Controlling Fleas at Home

By Geoffrey L. Handy and Guy R. Hodge, HSUS Director, Data and Information Services, in consultation with Dr. Melanie Adcock, HSUS Staff Veterinarian

For shelters and pet owners in virtually every part of the country, controlling fleas is a yearly struggle. The pesky insects not only torment dogs and cats and annoy pet owners, but also cause health problems for pets such as anemia, allergies, skin infections, and tapeworm infestations.

There is no single, tried-and-true method of flea control. In fact, many of the various approaches provoke arguments between those who swear they work and those who swear they don't. The essential thing to remember is that flea control will rarely be achieved simply by a shampoo here or a flea
small collar there. Getting rid of the bothersome pests takes hard work and persistence.

By now, most shelters have established flea-control regimens that work for them. But when pet owners throw up their hands in frustration, humane societies and animal control departments should be prepared to provide them with the latest information on safe, effective tactics for the home.

The Life of the Flea

Controlling fleas is nearly impossible without understanding their life cycle. Adult fleas use their powerful piercing-sucking mouthparts to bite a dog or cat and dine on its blood for several days. After mating, the female lays anywhere from 3 to 18 eggs at a time (up to 400 in a year), usually off the host. If the eggs are laid on the host, they will soon fall off and lodge in bedding, carpets, upholstery, or cracks in the floor. A complete metamorphosis then occurs; each egg hatches and passes through three larval stages and a pupal (cocoon) stage before the adult flea emerges. When the adult insect feels the body warmth or vibrations of an approaching animal, it will jump onto its coat and the cycle begins again.

Incredibly enough, the flea can vary its egg-to-adult life cycle anywhere from 18 days to 20 months, depending on temperature and humidity conditions. The adult flea can then live without feeding for several more weeks.

That's why, to the surprise of most pet owners, the flea can spend as little as 10 percent of its entire life on the host dog or cat. It's also why one flea-control expert believes that for every flea seen on a pet, some 10 to 100 more are probably nearby getting set to hitch a ride. When you consider that most pet owners' plan of attack revolves around treatment of the pet only, you'll realize why their efforts are usually futile.

Treat the Pet and the Environment

The solution is to treat the home as well as the animal, which means a thorough vacuuming and cleaning. It's the single most effective way to eliminate fleas from the home. The dog or cat owner should start by washing all pet bedding in hot, soapy water. If the infestation is severe, it may be advisable to destroy the bedding. Next, all carpets, upholstery, and drapes should be vacuumed (or steam cleaned, for heavy infestations), and hard floors mopped. Clean periodically vacuuming and cleaning. It's the single most effective way to eliminate fleas from the home. The dog or cat owner should start by washing all pet bedding in hot, soapy water. If the infestation is severe, it may be advisable to destroy the bedding. Next, all carpets, upholstery, and drapes should be vacuumed (or steam cleaned, for heavy infestations), and hard floors mopped. Clean

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No pesticide will control fleas as effectively as periodic vacuuming and cleaning.

thoroughly in areas where pets sleep or rest, as well as in crevices and along walls. Immediately after vacuuming, the pet owner should either suck a cotton ball impregnated with insecticide into the vacuum cleaner to kill the fleas, or seal the vacuum cleaner bag in a plastic garbage bag.

Thorough cleanings (combined with treatment of the pet itself) should be repeated at weekly intervals until the infestation begins to subside. If the problem isn't totally eliminated, the pet owner may wish to add a residual insecticide that is applied to furniture and carpets rather than the pet. Pump sprays and aerosol foggers (or "bombs") are the two most common forms of such pesticides. The spray is better since it can be directed under furniture and only in areas of the house where the pet sleeps or plays, though it may have to be used in concert with a bomb for severe infestations.

The problem with most pesticides, including home sprays and foggers, is that they kill only adult fleas. Unhatched eggs and larvae that have escaped the reach of the vacuum cleaner will remain behind and later grow into adults. But one of the newest categories of chemicals added to the pest-control arsenal will prevent adult fleas from ever emerging.

These are called insect growth regulators (IGRs), synthetic hormones that prevent developing pests from advancing past the larval stage. Studies have shown that the most common flea IGR, methoprene (manufactured under the trade name Precor, by the Zoecon Corporation), effectively controls fleas for months after just one home application and is extremely safe to both humans and animals.

Because synthetic hormones like methoprene are unstable in light, they cannot be used outdoors. But treatment of the outside (and even the car) with other safe flea-control products should not be ignored.

Finally, The HSUS offers a word of caution about professional exterminators. They may be helpful for extreme infestations, but treatments can turn any home into a den of toxicity that may be unsafe for children and pets long after the application.

Treating the Pet

Obviously, treating the environment without simultaneously ridding the pet itself of the little varmlnts won't get the pet owner very far. Despite all the pesticidal sprays, dips, and powders marketed to kill and repel fleas, The HSUS recommends that the pet owner start with periodic shampooing and daily grooming with a flea comb. This combination, in tandem with regular cleaning of the home, is both safe for the pet and highly effective.

The animal should first be bathed with a non-medicated pet shampoo, which should kill all the fleas on the animal at the time. A mild, medicated "flea" shampoo or a soap with insecticidal properties (such as Safer's Insecticidal Soap) can be used; the shampoo will rinse off safely with water. Shampoos should be applied periodically according to directions until the problem is under control.

The pet should also be groomed each day with a flea comb (available in most pet supply stores). After each stroke through the pet's fur, the comb must be dipped in a dish of soapy water to drown the fleas. Special attention should be given to the base of the animal's tail and the underside of the body between the hind legs. It's also particularly important to use the comb when the animal comes in from outside.

Oils, Powders, Sprays, Dips, Collars...

This shampoo/flea comb regimen should succeed in keeping fleas off most pets. But cat owners will find that giving their feline a
Remember, Pesticides Are Poisons

The HSUS often receives calls from frantic pet owners whose pets have either died or are terribly sick after having been dipped, sprayed, or powdered with a pesticide. Before the advent of every flea season, humane organizations should use their newsletters and issue press releases and PSAs to warn consumers that misuse of insecticides can sicken or kill their pets.

The two worst mistakes a pet owner can make are not reading the label before using an insecticide and not following the directions. The pet owner should be careful not to apply too much insecticide or use it too frequently. Pesticides should not be used on extremely young, old, sick, pregnant, or heartworm-infected animals and formulations for dogs should never be used on cats.

Finally, the pet owner should verify in advance that all chemicals used on a pet or in the home are compatible, especially if an exterminator is used. As a rule of thumb, pet owners should only use one pesticide at a time on their pet, and combine it with a non-toxic alternative such as a flea comb. To be safe, The HSUS strongly recommends that a pet owner seek the expert guidance of a veterinarian before applying any pesticide to an animal.

Symptoms of toxic reactions include diarrhea, vomiting, salivation, difficulty in breathing, incoordination, muscle tremors, convulsions, weakness, apprehension, depression, and other abnormal behaviors. At the first hint of a toxic reaction to a pesticide, the animal should be examined immediately by a veterinarian. Early diagnosis and treatment could save the animal’s life.

bath may be impossible without a fight. Or they may discover that for heavy infestations, work after the cat or dog has been treated natural flea control approaches are recommended through the testimonials of many pet owners. Adding small amounts of garlic or brewer's yeast to the pet's food. Whether the yeast contains vitamin Bl it will contribute to the repels fleas is subject to debate, but since it powdered herbs like sage and vetiver are also reported to be useful in flea control. Dilluted oil can be rubbed into the animal’s fur or one-quarter teaspoon of the oil can be added to a non-medicated shampoo. (Undiluted oil should never be applied directly to an animal’s skin.) Herbs can be sprinkled over the animal’s fur to repel fleas. If pet owners have tried all these non- pesticidal approaches to treating the pet but find their companion still infested with fleas, then insecticidal products in combination with a non-medicated shampoo are their last option before a trip to the veterinarian.

Pesticides that can be applied directly to the pet fall into several basic categories: organophosphates, carbamates, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and botanicals (see chart). Of these insecticides, botanicals are the least toxic. Products containing natural pyrethrins fall into this class, making them the safest form (relatively) of pesticide. The HSUS suggests powders or foam sprays for cats; they abhor the hissing of aerosol cans and may lick and ingest more poisons from dips than from other forms. Dips are more commonly used on dogs, but powders and sprays are safer for them, too. Flea collars are convenient, but their effectiveness is questionable. Collars often lose potency in about three weeks; release insecticide unevenly over the pet’s body, or cause skin irritations around the neck area. They should not be used in combination with any other pesticidal product, and should be “aired” for a couple of days before being put on a pet.

Insecticides Commonly Used in Flea Control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Chemical</th>
<th>Chemical Names Often Found on Product Labels (Active Ingredients)</th>
<th>Description and Toxic Potential</th>
<th>HSUS Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organophosphates</td>
<td>chlorpyrifos, chlorpyrifos, cythioate, diazinon, dichlorvos, dioxathion, fenthion, malathion, naled, parathion, phosmet, rotenone, emephe, tetradifon; often listed as “cholinesterase inhibitors”</td>
<td>kill fleas quickly; leave residue for further killing action; toxicity depends on particular product; considered to be one of chemical groups that is most toxic to vertebrates; cythioate and fenthion are “systemics,” which kill fleas by rendering an animal’s blood toxic</td>
<td>not recommended in any form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbamates</td>
<td>bendiocarb, carbaryl, methylcarbamates, propoxur; often listed as “cholinesterase inhibitors”</td>
<td>kill fleas quickly; leave residue for further killing action; toxicity depends on particular product; according to one study, they are the most common cause of poisoning of dogs and cats in California</td>
<td>not recommended in any form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorinated Hydrocarbons</td>
<td>lindane, methoxychlor</td>
<td>use on dogs and cats curtailed in recent years; can be acutely toxic to most vertebrates, especially cats</td>
<td>not recommended in any form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botanicals</td>
<td>d-limonene, pyrethrins, pyrethroids (synthetic botanicals such as allethrin, fenvalerate, d-phenthothrin, resmethrin, and tetramethrin), piperonyl butoxide</td>
<td>d-limonene is extracted from citrus fruit; pyrethrins are derived from plants such as chrysanthemums; pyrethrins kill extremely quickly and leave little residue; pyrethrins are the most common insecticide found in sprays; pyrethrins tend to be of low toxicity to mammals</td>
<td>not recommended in any form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insect Growth Regulators</td>
<td>methoprene, fenoxycarb</td>
<td>applied to the environment; prevent fleas from advancing past larval stage; may be combined with pesticides that kill adult insects; extremely safe for pets and humans, but scientific research may not yet be complete</td>
<td>recommended for use in the home after vacumming, if necessary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And the work continues as strong as ever for 1990. Resolutions to make April National U.S. have promoted "Be a P.A.L." efforts.

Animal shelters, and communities across the U.S. have promoted "Be a P.A.L." efforts. And the work continues as strong as ever for 1990. Resolutions to make April National "Be a P.A.L." Month have been reintroduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Your help in encouraging representatives and senators to co-sponsor this resolution can make this the year that it passes.

To get the word out, we are again offering the colorful "Be a P.A.L.-Prevent A Litter" kit. These kits regularly sell for $5.00, but Shelter Sense subscribers receive a special rate of $2.00 per kit on orders received by March 15th. Use the coupon at right to order your kit.

The "Be a P.A.L." kit contains a wide array of promotional materials to spread the spay/neuter message and promote April as "Be a P.A.L.-Prevent A Litter" Month. And because you requested materials specifically related to cat overpopulation, we now feature a poster targeting this problem. In addition, our "Be a P.A.L." T-shirt has been updated and now features the popular "P.A.L." logo on an all-white, 100 percent cotton, "Beefy-T." Information on how to order quantities of posters, T-shirts, fact sheets, litter bags, buttons, bumper stickers, and other materials at discounted prices is included in the kit.

To inform as many people as possible, we also offer "Be a P.A.L." television PSAs produced by Gail Christensen of the Coalition for Pet Population Control in L.A. The PSAs feature TV and movie personalities, including the stars of TV’s The Golden Girls. These PSAs are available in 3/4-inch, broadcast-quality tapes for $20. If you haven’t already received information on obtaining and using these PSAs, you should very soon.

Help carry the message. Be a P.A.L.-Prevent A Litter!

Please send ________ "Be a P.A.L.-Prevent A Litter" campaign kit(s). I enclose $2.00 for each kit ordered. Send the kit(s) to:

Name ____________________________
Organization _______________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ____________

Clips and mail to: Be a P.A.L., Humane Society of the U.S., 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Please make checks payable to The Humane Society of the U.S.

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Humane Federations, Drug Store Chain Work Together to Promote Spay/Neuter

By Geoffrey L. Handy

The remarkable partnership between two New England humane federations and a local drug store chain has boosted community education and helped raise nearly $6,000 for spay/neuter assistance programs.

Two concurrent programs were run in 1989 by LaVerdiere’s Super Drug Stores in cooperation with both the Maine Federation of Humane Societies (HCR33, Box 335, Danville, ME 04223) and the New Hampshire Federation of Humane Organizations (P.O. Box 572, Laconia, NH 03247). The “partnership” was struck when LaVerdiere’s—whose executive vice president is an animal lover—approached the federations with ideas for cooperating on several initiatives through its chain of more than 60 stores in the two states.

The first program came together in February 1989, when LaVerdiere’s installed "Animal Attractions” display boards at 39 store locations. Maintained and changed periodically by the shelter closest to each store, the glass-encased bulletin boards feature photos of animals up for adoption as well as a variety of seasonal, issue-oriented materials.

The appealing boards have proven to be valuable educational outreach tools that have promoted animal adoptions, taught responsible pet ownership, and heightened awareness of the local animal shelters. “The Animal Attractions boards have given us the ability to reach the public in an area that we weren’t touching before—people going shopping,” says Gail Goodwin-Gerry, president of the Maine Federation. “And the boards will stay up indefinitely.”

The second joint venture began in May when LaVerdiere’s promoted the sale of small stuffed animals called “Puppy Luvs” in all of their stores. Produced by LaVerdiere’s and tagged “Support your local animal shelter,” each Puppy Luv sold for $2.99, with $1 from the sale of each going to the humane federations. A total of $4,790 from those sold in Maine went to support the Maine Federation’s Control Animal Population (CAP) fund. The CAP program provides $20 discount certificates for the federation’s 22 shelters to distribute to needy people for spaying and neutering.

Those Puppy Luvs sold in New Hampshire—totalling $1,078—went to establish a similar program with that federation’s 12 humane societies.

LaVerdiere’s put together an extensive advertising campaign to publicize both programs, including sales circulars and a TV commercial that was awarded a prize for excellence from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.
Cat Columnist Captures Hearts

By Rhonda Lucas Donald

If you have a pet question in West Virginia, just ask Pandora, the knowledgeable Humane Society cat with her own newspaper column in The Jackson Herald. Pandora has been "writing" the column for the Jackson County Humane Society (JCHS, P.O. Box 44, Cottageville, WV 25239) for about a year and a half. Her weekly column has been quite a hit, making her a celebrity and giving the shelter a lot of positive publicity. Each week Pandora features a shelter pet, running a picture of the animal and describing its personality. "We've never had one yet that hasn't gotten adopted," Prowse notes.

Prowse is quick to point out that although Pandora is very good at soliciting donations, she does not ask for things all the time. When the shelter really needs something, she will explain the need from her point of view, and the donations start coming. When sad events do occur, she tries to present them in an educational way.

The most important thing Pandora does is keep the public aware of the shelter. "Pandora is a household word," Nickols says, "and that identifies the shelter." This may explain the response of some curious fans who get in touch with the shelter to ask who Pandora wanted them to vote for. She is in the hearts and minds of her readers everywhere, and, consequently, so is the humane society.

Prowse wants to share this idea with other organizations. "It has made our shelter a real success," she says, adding that the benefits are extraordinary considering that it's really such an easy thing to do. Somehow, we think that Pandora wouldn't mind sharing the limelight with a few other literary pets!

Pet Identification Goes High Tech

By Rhonda Lucas Donald

A lucky terrier mix is going home with a new family today. He's been adopted from Marin Humane Society (171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd., Novato, CA 94947) and he's about ready to go. But there's one more thing to be done before he greets his new owners. A technician carefully holds the little dog while another inserts the needle of a handheld implanter into the skin between the dog's shoulders and depresses a button. The dog reacts as any animal would to a normal injection. Next, the other technician picks up a device that resembles a hair dryer and holds it over the dog's shoulders until a beep emits. The dog and its owner are on their way.
Bonnie Story uses the special implanter to implant a microchip in a cat that’s been adopted from the Marin Humane Society.

What a Microchip Is and How it Works

The microchip itself is a miniature radio transponder encased in surgical glass. It is the size of a grain of uncooked rice. Each chip is programmed with a ten-digit, alpha-numeric code, which is transmitted to a computer receiver when triggered by a low-frequency radio signal. This signal is emitted by a hand-held scanning wand resembling a hair dryer.

The chip is implanted subcutaneously or intramuscularly by a stainless-steel needle in a disposable implanter and causes no pain. It is safe from removal by thieves. The number in each chip is unalterable and known and registered only by Infopet, the sole distributor of microchips for pets. Representatives are willing to work with shelters on an individual basis to come up with a plan that is practical for their area.

Three Canadian shelters and the Marin Humane Society are now implanting all animals adopted from their shelters. Diane Allevato, Marin’s executive director, is very pleased with the program, which has identified 11 stray animals since they began implanting last May. One reason for her enthusiasm is the permanent nature of the microchip. “Tattoos are impossible,” she says. “They fade, they discolor, and there are too many registries. The microchip requires no anesthetizing, is not deforming, and can’t be removed like tags.” Allevato was so impressed with the microchip concept that she and her agency decided to underwrite the cost of implantation for all animals adopted from Marin. “If we can protect all of our animals,” she says, “that’s a large segment of the animal population. Plus, it provides us with information. It gives us an idea of what happens to our animals after they’re adopted.”

The cost of implanting the microchips can be a considerable expense and is one of the main reasons skeptics of the technology feel that it will not catch on. Infopet currently suggests a retail price of $40 for the chip, veterinary services, and one year’s registration on their computer database. A subsequent yearly fee of $11 is required by Infopet and goes toward maintaining the database. Infopet does provide chips to shelters for $15 a piece. The yearly fee is passed on to the adopter. Infopet agrees to maintain all registries for the life of the pet.

Phil Arkow, executive director of the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region (P.O. Box 187, Colorado Springs, CO 80901), is a supporter of microchip identification, but adds, “I don’t think it’s going to catch on in the volume needed until the cost comes down.” He also points out that municipalities and counties may oppose the idea for fear of losing revenue from licensing fees.

As with so many other issues, the responsible pet owners will be willing to pay the maintenance fees. The other obvious drawback to the chips is that a person who finds a stray has no way of detecting the chip and therefore may be hesitant to help the animal since he or she can’t ascertain whether it is lost. If the shelter or the vet where the stray ends up has no scanner, the ID is useless, and right now, agencies with scanners are concentrated in Southern California.

Microchips may be the ID of the future, but for now the technology is still ahead of its time. Although a reliable, safe, and permanent means of identifying pets, microchip implantation may not be the most practical method. Like any new concept, it will take time to catch on. If price becomes less of a factor, more pets are implanted, and every shelter scans for the chips, this piece of new technology could significantly cut down on the number of lost animals that are never returned to their owners.

Over 65 shelters in the U.S. and Canada have scanners, provided free by Infopet, the company delivering the chips and maintaining the ID registry. These shelters have agreed to scan every animal coming through their doors and to notify Infopet and the pet owner upon discovery of a chip. A person who finds a stray has no way of detecting the chip and therefore may be hesitant to help the animal since he or she can’t ascertain whether it is lost. If the shelter or the vet where the stray ends up has no scanner, the ID is useless, and right now, agencies with scanners are concentrated in Southern California. Microchips may be the ID of the future, but for now the technology is still ahead of its time. Although a reliable, safe, and permanent means of identifying pets, microchip implantation may not be the most practical method. Like any new concept, it will take time to catch on. If price becomes less of a factor, more pets are implanted, and every shelter scans for the chips, this piece of new technology could significantly cut down on the number of lost animals that are never returned to their owners.
**Bruflats Violate Probation**

In 1988, *Shelter Sense* reported on the tragic case of 88 cats rescued from James and Bobbie Bruflat’s Full Bowl cat shelter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The surviving cats were found amid garbage, feces, and the bodies of dead cats, some apparently cannibalized. The Bruflats were convicted on charges of failing to provide shelter to animals and were sentenced to three years probation, during which time they could not own, manage, operate, or work in any animal shelter. They were allowed to keep only two of the original cats.

But the Bruflats were not content to abide by the stipulations of their probation. According to Bill Loeffler, operations manager for the Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS, 4151 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212), officials found a leaflet the Bruflats had distributed regarding a new shelter they planned to start. When the couple appeared for a probation meeting, they were arrested for violating probation, the Bruflats were released, their probation remaining in force with about a year and a half remaining. Of the 19 cats taken from the residence, only eight were placed for adoption. The rest had to be euthanized due to illness.

**Cooperation Stops Bear Wrestling**

When Marie Taylor, director of the Leflore County Humane Society (P.O. Box 620, Greenwood, MS 38930), learned of a bear wrestling event scheduled in town, she went to work to put a stop to it.

After consulting with Debra Boswell of the Mississippi Animal Rescue League in Jackson, Mississippi, Taylor felt she could have the event stopped under a state law that prohibits animal fighting. The Leflore County Prosecutor agreed and pointed out that any person present during the event could be arrested and charged with a misdemeanor. The prosecutor contacted the local sheriff, who then sent a deputy to talk to the owner of the nightclub where the event was to be held. After the deputy explained that bear wrestling was illegal and that he was prepared to arrest all patrons of the club present during the show, the club owner canceled it. Additionally, the owner of the bear was asked to leave town because a newly-passed city ordinance prohibits keeping wild animals within the city limits.

But the work was not over yet. The following day, Boswell received a call from a citizen in nearby Bolivar County who objected to the same act being in her area. Boswell told her about the state law and referred her to her local sheriff. After consulting with the sheriff in Leflore County, Bolivar’s sheriff was able to prevent the wrestling event there, too.

**Planning a New Shelter**

The cooperation among humane groups, concerned individuals, and local judicial and legal authorities makes this story such a success. Taylor explains the great support she received from the sheriff’s department: “They have to handle all the animal problems here because we don’t have animal control. We’ve always been very cooperative with them, and they return the favor whenever they can.”

The willingness of the humane groups to network was also crucial in this situation. If enough groups work together like this, perhaps bear wrestling and other abusive animal shows will be turned out of enough towns to make the “acts” unprofitable.

**ACA Scholarships Still Available**

The HSUS still has full scholarships available for Animal Control Academy sessions in 1990. These scholarships are funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and include tuition, food, and lodging for the two-week sessions.

Upcoming Academy sessions are scheduled for March 26–April 6 in Phoenix, AZ; May 7–18 in Bowling Green, OH; July 9–20 in Atlanta, GA; and November 5–16 in Charlotte, NC. Tentative sessions are planned for Upstate New York and Minnesota. Dates for these sessions have not been scheduled.

For more information about the scholarships and for an application, write The Humane Society of the U.S., 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, MD 20814, Attn: Barbara Cassidy.

**ACO Training Guide Available**

The first training guide ever published for animal control professionals is now available from the National Animal Control Association (NACA).

*Published through a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the 324-page National Animal Control Association Training Guide was written by 30 contributing authors, including HSUS’s Director of Animal Sheltering and Control Barbara Cassidy, Animal Control Academy Director Bill Smith, and Vice President for Companion Animals Phyllis Wright. The volume was edited by John D. Rhoades, DVM, of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine.*

*The manual is divided into five main sections: “The Legal Authority for Animal Control,” “Animal Care and Control Skills,” “Safety,” “Communications,” and “A Reverence for Life.” Included in these sections are chapters on laws, search and seizure, capture and restraint of large and small animals, animal return and placement guidelines, rabies and other zoonoses, public relations, and the human-animal bond as it relates to the animal control professional.*

*The purpose of the book is to provide animal control officers with basic information to help them in carrying out their daily duties,” said Dr. Rhoades, the editor. “It is especially intended to help new animal control personnel learn about the profession. It is hoped that the book will become the standard operational guide for animal control agencies and personnel nationwide.”*
The premise of Project BREED is based on the fact that some 25 percent of the dogs that go through shelters are purebreds, while adoption statistics average 10 percent for all breeds and mixes. By networking with breed-specific rescue groups, shelters can improve adoption rates. As Weber says, "In every shelter, there's a person capable of reeducating adopters about the personality traits found in the breed. Such individuals are in a better position to build adoption waiting lists. And such individuals are in a better position to build adoption waiting lists. And such individuals are in a better position to build adoption waiting lists."

Weber is offering shelters an introductory price of $31.30 per directory plus $1.50 postage and handling. Discounts are available for quantity orders; shelters may want to sell them as a fund-raiser to vets, groomers, trainers, kennels, and others. To order a copy and find out more about Project BREED, write Shirley Weber, President, Network for Ani-Males & Females, 18707 Curry Powder Ln., Germantown, MD 20874, or call her at (301) 428-3675 on weekends or between 9:30 and 10:00 pm EST weekdays.

It's Flea Season Again. Are You Ready for Battle?

Every year you watch helplessly as fleas torment your pet and drive you to distraction. Besides being downright annoying, the pesky insects can do plenty of harm to your pet, too; they can cause allergies, skin infections, anemia, even tapeworm infestations.

Feel like giving up? Feel like dousing your pet with every pesticidal shampoo, dip, spray, powder, or collar on the shelf? Don't do either. Instead, try this safe, effective flea-control regimen:

1. **Clean Your Quarters.** Begin with a thorough cleaning, which will eliminate most of the eggs and adult fleas lurking in your home. Wash all pet bedding in hot, soapy water. Mop hard floors. Vacuum everywhere—carpets, upholstery, drapes, corners, crevices. Seal the vacuum cleaner bag immediately in a plastic bag. Once you start, don't let up until you've lost ground! Vacuum and clean once a week until you begin to see results. Then you can do it less frequently.

2. **Add A New Weapon.** For most infestations, the cleaning/shampoo/flea comb system is all you'll need to achieve flea control. If your problem is severe (or if you can't shampoo your cat without a major fight), you can add other non-pesticidal alternatives to your program. Many pet owners swear by brewer's yeast (added to the pet's food in small doses), or prefer to rub diluted oils or herbal powders into the animal's fur. If you decide to use a pesticide, products containing "pyrethrins" are the safest.

3. **Liberate Your Pet.** On the same day you first vacuum and clean, shampoo your pet with a non-medicated shampoo that includes an insect growth regulator (read the label and follow directions). Never use pesticides on kittens and young puppies. Always use a pesticidal product, whether it's a shampoo, dip, spray, powder, or collar, ALWAYS and according to the instructions on the label. Never use remedies indicated for livestock or other species. Never use remedies indicated for livestock or other species. Always read the label and follow directions. NEVER use pesticides on kittens and young puppies. Always use a pesticidal product, whether it's a shampoo, dip, spray, powder, or collar, ALWAYS and according to the instructions on the label. Never use remedies indicated for livestock or other species.

4. **Know Your Opponent.** Fleas can vary their egg-to-adult life cycle anywhere from 18 days to 20 months, depending on how hot and humid it is. They may also spend as little as 10% of their lives on your pet. Products that kill developing fleas (called insect growth regulators) are the safest and most effective—look for the word "methoprene" on the label. Follow directions to see how often you can apply it.

5. **Commission New Weaponry.** If you have a heavy infestation, apply an environmental insecticide after vacuuming. You can use a bugger "bomb," but a pump spray is better for all but extreme infestations. Liberating Your Pet. On the same day you first vacuum and clean, shampoo your pet with a non-medicated shampoo that includes an insect growth regulator (read the label and follow directions). Never use pesticides on kittens and young puppies. Always use a pesticidal product, whether it's a shampoo, dip, spray, powder, or collar, ALWAYS and according to the instructions on the label. Never use remedies indicated for livestock or other species. Always read the label and follow directions. NEVER use pesticides on kittens and young puppies. Always use a pesticidal product, whether it's a shampoo, dip, spray, powder, or collar, ALWAYS and according to the instructions on the label. Never use remedies indicated for livestock or other species.

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Help Make FP-3 Available

By Phyllis Wright, HSUS Vice President, Companion Animals

We need your immediate help in getting the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve the solution FP-3 for euthanasia of dogs and cats. As you may already know, FP-3 is a sodium pentobarbital solution with the addition of Lidocaine, produced by Vortech Pharmaceuticals. FP-3 is a Schedule III drug. This means that to obtain it, a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) license is required but not a DEA order form. Pure sodium pentobarbital, which is a Schedule II drug, requires a license as well as DEA order forms, making it more difficult to acquire.

FP-3 is the only Schedule III drug that can be used on dogs, cats, and all other warm-blooded animals. The fact that it is easier to obtain than pure pentobarbital and provides the same superior, humane euthanasia makes its availability of utmost importance.

It is required that Vortech Pharmaceuticals submit a New Animal Drug Application to the FDA for approval of FP-3. Because FP-3 is so desperately needed and there is no other Schedule III drug available for both dogs and cats, I am asking you to write to the FDA and request that they accelerate the drug approval process by putting FP-3 on the “fast track.” Please write a short letter to: Dr. Marsha K. Larkins, Chief for Companion and Wildlife Drugs Branch, FDA, Rm. 6B-24, Center of Veterinary Medicine, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Bring to her attention that FP-3 is one of the most humane methods of euthanasia available and that it is needed by shelters across the country for euthanizing millions of animals. Explain that since T-61 and Repose are no longer on the market, the only Schedule III drug available is Beuthanasia-D, which is not approved for cats. In addition, the company that produces Beuthanasia-D will not sell it to anyone other than licensed veterinarians. If you have used and been satisfied with FP-3 in the past, please mention this in your letter.

I will also be talking to the FDA, but your written word will help us in the uphill fight to get fast approval. Every letter counts, so please get your comments in the mail.