For the people who care about community animal control

AUGUST 1992

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The arms and back of the couch in my living room are covered with patches. The patches are my handiwork; the damage they conceal is the handiwork of our cat Indiana.

Indiana has a scratching problem. It’s immediately obvious to every visitor who walks through the front door. We’ve tried everything to keep him from destroying the carpet, the curtains, the screens, and the couch. But Indiana won’t be dissuaded. A set-in-his-ways adult when we adopted him three years ago, he simply will not be inconvenienced by having to walk over to a scratching post three feet away.

We’ve chosen to accept the fact that cats come with claws. That’s how cats are equipped. We like cats, we choose to have them around, and we choose to accept the nature of cats within our household. Even if that sometimes means being a little embarrassed when guests sit down in our living room.

That being said, do I expect every cat owner to accept the same standards when it comes to their own companion animals? Of course not. But I still wonder about the priorities of a cat owner who values her drapes so much that she would subject her feline companion—a sentient being whom she presumably cares about—to the painful surgical procedure of declawing. The way I see it, drapes don’t feel pain. Nor do our eyes.

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Credits:

HSUS Vice President, Companion Animals: Marc Paulhus
Editor, Shelter Sense: Geoffrey L. Handy
Assistant Editor: Jill Shepherd

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On The Cover:

Should this mischievous feline be declawed? For pet owners who think nothing of subjecting their cats to a painful surgical procedure in order to protect their furnishings, the answer, unfortunately, would be an automatic “yes.”

—Marc Paulhus, HSUS Vice President for Companion Animals

A CAT AND HIS CLAWS ARE TOO OFTEN PARTED: THE REALITIES OF DECLAWING

By Rhonda Lucas Donald

To declaw or not to declaw—it is a controversial question. In a society of veterinarians and pet owners who increasingly consider declawing a cat to be “routine,” the question needs to be carefully examined.

What’s Involved

To declaw a cat requires surgery (called an onychectomy) in which the claw and end bone of each toe are amputated. Typically, convalescence takes one to two weeks, during which time the pain gradually diminishes. The cat may have altered feeling in the paw for quite some time.

All cats should be kept indoors as a matter of responsible pet ownership, but declawed cats in particular should never be let outside. This is because a cat’s front claws are her primary means of self-defense; although she will still have her teeth and hind claws, she may not be able to adequately defend herself against attacks from other animals and may not be able to escape by climbing a tree.

People choose to declaw cats because of the damage their claws can do to furnishings or people when the cats scratch and play. Scratching is a normal, necessary behavior for cats—it keeps their claws in shape and helps them stretch and tone their muscles. A declawed cat will still “scratch” the furniture because this behavior is second nature.

Some have wondered whether depriving a cat of his claws alters his personality or causes other side effects. A few years ago, Barbara Carr, director of the Cocheco Valley Humane Society (CVHS, P.O. Box 1267, Dover, NH 03820) wrote to Shelter Sense with a question based on statistics from her shelter. At the time, they had just
What the Experts Say

Concerned about these statistics and prised to learn that a high percentage of improper elimination and aggressive behavior problems. They were satisfied with the number of declawed cats. Carr was concerned about these statistics and sought the help of The HSUS in pursing what these numbers might indicate.

What the Experts Say

Since that initial inquiry, several studies on declawing and behavior have been conducted. The first study was partly the work of Katherine Houpt, VMD, Ph.D., of the Feline Health Center at Cornell University. Dr. Houpt's study, "The Effects of Declawing on Feline Behavior," asked cat owners to describe both positive and negative behaviors exhibited by their cats. Of the 74 cats studied, 38 were declawed, 36 had intact claws, and 24 had been referred to a local veterinary clinic for behavior problems (13 of whom were declawed). From this group, no significant differences in the behavior of clawed versus declawed cats were found. In fact, declawed cats were perceived to exhibit more good behaviors than clawed cats, although a slightly higher percentage of declawed cats had one or more behavior problems. The study concluded that "declawing does not seem to alter a cat's behavior."

Dr. Gary Landsberg, BSc, DVM, a veterinarian in Toronto, Ontario, has conducted two studies about declawing. In the first, he surveyed 250 veterinarians in Ontario. His results showed that approximately 100,000 cats are declawed there each year. The veterinarians reported that they see virtually no health or behavior problems associated with declawing. About half of the vets counsel their clients on behavior modification as an alternative to declawing. The veterinarians estimated that about 60 percent of the vet owners who request declawing would not keep their cats if they weren't declawed. One particularly alarming fact was that 192 out of 228 veterinarians said that most of the cats they declaw still go outdoors after the procedure.

In Landsberg's other study, which measured pet owners' attitudes toward declawing, 96 percent of owners (276 out of 283) were satisfied with their declawed pet—70 percent even reported that their relationship was better with the pet than before the operation. These results corroborate those of the Cornell study. Regaless, Landsberg says, "I think every single cat should have all opportunities to modify his behavior before declawing. Declawing should be a last resort. When asked whether cat owners try alternatives before deciding to declaw, Landsberg says he believes that most don't.

Dr. Houpt summarizes that a pet owner who has gone through the expense of declawing is also more apt to seek consultation on other problem behaviors later on. Dr. Randall Lockwood, HSUS's vice president for field services and an animal behaviorist, agrees.

Lockwood also believes that the reasons for declawing may provide some insight on why it appears that declawed cats come to exhibit behavioral problems. "These cats often exhibit bad behavior before the operation—scratching the furniture being one problem," says Lockwood. The owners elect to get the cat declawed, and the cat becomes the "victim of an owner who is looking for a quick fix.

HELP CAT OWNERS MODIFY THEIR CATS' SCRATCHING BEHAVIOR

S

sequently, declawing a cat is not the way to solve her scratching habit. Most cats can learn to use acceptable scratching areas like scratching posts, thereby eliminating the need to declaw. To help cat owners who are having trouble with their cat's scratching, here are some tips:

•Trim the cat's claws weekly, using nail clippers to remove the white tip ("quick," of the claw. Some clawing is done to wear down the claws; trimming prevents this need.

•Provide the cat with an alternative piece of furniture to claw—her own scratching post. The post should be at least as tall as the cat when she stretches up to full length (this is the position many cats scratch in). It should be sturdy so that she can't knock it over, and it should be covered with bark or carpeting. Don't use posts covered with looped carpeting, as the cat will get her claws hung up in the loops and will resist using the post. Many cats have a need to climb as well as scratch, so a tall, well-anchored post with secure perches may be helpful for cats who continue to claw furniture after being pro-vided with a post.

•To entice the cat to use the post rather than the couch, place the post next to a favorite scratching spot, cover it with catnip, and "show" the cat how to use it by extending her claws on the post and making a scratching motion. Most importantly, praise her when she tries it on her own and whenever she uses it. Use a repellent such as perfume or vinegar on the former scratching places, or cover them with plastic or tape to make them undesirable places to scratch. A squirt with a water pistol, or plant mister or a very firm "no" will remind the cat not to scratch where she shouldn't.

•Also see the review of Train Your Cat, a new paperback ideal for cat adopters, on page 13. Written by the animal behavior consultant of California's Marin Humane Society, the book includes a section on cat scratching behavior and declawing.

•These methods should begin to work in a week or so. If not, it may be necessary to rethink the type of post and where or how it is positioned.

•When cats scratch people, it is usually because they want to play. They need to learn that scratching will not get them the attention they want. When a cat scratches someone, the person often fusses and jerks his or her hand away, which only entices the cat to attack the moving target—to her it's a great game! When the cat scratches, simply scold her with a firm "no," and get up and leave her alone. Soon she will learn that in order to keep playing, she can't scratch. Avoid accidental scratches by playing with a toy attached to a string, providing some distance between your hand and the cat's claws.

Never entice kittens to use your hand as a toy or object of attack.

•For more help in training and caring for cats, Dr. Michael W. Fox's, Guide to Cat Behavior and Psychology, is available in 1/2" VHS format for $20.00. To order, write The HSUS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.

The scratching (or at least the damage from scratching) may be stopped, but the reason that the cat misbehaves in the first place hasn't been addressed, so other problem behaviors surface. Unlike the studies described previously, his theory seems to explain CVHS's statistics on surrenders of declawed cats.

Many people assume that cats may seem to bite more afterdeclawing because bising replaces scratching as a defensive action. Interestingly, a study on aggression in felines found that there was no significant difference in the occurrence of aggressive behaviors between clawed and declawed cats.

Lockwood does believe that declawing could be the cause of some cats developing improper elimination habits. Because the paws are sensitive after the surgery, the cat may eliminate outside the box in order to avoid uncomfortable litter box material. Changing the box filler to a softer material could help in these cases.

What Lockwood and Houpt both
CLAW GUARDS AND THE TENDONECTOMY

There are two alternatives available that may be less painful and traumatic for the cat than the traditional onychectomy. Heads or soft nail caps that can be glued to cats’ claws as “claw guards” have been around for several years. These non-permanent coverings fall off when the claws’ outer cuticles shed (about once every seven weeks). Problems occur when pet owners get frustrated trying to cement them to their cats’ claws, and give up. And cats are sometimes able to pull off the caps themselves. Claw guard systems are available through veterinarians.

The other alternative to declawing is a relatively new surgical procedure called a tendonectomy. This operation, as its name suggests, involves the severing of the tendon attached to the last digit of the toe. As a result, the cat will still have its claws, but it is no longer able to extend them or dig them into anything. The operation usually causes little pain or bleeding, and cats who undergo it fully recover within two days. Cats’ nails must still be clipped at the usual intervals.

The tendonectomy was first formally described by Colorado veterinarian Dr. John Rife in the January/February 1988 edition of the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association. Because it is so new, few veterinarians currently offer the procedure.

The tendonectomy, though it seems less radical than the onychectomy, is still surgery. “Like traditional declawing,” says Dr. Melanie Adcock, a veterinarian with The HSUS, “the tendonectomy should be used as a last resort.”

say is that pet owners who are apt to declaw their cats are probably less tolerant of bad behavior than other pet owners who might be willing to put up with the behavior while working to overcome the problem. Therefore, when problems do arise, the owners of declawed cats are likely to either take the cat to a veterinarian for help with the problem, or turn the declawed cat to a shelter because they are unwilling to live with the cat as he or she behaves. Most cats who enter shelters with behavioral problems, of course, are not made available for adoption. But the way animal shelters typically handle adoptions of declawed cats and their policies on the matter are worth exploring.

What Typical Shelters Do

The Washington Humane Society (WHS, 7319 Georgia Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20012) for years has not allowed any cat adopted from their two shelters to be declawed, and this requirement is specified in the adoption contract. Jean Johnson, WHS executive director, admits that the provision is hard to enforce, but comments that “it’s all hard to enforce.” She says it’s just as hard to enforce the requirement that cats not be allowed outside, but they are certainly not going to leave this requirement out of their contracts. She sees their position and the wording in the contract as “educational tools.”

“You accomplish a lot by just letting people know how you feel about an issue,” she says. “You get a great deal of voluntary compliance because many people will do what they have been asked to.” She is very decisive about declawing. “It’s worse than unnecessary,” she says. “If we say it’s all right to declaw, we have to say it’s all right to pull dog’s teeth when they chew and cut their vocal cords when they bark.”

WHS mostly refuses to adopt cats and kittens to people who want to declaw them. But to avoid the pitfall of being accused of killing a cat simply because somebody planned to declaw him, WHS has an unwritten policy never to euthanize a cat that would have been placed had the potential adopter indicated they would declaw. WHS will find another home for that particular cat. Because this happens so rarely, it hasn’t been difficult to maintain this policy.

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr., Arlington, VA 22206) does not have a policy to refuse the adoption of a cat to someone who wishes to declaw. They do counsel adopters against the procedure and point out alternatives such as showing adopters how to clip cats’ nails and encouraging them to use cardboard or rope scratching posts. They also maintain pet preference cards for potential adopters whose apartments or lifestyles require declawed cats. They do match them up with already declawed cats who come to the shelter.

What The HSUS Says About Declawing

HSUS Vice President for Companion Animals Marc Paulhus supports the policies of agencies like WHS that do not adopt cats to people who wish to declaw them. The policy of The HSUS is to oppose declawing of cats when done solely for the convenience of the owner and without benefit to the animal, which is usually the case. However, if it comes to a question of declawing a cat or having him euthanized because his behavior simply cannot be tolerated, the operation is obviously life-saving. “Declawing should be the last option before disposing of the pet,” Paulhus stresses. “All other alternatives have to be explored first.”

What’s at Stake

According to the Canadian statistics, in Toronto alone 500,000 cats might not have homes if they weren’t declawed. But the question is—“is it always should be regarding adopters who want these quality, permanent homes?”

Many shelters do not adopt cats to people who would let them outdoors because they view this as irresponsible pet ownership. Shouldn’t the same standard apply to people who intend to stop their cat from tearing up the “merriment by spending money on a surgical solution that’s painful and traumatic for the cat? As too many animal shelter workers already know, money means nothing when animals are viewed as disposable, and there are many high-priced, purebred animals in shelters to prove this. Since most people who want to declaw their cats don’t try any alternative methods, what will they do if the cat is not declawed? Will they turn the animal over to other behavioral problems, or vomits on the oriental rug, or develops a urinary infection with the accompanying improper elimination?

With that question in mind, shelter personnel should ask adopters if they plan to declaw the cat and why. Many people just assume it’s the thing to do without examining the consequences to the cat or realizing that they have other options. Once they realize what’s involved, they are usually willing to consider the alternatives. Even if your agency’s adoption policy does not specifically forbid adoptions to people who would declaw, you can still educate them about the alternatives. You should also be ready to counsel pet owners who have destructive cats about what they can do to live with their cats without subjecting them to a painful surgical procedure. (See the sidebar to this article for tips on training cats not to scratch what they shouldn’t. Feel free to copy or reprint this information for your patrons or use the Reproducible on the inside back cover.)

Scratching, as cats lovers know, is as natural to a cat as purring. It’s just that people prefer to keep the purring and get rid of the scratching. Responsible pet ownership means accepting the negative aspects of pet ownership along with the rewards.

Anne Raver, a columnist for the New York Times, lamented the declawing of her cat, Mrs. Gray, in her August 13th column: “She doesn’t flex her claws anymore, in that luxurious way she had while snoozing in the sun. She’s quieter, too, like a feisty soul beaten up once too often. We’ve taken away her last wildness, the dignity that comes from power. “We tell ourselves it’s all right to do these things to animals. We have civilized reasons, like not letting them destroy our priceless possessions. We tell ourselves how we rescued them from the streets. After all, Mrs. Gray was a stray.”

“We remove their claws when they don’t respect our possessions. But we’d call it barbaric to remove the fingers of a thief.”

“Mrs. Gray comes to sit by me now. She purrs and rubs her head against my hand. I suppose I could say she has forgiven me, in which case her love puts mine to shame. But I have stolen from her and she is the lesser for it.”

With understanding, patience, and training, a pet owner and a cat with claws can live together in harmony.
Misanthropy AND Anthropomorphism: Two Ten-Dollar Words And How To Manage Them

By Nicholas Gilman and Jill Shepherd

Misanthropy is readily contagious. When a shelter staff begins to observe that misanthropic attitudes seem to make their coworkers more direct, even blunt, about turning down adoptions or interrogating a person who wishes to turn in his or her animal, they may start having similar stronger feelings themselves. Before long, everyone may feel that placing the blame and venting frustrations on the public is an appropriate way to feel in control.

Unfortunately, if the feeling is too pervasive, shelter workers may lose sight of the fact that the more effective approach is to try to educate the public, not condemn them. Misanthropy, to a degree, is unavoidable in a mission that seeks to help and control field workers know that people are sometimes difficult.

Misanthropy is the hatred or distrust of mankind. When someone mutters “I hate people,” he or she is displaying misanthropic behavior, whether or not the statement is truly meant. It’s no surprise that dislike of humans is one of the most common stress inducers for shelter workers. An excessive “hating-people” or “loving-animals-more-than-people” attitude can do nothing but harm to animal care and control workers. This feeling, if left unchecked, can promote confrontational dealings with the public that, in turn, create both an unsettling atmosphere for staff and a negative image for the shelter.

Certainly, everyone in the animal care and control field knows that people are to blame, and it is difficult to be nice to anyone who bases decisions on how to administer euthanasia must be predicated on the care of the animals, all decisions within the shelter should be based on pragmatism and informed criteria.

It is easier to avoid misanthropy and anthropomorphism than it is to treat them. Those considering working in the animal care and control field should examine themselves closely to see if they’re able to stand up against the pressure of the public and do the difficult tasks that shelter work entails.

Training in proper euthanasia methods can help prevent anthropomorphic feelings from getting in the way of doing the job right. Rotating the responsibility for euthanasia can also help stress levels brought on by this job.

It is easy to understand how animal-protection workers come to anthropomorphize when they consider how closely they feel better. This is comforting to the kennel attendant, but it really only serves to promote tension, dissatisfaction, and burnout. If shelter workers believe that their attitudes create is overwhelming, they should seek help from a counselor and from others in the field.

The Administrative Cure

If misanthropy and anthropomorphism are left untreated, they will spread among staff until, as Dr. Fox notes, “frustration, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, and, ultimately, burnout, sets in.” While these feelings may be normal, they are obviously not conducive to a good working atmosphere. The problem should be recognized on both an individual and staff-wide basis, and corrective action should be initiated. Reform of a stressed shelter staff is the responsibility of the administration. The administration must realize that misanthropic feelings can be an acquired sickness. Therefore, if the shelter setting is to blame, the shelter should also be the solution.

Kennel managers should train all kennel staff in administering euthanasia. Shelter directors should encourage all staff and board members to become familiar with, and even assist in,
euthanasia. Once trained, the kennel manager should ensure that no one performs euthanasia duties. A schedule should be set aside for staff to freely discuss their feelings in order to help.

However, administrative staffers are uncomfortable talking to supervisors about sensitive, work-related emotions, their feelings should be respected. However, administrative staffers are usually the ones who are in the best position to correct any problems. They must, at some point, be brought into the discussions in order to help.

Shelter directors should consider bringing in a speaker who can effectively discuss the issue of work-related stress. The local speakers’ bureau should be aware that humane work is closer to caring for abused children or terminally ill patients than to pet store work.

The local speakers’ bureau may be unable to provide references to humane work, but the goal is to find positive solutions, not dwell on the problems. The key is to present burnout caused by misanthropy and anthropomorphism is communication—knowing that you are not alone. Staff may want to arrange weekly informal dinner sessions with a counselor where they can form a support group for each other. It is important that a support group not be a “grip session,” however. Venting frustrations is important, but the goal is to find positive solutions, not dwell on the problems.

The individual cure

Individuals should seek help for themselves by communicating their stress with others in the field, whether coworkers or individuals from other shelters. (Euthanasia technicians can call the Euthanasia Technician Hotline if they need to talk to another)

date on techniques and know that they are doing things the right way, they will have more confidence and assurance that they are doing what is best for the animals.

Maintaining stress prevention programs

Once staff programs are in effect to help the staff deal with their stress, the programs must be maintained. At first, the programs may be rather intensive; weekly staff meetings or frequent sessions on the emotional aspects of euthanasia may be appropriate. As the programs take effect, fewer staff will avail themselves of the sessions. This is normal. This does not mean that sessions should be discontinued, but that the program schedule could be altered in order to compensate; a session every two weeks instead may be enough. The staff will, through its participation, let administration know how frequently sessions are needed.

One final word

Anthropomorphic and misanthropic feelings may be undesirable, but they are normal and expected. It is up to shelter administrators to recognize this and to anticipate the needs of the staff. Programs designed to help the staff help themselves will ease tensions but may not be a total cure. Help has to come first from the individual who recognizes that he or she needs help.

If a shelter worker recognizes the symptoms of these two maladies in him or herself, the first step has been taken. It is up to individuals, as humane care and control professional, to ensure that they know and do what is best for the animals. In doing this, they will help themselves cope with the stress involved in the animal care profession.

Society sponsors spay/neuter “specials”

In June and July of this year, the Houston Humane Society (P.O. Box 450528, Houston, TX 77245-0528) spayed and neutered a total of 1,089 cats, approximately one-third of the animals they sterilized at their clinic during all of 1991.

HSUS can assist owners of pets caught in traps

As part of the anti-trapping campaign of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the Wildlife section announces the availability of expert assistance for citizens interested in pursuing lawsuits against those responsible for trapping their pets. Depending on the case and the availability of resources, The HSUS may be able to provide references to sympathetic and/or pro bono attorneys; experts; witnesses; opinions and advice; re-homes; and other helpful materials.

Humane societies and shelters should encourage citizens to contact Elizabeth Bird at (202) 452-1100 if their pet is involved in a trapping incident and they are considering legal action.

SHELTER SHORTS

With a grant from the Houston Cat Club, a local organization that holds purebred and mixed-breed charity cat shows to raise funds for various animal protection groups, the society sponsored an “Alter-A-Cat-For-Free” month in June. This was the second year for the event and, according to Jennifer Albert, community relations director for the society, a tremendously successful one.

“We were so booked up in June, we decided to extend the program into July,” said Albert. “We felt bad about having to turn people away. The Cat Club was so generous this year that, at the end of the free month of June, the society was able to provide a Felines Fixed For Free On Friday’s special in July,” said Albert. And the turnout was fantastic. People drove in from as far as two hours away from Houston to take advantage of the special.

The society opened their spay/neuter clinic in January of 1990, and the number of operations performed per year has steadily increased. “In 1991 we did approximately 3,100 surgeries (this year we’ve already done 2,600 for the public, not including our own adoptions. Our goal this year is to go over 3,000.”

The clinic is funded entirely by donations from the public. Says Albert, “We charge $10 for each operation, which means we lose $40 every time. It keeps us in the red, but we’re doing a lot of spaying and neutering, and I’m sure we’re making a big impact on the pet population in the Houston area.”

PET-OF-THE-WEEK INCIDENT PROMPTS HOLDING POLICY CHANGE

On Friday, the Humane Society of Central Oregon (61170 Southeast 27th Street, Bend, OR 97702) picked up an eight-year-old cocker spaniel named Tinker. The next Friday, they advertised him in their Pet-of-the-Week ad. On Saturday, because they were bombarded with surrenders and ran out of kennel space, they euthanized him. On Monday, the shelter received more than a dozen calls from interested potential adopters.

It’s not every day that an animal shelter finds itself in this sort of quandary. But, to their credit, the shelter did not try to sweep the reality of euthanasia under a rug. "Our general policy here is to tell the public the truth about the disposition of animals, and we told anyone who asked what had happened to the dog that it had been euthanized," said Daniel E. Early, executive director of the society. Many of the callers were angry, and their anger spurred three letters to the editor—one a week—about the tragedy.

“Our entire staff at the shelter was devastated,” Early explained. “We were angry and frustrated. We thought that we were responsibly doing a difficult job, when in fact we had killed a dog.
that very possibly would have gone to a
good home. As events unfolded, it was
difficult for the staff to keep from
being defensive.”

Despite the negative publicity,
however, Early believes that this sort of
incident can have a definite shock
impact on the community and serve to
there are those moments when we’re
trying to explain our decision when we
would be able to tell all of Oregon
however, Early believes that this sort of
long."

an ad comes out. “Nobody got on the
shelter manager. “Despite that injus­
show aired on the Independent Broad­
when an animal’s time is up. “

on stations across the country. The
owner's case for turning in an eight­
time to sell.”

Temple on his field study of feral cats.

bats; and an interview with Dr. Stanley
public service announcements or publi­
head of the HSUS is speaking out-on
marine-related topics and
issues, from interviews with experts and pet­
owner advice to point/
mal-related topics and
issues, from interviews with experts and pet­

as the March Convention on
meeting—and
provided live remote
broadcasts of animal­
incidents—such as the
Iditarod dog sled race
in Alaska. “Animal Talk”
will also provide live cov­
erage of disasters such as oil spills.

Any breaking animal story will be
.allowed to broadcast the show—at
no cost to the station.

“It’s very easy to promote,” adds
Hodge, “because there is no synodia­
cence fee for airing it. The local station,
in return for carrying it, gets six to nine
minutes per show of local advertising
time to sell.”

This local advertising time means that
a local shelter or humane society is
given the perfect opportunity to run
public service announcements or public­
ize themselves inexpressively to a local
that is guaranteed to be con­
ected to animal protection.

If your local talk-radio station man­
ger is interested in airing “Animal Talk”
ask him or her to contact Robyn Will­
s, Syndication Coordinator, Inde­
volution Network, 2 Corporate
Suite 530, Clearwater, FL 34622;
(813) 573-4402.

Copies of Train Your Cat are avail­
able at special quantity discounts for
fund raising or educational use. For
details or to order, contact
Avon Books, Dept. FP, 1350 Avenue of the
Americans, New York, NY
(800) 1-800-238-0568.

PRE-EXPO SEMINAR FORM

Name: _______________________
Organization: _______________________
Address: _______________________
Phone: _______________________

Please register me for the workshop checked below:

- Pet First Aid and CPR (Cost: $99)
- Euthanasia: The Human Factor (Cost: $50)

Please also sign me up to attend Animal Care Expo '93 (early registration fee: $18)

Please send check or money order along with this form to:
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Crestline, CA 92325

Make check payable to Animal Care Expo '93.
NEW BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

ANIMAL CAREERS

Are you looking for guidance on careers working with animals? Do you know someone who is? Does your agency ever get requests for animal career information from people in the community? Careers Working with Animals: A 158-page book and guide to help you find the career that suits you best. It contains information about each job and the skills each requires. It also contains useful information such as employment outlooks, as well as anecdotal stories from people in the field.

Whether the reader is interested in buying a support role, such as outreach coordinator, or an active role, such as cat house architect—all with a conscience toward the humane treatment of animals. Catwalk, by Louise Miller, may be the answer. This 158-page book is an enjoyable, easy-to-read resource for those interested in finding their niche in the animal-care world.

The book is designed as a user-friendly tool to help readers decide which types of animal-related work best suit them. Categorized by types of jobs, the book covers everything from pet therapist to wildlife photographer, from animal control officer to pet musak maker (creating soothing original copy. Bulk discounts are available.

For more information, or to order books, contact Gail Cassel at VGM Career Services, 100 West Main St., Ste. 303, Plantsville, CT 06263; 203-626-7900. Another collar, which was recently developed for humane training of large dogs, is the K-Kollar by Klein Design, Inc. This patented new training collar is designed with a weighted center section that adjusts itself across a dog’s throat and evenly distributes pressure over a broad area. The end rings of the collar rise to a point and stay at the back of the dog’s neck; unlike the usual training collar, and make it easier for the handler to gain control of the dog. The K-Kollar is available in lengths from 14 to 32 inches. The retail price ranges from $16 to $30. For more information, contact Klein Design, Inc., P.O. Box 417, Glenwood, PA 15116; 800-442-5565.

TWO COLLARS PROMOTE SAFETY

Second Chance Animal Safety Products has developed a velcro-fastened breakaway collar for dogs and cats that can make a perfect humane society fundraiser. The Second Chance collar is designed so that if the pet gets caught on something, the collar unfastens. Two loops can be hooked over the velcro to a leash to override the escape feature. The company will also provide sheets of very lightweight safety orange reflective tags to attach to the collars; 36 per sheet for dog tags and 64 per sheet for cat tags. The dog tags cost $1.35 for 500, and the cat tags are $90 for 500. To order collars or obtain a catalog of all the company’s products, contact Second Chance Animal Safety Products, 100 West Main St., Ste. 303, Plantsville, CT 06263; 203-626-7900.

Another collar, which was recently developed for humane training of large dogs, is the K-Kollar by Klein Design, Inc. This patented new training collar is designed with a weighted center section that adjusts itself across a dog’s throat and evenly distributes pressure over a broad area. The end rings of the collar rise to a point and stay at the back of the dog’s neck; unlike the usual training collar, and make it easier for the handler to gain control of the dog. The K-Kollar is available in lengths from 14 to 32 inches. The retail price ranges from $16 to $30. For more information, contact Klein Design, Inc., P.O. Box 417, Glenwood, PA 15116; 800-442-5565.

Announcements

Announcements are free and limited to one opening in humane organizations or animal control agencies. 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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—For the Humane Society of Michigan City, Indiana, handling an average of 1,000 animals per year with 68% adoption rate. Will guide shelter through major growth life-cycle. Requires strong people skills and community development, budget, and organizational skills. Management and administration ability a must. Diverse and experience preferred. Send resume only to Polly Liebig, President, HSMC, 2002 Beverly Ave, Michigan City, IN 46360.

SHELTER MANAGER—For the Bennington County Humane Society. Looking for a dedicated individual to manage operations of a shelter handling 2,000 animals annually. Experience in animal care and handling, euthanasia, personnel management, public relations, and education desired. Send cover letter and resume to Bennington County Humane Society, Incorporator, RR 1B, Box 262, Shaftsbury, VT 05262.

Reproducible

Is Your Cat Shredding Your Nerves As Well As Your Furniture?

There Are Ways To Solve the Problem Without Putting Your Cat Through the Trauma and Discomfort of Declawing.

Surgically handicapping a cat is not the way to solve her scratching habit. Most cats can learn to use acceptable scratching areas, thereby eliminating the need to declaw. Here are some tips:

- Provide the cat with an alternative piece of furniture to claw—her own scratching post. It should be as tall as she is when she stretches up to full length (the position most cats scratch in). It should be sturdy and covered with bark or carpeting.

- To entice the cat to use the post rather than the couch, place it next to a favorite scratching place cover it with catnip and “show” her how to use it by extending her claws on the post and making a scratching motion.

- Most importantly, praise her when she tries it on her own and whenever she uses the post.

- Use a repellent such as perfume or vinegar on the former scratching places, or cover them with plastic or tape to make them undesirable. A square with a water pistol or plant mist or a very firm “no” will remind the cat not to scratch where she shouldn’t.

- Trim the cat’s claws weekly, using nail clippers to remove the white tip of each claw. This will keep her from causing damage when she does claw.
Register Now for One of Two Sessions of The HSUS's Animal Control Academy to be held in Oakland, California

When: Session 57: January 31-February 11, 1993
       Session 58: February 1-12, 1993

Where: Clarion Hotel
       455 Hegenberger Road
       Oakland, CA 94621
       (510) 562-6100 or (800) 932-4550

Room Rates: $55 double/single, $65 triple

Cost To Attend: $325 per person

How To Apply: Contact The Animal Control Academy
                5126-A McFarland Blvd., East
                Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405
                (205) 752-0058

Registration Deadline: November 30, 1992

Note: Due to the interest in the Academy in the Oakland area, The HSUS is holding two separate sessions. The Academy will assign you to one of these sessions when we receive your application; however, if you have a preference for certain dates, please indicate that on your application.