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Personal

PERSPECTIVES

EXPO ’92 FILLED A VOID

When we’re caught up in the routine, day-to-day tasks that fill our working lives, we sometimes fail to step back, examine what we’re doing, and evaluate how we’re doing.

We may fail to seek out new tools, methods, and information to help us better accomplish old tasks. We may avoid taking the kind of break necessary to rejuvenate ourselves and make our time on the job more productive.

To help animal care, control, and sheltering professionals solve these problems, The HSUS sponsored its first-ever “Animal Care Expo” February 2-5 in Las Vegas.

Animal Care Expo ’92 was a new concept for us, one that reflected a change in our thinking. This new thinking sought to give those professionals who work to protect and care for animals the kind of national event that would best help them improve the way they work. In short, we wanted to provide a single forum for animal care professionals to gather together, share information, learn, and gain exposure to new ideas, technology, and developments in an ever-changing field. Our hope was for them to return to work an educated, knowledgeable, and motivated—and often motivated—force.

Judging from the success of Animal Care Expo ’92, our new approach was right on the money. Over 1,000 professionals attended the trade show, making it the largest congregation of animal care and control professionals in HSUS history. (The number of attendants, in fact, actually put a strain on the facilities we had reserved.)

The participants learned about the products and services of more than 100 exhibitors, from kennel suppliers to direct mail marketing agencies. More than 40 workshops addressed issues ranging from “Bite Prevention Training for You and Your Community” to “Large Animal Rescue Methods.”

Animal Care Expo ’92 set a new standard of achievement for a national event geared toward the animal care professional. And when an event is as huge a success as this one was, you want to do it again. That’s why we’re pleased to announce Animal Care Expo ’93. It’s scheduled to take place early next year in Orlando, Florida. With the experience of one Expo under our belts, the event promises to be even bigger and better.

We hope you’ll decide to join us next year. It will be another ideal opportunity for you to take a break, learn, become motivated, and improve the way you work. As always, details will be forthcoming in Shelter Sense.

—Marc Paulhus, HSUS Vice President for Companion Animals

WITH TEARS IN THEIR EYES’:

REFLECTIONS OF AN A.C.O.

When many people think of an animal control officer, the first thing that normally comes to mind is a dogcatcher, some unkempt guy whose food-stained shirt hangs out of his pants, with buttons stretched over a belly that sticks out like that of a pregnant woman, chasing down the street with net in hand after a poor dog who looks like he is running for his life. “Run, doggy, run!” People don’t want the dog to be caught because they believe he’ll be killed the instant he’s put into the truck, as if there is a gas chamber in it and this guy actually likes killing animals.

I have to say that I really didn’t start a very positive image of animal control officers when I became one. However, I soon learned that there is a lot more to the job than chasing dogs, and the image of the dogcatcher is a common misconception. Contrary to popular belief, the job is not just catching stray dogs. It involves emotionally draining human interaction and dealing with potentially violent people and aggressive animals.

One of my first assignments was working the coastline between San Francisco and Santa Cruz Counties. Patrolling California Highway 1, one of the most beautiful roads on earth, was like a dream come true. I would look out at the ocean, the rugged cliffs, and the sandy coves between the rocks, and think how beautiful and peaceful it all was.

But the beauty of the coast was often overshadowed by the attitudes of the residents living there. Many of the people who live in the area feel they’re in a different world from the rest of us, and actually, in many respects, they are. They’re separated from the mainstream of the Bay Area, away from the general population and the authorities. They live more private lives. Many move there from the busy Bay Area cities to enjoy the isolation and freedom of the coastal hills.

I learned that being able to suc-
mean as having to develop my interpersonal skills, for I was also isolated. The nearest back-up ACO and/or sheriff’s deputy was usually more than an hour away.

This attitude of independence became clear to me when I once followed a dog home and knocked on the door of a small house. “WHO IS IT?” a man’s voice yelled from inside the house. “Animal control,” I answered. “WHAT THE F-- DO YOU WANT?” “I have your dog. I followed him here from the highway,” I replied.

The door swung open and a middle-aged man was staring at me. “Let me have him,” he said. I tried to impress upon him how far away his dog had strayed, but he didn’t seem to care. Keeping in mind how alone I was, I decided not to issue him a citation, but rather give him a warning.

His reaction, “You’ve got to be kidding,” typifies the attitude the animal control officer faces every day, no matter where he works. The public doesn’t believe in the animal control officer’s legal enforcement authority and most think they are wasting their time over a dog. Nonetheless, I probably saved the dog’s life that day.

A few weeks later I got a call over the radio about a dead dog along the highway. When I pulled up to the dog’s body lying on the side of the road like a piece of garbage, I recognized the dog immediately and I could hear the man’s voice asking if I was kidding.

Again I walked up to his house, furious that this dog had to die because of someone who didn’t care enough to keep him from running loose. My knock was answered with the “polite” response. I identified myself again, and told him that I had “Rocky” (his name had been on his collar) in my van and asked him if he would come and get him. This guy was mad, he started calling me every name imaginable and a few I hadn’t heard before, telling me he was going to get me fired for harassing him.

I opened the side door to the van. There, with the stink of death, dried blood matting the hair on his head, his body cold and rigid, lay Rocky. This middle-aged man looked down at the body of his dog and then looked up at me with tears in his eyes. I looked him straight in the eyes and said, “I just wanted you to see your dog one last time.” I shut the door and left.

Driving away, I thought he would call in a complaint about what I had just done, but I just didn’t care at that point. I’m the one who has to pick up the dead animals every day, and those who allow their dogs to run loose often never see the results of their actions—the dogs just never come home.

A number of weeks passed and no complaint was made against me. I drove by that same house, dried blood on the ground near the dog. As I approached her she looked at me. She wasn’t going to let me come near her or the puppies. It took quite a while, but finally, after just standing there sideways talking softly to her, she allowed me to touch her and then gently take her puppies. She seemed to understand that I wasn’t there to hurt her or the pups.

For more than two hours I had stood sideways in that cramped space, building the confidence of this old dog. Driving back to the shelter, I thought about what was about to happen. She was an old dog, she had puppies—puppies too young to be adopted out—and there wasn’t room at the shelter to allow them to stay until they were old enough to be separated from their mother.

I had a nauseated feeling, it was like betraying a friendship. She trusted me to take her and her puppies with me, but what was going to happen? I knew the answer, and felt she might have been better off without me. Maybe she would have had a chance, because what she was facing now was most likely certain death. Who would want to adopt an old dog, a toss-out in a throwaway society?

As I drove to the shelter, tears filled my eyes. A car pulled alongside me, and I noticed the people in the car looking up at me. I looked over and they glanced away. I realized they had no idea what I do, or what I was feeling right then.

It’s society’s fault that millions of homeless animals are born each year, that millions are killed under the wheels of vehicles, and that millions more have to be put to death each year in shelters. To alleviate their guilt, society blames the animal control officers and the people who work for animal shelters. As is so often true, it is easier for people to blame someone else than accept their own responsibility. It isn’t hard to understand the animal control officer’s job, he is responsible for the irreproachable. Many drive with tears in their eyes.
A memo on the use of assistance animals can help special-needs States recognizes that certain animals can assist individuals who have physical, visual, or hearing limitations. They can help special-needs States recognize that certain animals can assist individuals who have physical, visual, or hearing limitations. They can also alert owners to dangerous situations as fire or intruders. The HSUS believes that when animals are trained and used to assist humans in this way, it is critical that the needs of the animals, as well as the people, are met. In order for an assistance animal and its owner to have a successful relationship, the HSUS believes that the following criteria must be met:

1. The animal must be qualified. It should be able to perform tasks that fail to qualify for the program or become unable to perform required tasks, animals whose assisted owner dies, or animals that, for some other reason, cannot continue in the program for which they were selected. Acceptable disposition options include placement with another qualified individual, adoption to a responsible home, or euthanasia when unavoidable.
2. The owner of the animal and/or another responsible individual must be based on positive reinforcement rather than physical punishment such as striking, choking, or electric shock.
3. Humane disposition must be for assurance that animals that fail to qualify for the program or become unable to perform required tasks, animals whose assisted owner dies, or animals that, for some other reason, cannot continue in the program for which they were selected. Acceptable disposition options include placement with another qualified individual, adoption to a responsible home, or euthanasia when unavoidable. The HSUS believes that programs that meet the above criteria can provide some special-needs individuals with a level of independence they would not otherwise be afforded, without harming the animals involved.

Provided that the needs of the animal are met, the relationship between a guide dog and a special-needs individual can be mutually beneficial.

**HSUS Issues Policy Statement on the Use of Assistance Animals**

At its September 1991 meeting, the Board of Directors of The Humane Society of the United States approved the following policy statement on the use of assistance animals:

The Humane Society of the United States recognizes that certain animals can help special-needs individuals lead more independent lives by assisting them in the performance of everyday tasks that would otherwise be difficult or impossible. Animals can assist individuals who have physical, visual, or hearing limitations. They can also alert owners to dangerous situations as fire or intruders. The HSUS believes that when animals are trained and used to assist humans in this way, it is critical that the needs of the animals, as well as the people, are met. In order for an assistance animal and its owner to have a successful relationship, the HSUS believes that the following criteria must be met:

1. The animal must be a domestic animal. The owner of the animal and/or another designated person must accept responsibility for insuring that the animal’s medical, physical, behavioral, and psychological needs are met.

Organized programs that provide assistance animals must adhere to the above criteria as well as the following guidelines:

1. Selection of animals to be used as assistance animals must be based on a sound knowledge of their specific physical, behavioral, and psychological characteristics, as well as knowledge of the individual animal’s temperament.
2. The animal must be able to carry out desired tasks without invasive physical manipulations, such as teeth pulling or debarking. Sterilization of the animal is highly recommended.
3. Programs that provide temporary housing and care for assistance animals must ensure that the needs of the animals are being properly met during this period.
4. Training of animals to perform tasks for their new owners must be based on positive reinforcement rather than physical punishment such as striking, choking, or electric shock.
5. Hospice disposition must be assured for animals that fail to qualify for the program or become unable to perform required tasks, animals whose assisted owner dies, or animals that, for some other reason, cannot continue in the program for which they were selected. Acceptable disposition options include placement with another qualified individual, adoption to a responsible home, or euthanasia when unavoidable.

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**Recent Animal Cruelty Cases Feature Notable Crimes, Penalties**

By Geoffrey L. Handy

Due to unusual crimes of animal abuse, recent cases of animal cruelty were uniquely notable. Descriptions of these cases follow.

**NJ Health Officers Plead Guilty to Cruelty**

Two New Jersey municipal health officers were recently convicted and fined the maximum $500 each for failing to provide necessary sustenance to an injured dog. The court ruled that the needs of the animals are being properly met during this period.

Some four hours later, a local police officer discovered the dog in the van, still suffering from his untreated injuries. Temperatures were below freezing, and the dog had no food or water. The officer immediately transported the dog to a veterinarian who then euthanized the animal.

New Jersey law specifies that failure to provide necessary sustenance to an animal—typically defined as food, drink, shelter, or protection from the weather—is a misdemeanor. The court ruled that “neglect or mistreatment” in this case included medical treatment for the injured dog.

Bob Reder, investigator for the HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, testified on behalf of the prosecution. “This ruling sends a message to all public officials entranced with the care of animals that a disregard of cruelty laws will not be condoned,” he said.

Horse Abuser Gets Five Years

Last September, a Stafford County, Virginia, man who starved and neglected 34 horses received one of the stiffest sentences ever given an animal abuser: five years in prison and a $14,500 fine.

The case began in April when Stafford County Animal Control Officer Bob Akers responded to a complaint about a loose horse and discovered 32 purebred Morgans in various stages of starvation and neglect. He also found and photographed the decaying remains of two other horses.

Accompanied by sheriff’s deputies, Animal Warden William Tinsley and Tom Carter of the Leesburg (Va.) Equine Rescue League seized all 32 animals from the 212-acre farm later that week. Many of the horses had festering sores and protruding ribs. A veterinarian later testified that virtually all of them were malnourished and suffering from intestinal worms and skin infections. One of the horses, in constant pain from a huge open sore and a broken leg that was never set, was later euthanized.

Charged with 14 counts of animal cruelty under Virginia state statutes, the owner pleaded guilty to all counts. The judge gave him the maximum sentence on five counts and suspended sentence on the remaining nine on the condition that the owner pay $14,500 to the county within 20 years of his release from prison.

Thirty-one horses were successfully rehabilitated by the Equine Rescue League at its 65-acre farm in Loudoun County, Virginia, and later adopted out.

**Man Convicted of Cruelty to Reptile**

Adapted from MSPCA Animal Action

In a landmark case in Massachusetts humane law enforcement, a man who slowly boiled a snapping turtle to death was recently found guilty of cruelty and fined $200. It was the first time that the state’s anticruelty laws were applied to reptiles.

The charges were brought against a Haverhill, Massachusetts, man who slowly boiled a snapping turtle to death and returned home with it. He built a wood fire in his backyard and filled a large, galvanized trash barrel with chilly hose water. At 5 p.m. he put the turtle in the water, over the protests of his neighbors. At 5:30 the neighbors witnessed the turtle struggling to climb out of the barrel, they protested again. The man ig-
Turtles are capable of suffering, said two veterinarians in court statements.

Several years ago, Greaney responded to a call the next morning reporting the incident. The man admitted boiling the turtle, claiming he wanted the meat as food and the shell as a trophy. He could not understand why “there’s such a fuss about (my) cooking dinner.”

Massachusetts SPCA officer Lisa Greaney responded to a call the next morning reporting the incident. The man admitted boiling the turtle, claiming he wanted the meat as food and the shell as a trophy. He could not understand why “there’s such a fuss about (my) cooking dinner.”

Greaney explained that his actions were inhumane and that she was charging him with cruelty. The accused responded, “This must be a joke.”

To prove that the reptile’s death was indeed inhumane, Greaney solicited two veterinary statements that documented the ability of turtles to feel pain. Basing her testimony on clinical examinations of reptiles, one veterinarian remarked that turtles are neurologically advanced and that their response to pain is similar to that of humans. “The action against the snapping turtle was cruel in the extreme,” she wrote. Another veterinarian described the nervous system and brain of a reptile, helping Greaney make the case that the turtle was capable of suffering.

The veterinarians’ statements were persuasive at court hearings and at meetings with the defendant. The offender pleaded guilty, was convicted, and now admits he no longer thinks the charge was a joke.

Operators of Pet Scam Receive Felony Convictions

Three California residents were sentenced to lengthy prison terms last September after being convicted of obtaining people’s pets under false pretenses and later selling them to medical research laboratories. The three felons received prison terms of six, five, and five years. Brought about by the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation, the case took three-and-a-half years of work and received substantial media coverage.

Prior to their arrests in 1988, the three San Fernando Valley residents obtained dogs and cats by answering “free to good homes” ads and telling pet owners they would give the animals good homes. In reality, they operated two private kennels and sold the animals to medical research laboratories.

At the time of their arrests, the defendants turned over documentation on 141 dogs and cats to the Department of Animal Regulation. The department immediately contacted the three medical research facilities named in the documents and was able to retrieve a total of 14 dogs and cats from them. The department impounded 64 other animals from the kennels (which were immediately shut down); 39 were later redeemed by their original owners, and the others were adopted within two months.

This case “illustrates that proper and detailed professional animal control work can result in justice,” said Robert Rush, general manager for the Department of Animal Regulation. “The media coverage raised public awareness of responsible pet ownership and alerted people to the presence of such nefarious activity in our society.”

For more and more local animal shelters, the surplus of companion animals isn’t the only population problem that’s giving them trouble. Increasingly, problems caused by wildlife such as deer, raccoons, skunks, and foxes are creeping into their purview.

While animal shelters traditionally leave wildlife problems to other agencies, many are now responding to wildlife rescue requests, cultivating relationships with wildlife rehabilitators, or incorporating wildlife issues into their educational programs. The spread of rabies through skunk, raccoon, and fox populations, of course, is a vital concern for shelters as well.

A large reason for wildlife population problems is the animals’ abilities to adapt to urban and suburban environments where reduced natural mortality can easily affect relatively long-lived animals such as white-tailed deer. Deer populations, in fact, have increased by 300-400 percent in some areas of the United States.

Fortunately, a humane and practical solution to selected wildlife population problems is gaining wider viability and acceptance: humane fertility control. At recent HSUS conferences, Jay F. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D., associate professor of physiology in the biology department at Eastern Montana College, has presented research that indicates wildlife contraceptive agents are not only more humane than lethal methods of wildlife management, but also more effective. FDA approval for these agents is several years away, but the progress of Dr. Kirkpatrick’s work mirrors that of studies into non-surgical methods of sterilization of dogs and cats (Shelter Sense, February 1991).

Kirkpatrick and his colleagues have spent the last 20 years searching for the ideal wildlife contraceptive...
tive agent. This ideal agent, says the scientist, would be 1) greater than 80-90 percent effective, 2) free of harmful side effects, 3) reversible (i.e., not permanent), 4) inexpensive to produce or acquire, 5) able to be delivered remotely, 6) free of effects on target species' behavior, 7) unable to be passed through the food chain, and 8) safe for use in pregnant animals.

According to Kirkpatrick, studies of contraceptives for wildlife have in the past focused on steroid implants and oral doses. Steroids, though, have proven problematic for most applications because they can be passed through the food chain, are unsafe for use in pregnant animals, and are often expensive.

Kirkpatrick and his colleagues abandoned the steroid approach after discovering the effects of non-steroidal agents called immunococontraceptives, which match much more closely the ideal contraceptive agent. "Immunocontraception," says Kirkpatrick, "will be the primary focus of wildlife contraception for the next decade because of its effectiveness, relative lack of side effects, remote delivery capabilities, and inability to pass through the food chain." It's the same technique being applied to research for use in female dogs, cats, and ultimately, humans.

The viability of immunococontraception has been shown most convincingly in Kirkpatrick's work with the feral skunk. Back in 1989, 1990, and 1991, Kirkpatrick and his associates discovered that the pellucida vaccine could be effective and to meet most of the other criteria of the ideal wildlife contraceptive agent. Especially encouraging is the fact that the study has involved absolutely no direct contact with the animals, the vaccine, and its annual boosters, are given via darts that fall out soon after delivery.

Another version of the immunocontraceptive vaccine is being tested in a pilot study involving captive white-tailed deer in Ohio. Thus far, all seven treated does have not produced offspring. Effects on behavior and other long-term consequences of the vaccine have yet to be studied, but negative effects are not expected.

Unfortunately, FDA approval of wildlife immunocontraceptives for use by state and local animal control personnel is probably at least a decade away. In addition to further general studies of anti-zona pellucida vaccines, developing a vaccine that requires less frequent doses and boosters, says Kirkpatrick, will remain a focus over the next few years.

While much work still lies ahead, wildlife contraceptives offer the hope that effective and humane control of selected wildlife populations can become a reality. As HSUS Vice President for Wildlife Dr. John Grandy says, "We want to end the reliance on lethal methods to control wild animals—whether predators, skunks, raccoons, deer, wild horses and burros, or any other animals—that have been perceived as nuisances."

In this study, the scientists have found the vaccine to be 100 percent effective and to meet most of the other criteria of the ideal wildlife contraceptive agent. Especially encouraging is the fact that the study has involved absolutely no direct contact with the animals, the vaccine, and its annual boosters, are given via darts that fall out soon after delivery.

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A friend of mine sees the picture this way,” said Gail Christensen, director of public relations for the Los Angeles SPCA (5026 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016). “The pet overpopulation issue is like wallpaper. The public knows it’s there. The really looks at it anymore. Nobody

Early last summer, Christensen succeeded in revising that assessment when she persuaded KABC-TV, Los Angeles’ ABC affiliate, to give the issue in-depth coverage. The KABC news team interviewed veterinarians, breeders, humane workers, and politicians, covering every aspect of the issue. KABC also had a phone bank installed at the station. For two hours following each evening’s five minute piece, volunteers from the L.A. SPCA and the Coalition for Pet Population Control answered viewers’ questions and referred them to veterinarians for low-cost or free spay/neuter surgeries. Christensen estimates that, as a direct result of the coverage, at least 1,000 dogs and cats were sterilized through hotline referrals. Thousands of other pet owners called the hotline to request brochures on spaying and neutering. The KABC minidocumentary also spawned three additional television news stories and

result was a week-long minidocumentary that focused on the problem, its manifestations, and its potential solutions. Aired in segments over five evenings, the program included footage of feral cats, spay/neuter surgeries, shelter animals, and euthanasia. The public saw footage of a shelter’s own “Until There Are None, Adopt One” campaign and its benefits.

The comprehensive program, which included a 15-minute documentary, was followed by a mini-series, “The Pet Overpopulation Crisis,” that aired in segments over five evenings. The series included footage of feral cats, spay/neuter surgeries, and interviews with veterinarians, shelter workers, and politicians. The program also included footage of KABC viewers who called in with their questions. The mini-series culminated in a telephone bank where viewers could call in and ask questions about the issue. The program was aired through hotline referrals. Thousands of other pet owners called the hotline to request brochures on spaying and neutering. The KABC minidocumentary also spawned three additional television news stories and

two debates. “Thanks to the interest and commitment of one terrific news team,” says Christensen, “millions of viewers had to face the truth. For a while, in Los Angeles, pet overpopulation wasn’t wallpaper anymore!”

**LATHAM FOUNDATION VIDEO FEATURES “YOUR HUMANE SOCIETY”**

A new video can help improve communication and understanding between local humane societies and their communities. Produced by the Latham Foundation, an organization dedicated to humane education, Your Humane Society answers the following questions:

- What is a humane society?
- What does it do? Who needs one?
- How can volunteers help?
- The 15-minute documentary clearly describes the many valuable public services that a typical humane society provides, including sheltering, overpopulation control through spaying and neutering, humane education, public health and safety, and much more.

Filmed at various locations throughout the nation, the 1/2 inch VHS videotape is appropriate for every community served by a humane organization, regardless of size or geographic location. It will be of interest to community organizations, policy makers, staff, volunteers, and contributors.

**Your Humane Society** can be purchased for $50 or pre-ordered for two weeks for $15 (which can be applied to the purchase price). Send check or money order to the Latham Foundation, Latham Plaza Building, Clement and Schiller, Alameda, CA 94501, or call (510) 521-0920. California residents please add sales tax.
Animal shelters that have ever searched for an easy way to provide information about recommended dog and cat books and videos, can provide guides. The list also includes prices and an order form from DBS. It’s ideal for inclusion in shelters’ adoption kits.

Charlene Woodward, owner of Direct Book Service, has selected the books on the list from the more than 1,500 dog books and 250 cat books the company stocks. Featured are 16 recommended books appropriate for the new adopter, such as Carol Lea Benjamin’s Second Hand Dog, an excellent text on training a shelter dog, and Dr Pitcator’s Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs & Cats.

DBS will provide unlimited copies of the reading list free to any shelter that requests them. Woodward is also willing to tailor-make reading lists for shelters that wish to have certain titles included—or deleted from—the list.

Shelters can also request free copies of DBS’s complete catalog to order books for their own bookshelves, for selected adopters, for local libraries, or for resale as fundraisers.

GOVERNMENT UNIT-For the Forsyth County Animal Control Department (NC), has been adapted for other agencies’ use as a Reproducible. This message can be clipped out and reproduced in quantity by your local printer for distribution at many community locations, or it can be run in local newspapers or your organization’s newsletter.

SHELTER SENSE—FEBRUARY 1992

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The Direct Book Service (DBS), a mail order company based in Washington state that specializes in dog and cat books and videos, can provide shelters with copies of their “New Pet Owner’s Reading List.” This one-page list features brief synopses of several dog and cat books recommended by the Direct Book Service for the new pet owner, from general care books to training guides. The list also includes prices and an order form from DBS. It’s ideal for inclusion in shelters’ adoption kits.

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The extensive catalogs feature everything from breed books and books on animal welfare to training videos and out-of-print titles.

DBS offers discounts for books purchased for local libraries and will be happy to make special arrangements with groups that wish to sell books as fundraisers.

For more information about the reading list and other services of Direct Book Service, write Woodward at DBS, P.O. Box 3075, Wenatchee, WA 98801, or call (800) 776–2664.

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J ob AN NOUNCEMENTS

Advertisements are free and limited to job openings in humane organizations or animal control departments. Ads must be submitted on your organization’s letterhead no later than five weeks before the month of the issue in which you want your ad to appear. Please limit announcements to 50 words (including address). Sorry, Shelter Sense cannot print “position wanted” ads.

DIRECTOR—For the Chester County SPCA in Pennsylvania. Unique opportunity for energetic, outgoing individual who can lead a growing animal welfare organization. Requires strong people skills for community outreach, knowledge of animal care and behavior, management skills to oversee 25-plus employees and budget of $600,000. Send resume, salary history to Search Committee, Chester County SPCA, 1212 Phoenixville Pike, West Chester, PA 19380.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT—For the organization above. Degree and experience necessary; CPFIR certificate preferred. Entails development and implementation of fundraising program. Send resume, references to the address above.

ANIMAL CARE SUPERVISOR—Responsible for training and supervision of 18 staff with the help of an assistant. Leadership/management experience required. Salary $18,22,000 plus benefits. Send resume only to Oregon Humane Society, P.O. Box 11564, Portland, OR 97211.

ASSISTANT SHELTER MANAGER—For a no-kill shelter in suburban Chicago. Veterinary technician experience is preferred. Send resume to Gail Monick, President, West Suburban Humane Society, P.O. Box 757, Lombard, IL 60148.

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She’s Counting On You For Family Planning

We couldn’t believe it when her owner brought her in. She was the most trusting, gentle, loving animal you’ve ever seen. Her owner said, “Take her, she’s gone and gotten pregnant by some mutt.” We told him that her chances of being adopted were almost zero. But he couldn’t have cared less. It was her fault, not his. Then he just left. Didn’t even look back.

Unfortunately, many pet owners feel the same way. Some bring their animals to us. Many simply dump them off somewhere when nobody’s looking, where they breed indiscriminately, get killed on the streets, or starve to death. And, of the thousands of pets who end up at the animal shelter each year, most never find a home. It’s a tragedy, but it’s a fact.

Unfortunately, many pet owners still don’t take responsibility for their pets. They just get rid of them. Or worse yet, they continue to let them have litter after litter with no thought about what they’re going to do with the puppies or kittens.

Pet owners, please be responsible. Spay or neuter your pet. It’s a simple procedure and it will help your pet live a longer, healthier life. For more information about spaying and neutering, please contact us or your veterinarian. Take responsibility for your pet’s family planning. When you don’t, the alternatives are tragic.

[Your name and phone number here]
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