investigators to take photographs of the scenes they were witnessing, according to the report.

On February 3, the group, accompanied by a Wichita Falls veterinarian, a local horseman, and two of his helpers, returned to the ranch with a warrant to seize evidence. The humane society reports that "at least 100 of the horses needed immediate attention." Since it was impossible for the small group to transport all of the horses, the group selected five that represented a cross section of the horses' sex and age and the area of the ranch to which they had been confined. The five included an injured, sick filly; two emaciated, elderly, pregnant mares; a gelding; and a stallion.

Several days later, a trial to determine whether or not the five horses had been neglected took place in Montague. Witnesses included two former ranch managers who testified that necessary food, medicine, and other supplies arrived at the ranch either late or not at all and that unhealthy mares were aborting fetuses. The two left their employ when conditions on the ranch failed to improve. Blackmon did not testify in his defense.

Last February, the judge ruled in the humane society's favor, finding that the horses had been neglected. They were ordered not to be returned to the B2B Ranch. Medical examinations revealed that one filly had bone fragments within a head wound and an abcessed hernia that had allowed a portion of her intestines to drop out.

According to Jo Ann Davis, editor of Voice of Humanity, Blackmon recently appealed and lost his case in county court but has filed a new appeal. A July hearing is scheduled. Five criminal charges of failing to provide necessary food and care for an animal, filed...
against Blackmon by the county attorney (each offense is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed $2,000 and/or a jail term not to exceed one year), have not yet been resolved. All five horses are well and gaining weight. Davis said the other horses disappeared from the B2 B Ranch after permission to seize them was granted to humane officials by the court.

* The Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies Inc. reports that many area farmers who have delayed paying their utility bills because of the present farm crisis have had utilities disconnected, threatening the welfare of their livestock. According to its publication, Federation News (winter 1986-87), a recent Public Service Commission seminar, to which the Federation sent Laurie Berger, humane officer for the Portage County Humane Society (P.O. Box 512, Stevens Point, WI 54481), resulted in more organized efforts to respond to the needs of farmers and utility companies.

Farm accounts fall under Public Service Commission regulations for delinquent commercial accounts. A utility is required to provide a farmer with at least eight days notice before any scheduled service disconnection, to give him or her time to do what is necessary to avoid it.

In a letter to Shelter Sense, Berger wrote, "I was impressed with the concern of the Public Service Commission and the efforts to help the farmer before disconnection takes place. There are many programs available to the farmer for assistance. The biggest problem is getting the farmer to take advantage of these programs."

The seminar included a discussion paper concerning the Farm Utility Disconnections Program to assess procedures for handling delinquent farm accounts. Part of the discussion centered on what can be done when, and who should be told, about individual credit problems, as well as when the decision should be made whether or not to continue utility services to a farm.

The discussion paper emphasized that the success of this program depends upon continual exchange of information, and it identified several groups that should be notified of a planned service disconnection with regard to animal health. Questions are being addressed concerning at what point these groups should be involved and what information they need in order to make an informed judgement regarding removal of livestock from a farm.

What kind of care should horses and ponies receive? At all times, an owner must be aware of the condition and location of his or her animals. An owner should give an animal time to adjust to new surroundings and feeding and training routines before expecting it to respond freely. The Hooved Animal Humane Society (P.O. Box 262, Barrington, IL 60010) was chartered to help large animals that are victims of neglect or abuse. Donna Ewing, president, said many of the cases they investigate involve horses. According to that organization and other sources such as the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University and The Arabian Horse Owners Foundation, standards for proper care include these:

* Keep animals in a clean, sanitary shelter that is dry and draft-free.

* Maintain stalls free of sharp objects and with ample natural light.

* Remove manure and damp or dirty bedding. Flies multiply around these conditions, and lower a horse's or pony's resistance to disease. They also suck its blood, pass on diseases, and cause the animal to become confused and irritated because of the constant need to fight off pests. Good commercial sprays are helpful, as long as they are not sprayed on feeds, in water, or in other areas where they can come into contact with animals. Haul manure away or spread thinly on pastures twice a week, keep stalls dry, and remove garbage or waste materials.

* Use a level-clay or packed-gravel floor.

* Supply clean water daily. Be certain that water is not frozen during the winter.

* Groom a horse or pony frequently during its early life, to promote good health and to help it be more manageable and trustworthy.

* Since internal parasites are common in horses and ponies, arrange for a veterinarian to check a young animal's fecal sample every three months.

* Castrate young colts between one and two years of age.

* Check fences and corrals for loose posts.

* Do not allow a blanketed horse or pony to stand in the rain. Do not halter a horse put out to pasture, because a wet halter can shrink and injure the animal.

* Provide a horse or pony that is out to pasture with shade and water.

* A good pasture has green grasses or mixtures, including alfalfa or clover (not grazed over or one- or two-inch stubble), and is clipped to prevent high growth and weeds.

* If necessary, use several feed boxes (in a group, one animal may try to dominate the others). During winter, or when pastureland is inaccessible, provide clean, sweet-smelling hay and good-quality grain. A reputable feed dealer can tell you about feeds.

* Watch for digestive disturbances, such as colic. A full, rich pasture can be bad for a horse that is not used to it.

* Some owners are guilty of overfeeding and underexercising; do what is best for an individual animal. In general, feed at least two times a day. Give working horses periodic rests.

* Protein is important in feeding a horse or pony. Ask a veterinarian about proper protein supplements.

* Salt always should be available to horses and ponies whether or not it is in a salt box or mixed with grain. Minerals, calcium, and phosphorus are other important elements in a horse's or pony's diet.

Continued on next page
A horse depends greatly on having healthy feet that feel good. Keep feet clean, prevent them from drying out, and trim them to the proper shape and length. Learn the parts of a horse's feet. Clean and check feet for stones, sores, and other problems every day. Talk to a veterinarian about ways to maintain moist hooves and about finding a good farrier. If hooves are not trimmed approximately once a month, the wall of a hoof may break off.

* Keep teeth in good condition by asking a veterinarian to check them every few months.

Owners of horses, ponies, and other livestock should be encouraged to ask questions about the proper care for these animals. People may be responsible for an animal's suffering without understanding that fact. Other people enjoy years of pleasure from their hooved animals. As shelter workers, you can help to improve the lives of hooved animals in your community by responding to reports of inhumane treatment and by cooperating with the hooved-animal specialists in your area.

Supervisory position (veterinary technician, optional) available at large Maryland animal shelter. Immediate opening. Competitive salary. Responsibilities include euthanasia; supervising caretakers and kennel; some cleaning; administrative, medicating, and diagnostic work; and some weekend work. Send resumes to Linda Conrad, Manager, Prince Georges County Animal-Control Facility, 811 Darcy Road, Forestville, MD 20747.

Director of animal control needed to plan, administer, and supervise City of Alexandria, Va., animal-control operations. Requires five years of animal-control or related experience. Annual salary, $23,738. For information, call (703) 838-6498. Closing date, July 24.

Animal-control program manager to operate county animal-control agency. Must have bachelor's degree in business or public administration or related field, plus two years of animal-control program experience, including one year at the supervisory level. Annual salary, $24,689 to $33,196. For a required application, contact Lane County Personnel, 125 E. 8th, Eugene, OR 97401; telephone, (503) 687-4171. BOS.

Manager needed for kennels of a large animal shelter. Responsible for all aspects of animal care. Must have supervisory and/or animal-handling experience. Prefer a veterinary technician. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to Norfolk SPCA, 916 Ballentine Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23504.

Public information officer needed to manage media relations for large, progressive humane society. Requires Bachelor's degree and two years of experience, strong writing and editing ability, and a high level of protection to animals. Send resumes by August 12 to Peninsula Humane Society, 12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94403; Attn. PR Officer.

Kennel supervisor needed. Must have strong management skills and suitable experience in kennel operations. Will supervise 23 kennel attendants. Salary range, $16,000 to $24,000 per year, depending on experience. Send resume to Personnel, Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley, 2530 Lafayette St., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Your Pet Needs A Rabies Vaccination, NOW!

Reports of rabies, a deadly virus that attacks the nervous system of warmblooded animals, have increased alarmingly in recent months, even in neighborhoods like yours. To protect your cat or dog and yourself from bites by a rabid bat, skunk, raccoon, cat, or dog:

- vaccinate your pet now, particularly if it plays outdoors;
- obey leash laws. Pets that run loose are in danger of being bitten by rabid animals;
- report stray animals immediately to your local shelter or humane society;
- leave wild animals alone. Do not rescue wild baby animals (rabid animals may appear unusually friendly at first; mother skunks are known to pass rabies on to their babies);
- see a doctor immediately if you or your pet or child are bitten by an animal.

Take these steps now to guard against rabies. Protect your pet. Protect yourself.

Provided by The Humane Society of the United States

(Your space for your organization’s name and address)
Our cover story may surprise you. "After all," you may ask, "aren't we really concerned only with sheltered cats and dogs?" No. There are other animals in your community that are kept as pets or for other purposes. Sometimes these animals suffer greatly. Horses and ponies often are neglected or abused, or well-meaning owners may not realize the proper way to care for them and other livestock.

Be aware of other types of animals in your community. Many of these animals are pastured out of sight of the public. Take time to consult with veterinarians, 4-H extension agents, breeders, and other experts concerning the potential problems and proper techniques in caring for these animals. When you receive a call for help from a citizen, you should be prepared to respond promptly and effectively.

By organizing your list of community resources, you not only will increase your shelter's professionalism, you could reduce the misery of animals that otherwise may suffer in silence for many months.

Randy Pennington, humane investigator for Fauquier County, Virginia (Rt. 2, Box 82, Warrenton, VA 22186), seeks experienced horse owners to help her follow up adoptions of wild horses, particularly along the East Coast, through a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) program.

In the program, wild horses may be placed in "Satellite Centers" (temporary holding facilities) where they can be adopted. If not, they are sent to permanent adoption facilities, either in Crossplains, Tenn., or Lewisberry, Pa.

According to HSUS investigator Tahira Shane, the BLM investigates a limited number of complaints about neglect or mistreatment of these adopted horses. When horses are adopted ($125 for a horse; $75 for a burro; animals are branded), the BLM maintains the title for one year during which time the animal can be removed from the new owner if such action is warranted. After one year, the owner receives the title. After meeting with a BLM official, Pennington has offered to support the agency's efforts to monitor conditions before adopters receive title to their animals.