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I am very concerned about my neighbor’s dog, a recent letter to The HSUS said. “He tried to a 6-foot rope all day and night. I’ve seen him freezing in a snowfall, baking on a sweltering day, and soaking in a downpour. I’m not sure what to do for this poor dog.”

In this person’s community, tethering is not specifically illegal. We know of only a handful of municipalities where this is the case. So is the responsibility of the humane agency in her community to find a solution despite the lack of a specific law that outlines the provisions.

How can the successful animal protection agency find solutions to problems like this? Th answer lies in looking at existing state and local animal-cruelty statutes and developing a comprehensive set of animal-care standards based on the language of those statutes. The agency must apply knowledge of animals’ physical and psychological needs to determine what constitutes “adequate shelter,” “proper nutrition,” and other statutory requirements.

Here’s an example: 42 states have laws requiring that animals be transported in a safe or humane manner. Although the statute language says nothing specifically about what constitutes safe or humane transport, the progressive animal protection agency will apply that language to dogs carried unsecured in the back of pickup trucks. The agency’s animal-care standard, in other words, is that a dog carried unsecured in the back of a pickup truck constitutes unsafe and/or inhumane transport.

Similarly, the Washington Humane Society (whose general animal-care standards are listed on pages 6-7) has interpreted cruelty statutes to mean that tethering an animal on a chain or rope shorter than 15 feet is cruel. More importantly, the statutes specify that the animal must be off the tether for a period of time. The humane society can assert that tethering induces stress and prohibits the animal from exercising, depleting it psychologically as well as physically—abuses that, arguably, fall under the anticycruelty statutes.

In court, unwritten or inconsistently applied standards simply will not hold up. Animal-care standards grounded in existing laws and put in writing are the most effective tools to prove your point. An agency’s interpretation of a statute, established in writing and consistently applied, is afforded considerable weight in court. If you can confidently say that providing daily exercise for an animal is your standard, and keeping a dog chained outside is a violation of that standard, and you’ve applied those criteria equally in all previous cases, a judge will be much more likely to agree.

Setting statutes that do not conflict from area to area also helps give your enforcement program credibility. I strongly encourage state federations to develop uniform standards for statewide animal care and control laws.

By developing and applying consistent animal-care standards, agencies can most effectively solve common situations of neglect. The dog on the end of the rope deserves consideration.

Marc Paulhus, HSUS Vice President for Companion Animals

THE IMPORTANCE OF CARE STANDARDS

The development of animal-care standards that define the general terms of “dequate,” “proper,” and “unnecessary suffering” are essential adjuncts to anti-cruelty laws. Animal care and control agencies should evaluate their state and local laws and ordinances and develop appropriate standards—such as those detailed in the sidebar on pages 6-7—based on those statutes.

ACOs are all too familiar with animal owners who challenge their knowledge and authority to set compliance requirements. The use of well-defined standards legitimizes compliance requirements, the officer may impose upon an owner and elevates the encounter from a personal and subjective to a professional and objective plane. Producing an objective set of standards that the pet owner that your agency requires the same level of care from all owners can resolve many tense encounters and assist the officer in achieving compliance. Proper care standards have also been used effectively in courts of law to substantiate an officer’s actions.

Standards should define the care and prohibitions contained in the anti-cruelty code, whether it be state or local. While shelter, food, and water provisions directly to words in the law, other lapses in care, such as failure to provide necessary veterinary care or humane confinement, are only implied in laws.

Translating Laws into Standards

Too often agencies feel their hands are tied because anti-cruelty laws themselves do not specify standards. Shelter standards such as bedding or a protected entrance to a doghouse, for instance, may not be specifically enumerated in the law. In fact, a strong case can be made for showing that the law does require such things; bedding and a protected entrance to a doghouse are essential in cold weather to provide protection from the elements. Similarly, the law may not state explicitly that an animal must be seen by a veterinarian for a broken limb. However, by requiring “necessary sustenance”...
or prohibiting “unnecessary suffering,” the law mandates that the animal’s condition be alleviated. The proper way to alleviate the condition of a broken leg is to seek veterinary care. By creatively enforcing existing laws through the use of reasonable, common sense standards that define proper care, most instances of animal neglect can be successfully addressed.

The effective officer must be able to explain the relevance of a legal requirement to the animal’s needs. The law may require “protection from the elements”; the care standards define just what that means. For example, shelter standards for dogs must take into account all weather conditions—heat, cold, wind, and rain. To provide protection from the weather, the shelter must protect the dog from all these elements. Therefore, the standards require shade from the sun in hot weather. They require a doghouse that will provide protection from rain and wind—in other words, a doghouse of solid construction with a protected entrance. The house must be of a size sufficient to allow not only space for movement but also a comfortable resting place, to keep the dog cool in the heat or warm in the cold. The house must be raised off the ground. The standards are based on common sense and relate directly to the terms “shelter” or “protection from the weather” as specified in the law.

How an officer handles the initial response to a complaint is a key ingredient to successful humane law enforcement. The best laws and enforcement standards are of no use unless they are effectively applied to resolve deficiencies that may exist in the care an animal is receiving.

When responding to a complaint of abuse or neglect, the officer must assess all aspects of the animal’s care and condition and address any problems noted. The complaint may state, for example, that the dog is left outside without shelter. Upon arrival the officer observes that the dog is thin and has no water, in addition to not having any shelter. To simply require the owner to provide proper shelter in this case would not meet the primary objective of preventing unnecessary suffering by ensuring the animal’s safety and well-being. The officer must also determine why the dog is thin (inadequate food, intestinal parasites, and/or illness?) and require that the problem be remedied (educate the owner on proper feeding or require veterinary care to prevent unnecessary suffering). Before the case can be closed, the officer must rein­spect to ensure that conditions for compliance have been met and the problems have been remedied (i.e., a proper doghouse and water are available, and the dog has gained weight).

Education, Social Work, Law Enforcement

Achieving compliance with anti-cruelty laws can often be a challenging experience for an animal control officer. To be the most effective, the humane officer must be part educator, part social worker, and part law enforcement official. As an educator, the officer would explain to a dog owner the benefits of socializing the dog and making it part of the family. The officer might give helpful tips on training or provide information about nutrition and preventative veterinary care. Poorly informed owners are often surprised to learn, for example, that “bad” dog behaviors such as aggression, hyperactivity, destructive tendencies, and excessive barking are often caused by isolation, boredom, and improper confinement.

As a social worker, the officer might help arrange a free or reduced-cost spay or neutering program, or help transport an animal to a veterinary clinic for a senior citizen without a vehicle, or show an owner how a backyard fence can be secured. As a law enforcement official, the officer might advise the owner about exactly what care or conditions must be provided in order to be in compliance with the law. In order to accomplish the goal of ensuring that animals are provided with adequate care and are not subjected to unnecessary suffering, the officer must be knowledgeable about the laws in his or her jurisdiction and not afraid to use them to the animal’s advantage.

Identifying Individual Situations

In resolving any case of abuse or neglect, the ACO must first determine if the animal is even wanted. Talking with the owner will sometimes reveal that they don’t really want the animal or would give it up rather than take steps to pro­vide proper care. In those instances, the case can be resolved by the owner signing the animal over to the officer. If the animal is not surrendered, the officer must set reasonable requirements for compliance with the law. Although it is often enough to require that everyone treat their animal the way you treat yours, the requirements for compliance are necessarily related to the laws that mandate acceptable care and prevent unnecessary suffering. Although the safety and well-being of the animal must never be compromised, compliance may be tailored to suit the resources of the owner.

The standard that requires that dogs not continually be chained or otherwise tethered best illustrates this point. The standard prevents the animal from being subjected to unnecessary suffering by ensuring it has adequate space and freedom of movement, and by relieving the excessive frustration caused by life on the end of a chain (evidenced by inevitable barking, protruding teeth, aggression, or timidity that accompany such a life). But the owner may not have the resources available to construct an appropriate pen right away. In such a case, the officer might educate the owner about the dog’s needs, show the owner how to safely and humanely confine the dog in the house until the pen can be constructed, and require a regular period of time off the tether for exercise and socialization until the pen can be completed. The deadline for compliance (constructing a pen) might be extended from two weeks to three months. It would be wrong, however, to permit the owner to continue to live indefinitely on the ... of a chain because the owner chose not to construct a pen or provide another acceptable alternative.

The ACO may be able to further improve the animal’s situation by educat­ing the owner about the animal’s needs, both physical and psychological, and by pointing out the advantages of a well-socialized and cared-for dog. If the owner complains that the dog must live outside because it is not housebroken, educate the owner on housebreaking methods. If the owner states that the dog is chained in the yard as a guard dog, point out that the contents of the house can best be protected if the dog is allowed loose in the house where the possessions are located or within a fenced yard to guard entrances to the house.

In cases where serious, malicious, and blatan­t cruelty to animals can be proven, the officer should proceed with prosecu­tion.

Beyond Care Standards

Many situations encountered in the course of investigating complaints of cruelty to animals are similar. It is impossible, however, to provide standards for every situation animal control/human care officers encounter. Standards cannot cover every situation. The absence of standards does not preclude the animal control officer from considering the animal’s well-being. The stress of inhumane treatment can best be accomplished by utilizing good judgement and common sense to determine if the animal’s needs are being met.

The object of humane law enforce­ment is to prevent animals from suffering unnecessarily. The animal control/officer is charged with the responsibility of achieving that objective. This can best be accomplished by utilizing sound judgement and common sense to determine if the animal’s needs are being met and by creatively applying reasonable standards for compliance with the laws that prohibit animals from being made to suffer unnecessarily.

To avoid anthropomorphism (attributing human characteristics to nonhumans), there are many recognized similarities between signs of pain in humans and animals, such as crying, flinching, and shivering. The layman can safely assume that injured wounds and fractures are painful and that an animal suffers when deprived of water during hot weather. Fear can also constitute suffering. If an animal has been abused to a point where it cringes or draws back shaking when the abuser approaches, the animal is suffering from acute anxiety. To allow an animal to continue to live under such stress has been found by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to be detrimental to its health and well-being. The stress of inhumane treatment—neglect or physical/psychological abuse—predisposes animals to diseases that can threaten their health.

Animal-care standards can help the ACO recognize and remedy situations that are potentially dangerous to an animal.
A SAMPLE SET OF ANIMAL-CARE STANDARDS

The following standards for animal care were developed by the Washington Humane Society (7319 Georgia Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20012) in consultation with veterinarians and have been used successfully for a number of years by the animal control agencies of Prince George’s County, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. They are not all-inclusive:

1. PROPER FOOD

• Food should be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination. Food shall be provided in sufficient quantity and be of adequate nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health.

• The diet shall be prepared with consideration of the age, species, condition, size, and type of animal.

• Animals shall be fed at least once a day except as dictated by veterinary advice or other professionally accepted practices for the safety and well-being of the animal.

• All food receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary. Receipts used to store food shall be kept covered.

• If more than one animal is fed at one time or in one place, it shall be the responsibility of the owner/custodian to ensure that each animal receives enough food.

2. PROPER DRINK

• A drink shall mean clean, drinkable water available at all times for all animals.

• Exceptions shall be determined by veterinary consultation or professionally accepted practices for the safety and well-being of the animal.

• Animals which are being worked or are in transport shall be provided with water as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal. Frequency of watering shall consider the needs of the animal.

• Animals who are being worked or are in transport shall be provided water as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal.

• All water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary. Receipts used to store water shall be kept covered.

• Space available to the animal must be usable, i.e., maintained in a safe and healthful manner and be free of standing water, accumulated waste, and debris.

• The following space standards may not be sufficient for certain animals and should be increased if necessary. Indicators of improper space and confinement include poor health, abnormal behavior patterns such as pacing or circling within the limits of confinement, or other signs of stress.

Caging of Dogs and Cats:

• Cage confinement of dogs and cats is abnormal and stressful and is only acceptable for temporary confinement, i.e., until the animal can be placed in a suitable home.

3. PROPER SPACE

• All animals shall be able to stand to their full height, stretch out, turn around, lie down, and make normal postural adjustments comfortably.

• Animals shall be allowed to exercise and have freedom of movement as necessary to reduce stress and maintain good physical condition. Space and provisions for exercise must be appropriate for the species and sufficient to meet the needs of the animal.

• Space available to the animal must be usable, i.e., maintained in a safe and healthful manner and be free of standing water, accumulated waste, and debris.

4. PROPER SHELTER/PROTECTION FROM THE WEATHER

• Facilities shall be sufficiently regulated by heating and cooling, if necessary, to protect animals from extremes of temperature and to provide for their health and well-being.

• The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below or rise above temperatures compatible with the health and well-being of the animal.

• Facilities shall be planned such that natural or mechanical means provide for the health and well-being of the animal at all times. Such facilities shall be provided with fresh air by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning, and shall be ventilated as to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation.

Outdoor Shelter:

• All animals kept outdoors shall have access to shelter that provides protection from the weather, i.e., wind, rain, inclement weather conditions.

• Shelter shall be well constructed and appropriate for the species. Consideration shall be given to the animal's age, physical condition, and habituation when determining whether a particular shelter is proper.

• All animals shall have access to shade from the sun during hot weather.

5. PROPER LIGHT

• All animals shall have at least ten hours of light a day, except as dictated by hibernation, veteranarian advice, or professionally accepted practices for the safety and well-being of the animal.

6. Sanitation:

• Collars, harnesses, and the like shall be removed periodically to allow an animal to bathe and maintain health and comfort.

• All indoor and outdoor enclosures shall receive cleaning in necessary to remove excreta, dirt, and debris, as to not minimize disease hazards, odor, and danger to the animal.

7. NECESSARY VETERINARY CARE

Emergency Treatment:

• An animal shall be afforded immediate veterinary care if known or suspected to have suffered an injury, accident, or deliberate, and exhibits such signs as shock, temperature fluctuation, tremors, swelling, broken bones, open wounds, inability to eat or drink, blunting, irregular or abnormal breathing, partial or total paralysis, irrational behavior, or other such signs.

• Animals who are debilitated and weakened or who have exhibited symptoms of illness or other life-threatening illnesses—such symptoms as persistent vomiting or diarrhea—shall be afforded immediate veterinary care.

Treatment Within 48 Hours:

• An animal who has exhibited signs of disease or severe anesthetic stress shall be afforded veterinary care at the earliest possible time.

8. UNNECESSARY SUFFERING

• No animal shall be subjected to unnecessary suffering or cruelty.

• Unnecessary suffering or cruelty may be caused by deficiencies in the categories listed above. Unnecessary suffering or cruelty caused by situations that expose an animal to pain, fear, injury, and pain, physical abuse, or lack of proper veterinary care.

• No animal shall be subjected to unnecessary suffering or cruelty.
VETERINARIANS RECOGNIZE ROLE OF PET BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS IN CAUSING ANIMAL SURRENDERS

More than 90 percent of dog owners complain about one or more problems in their pets’ behavior, according to a study by Robert K. Anderson, D.V.M., at the 129th annual meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), held in Boston last August 1-5, 1992.

“Unwanted behaviors of dogs and cats are the leading cause of euthanasia of healthy animals each year,” said Dr. Anderson of the Center to Study Human-Animal Relationships and Environments at the University of Minnesota. “Veterinarians need to help people prevent and treat pet behavior problems so that we can improve the quality of life for animals and the human-animal bond.”

In a study using a statistically designed sample of dogs at 16 veterinary hospitals, the top behavior complaints reported included dogs jumping on people (listed by 55 percent of owners surveyed), and excessive barking (reported by 49 percent).

“The barking complaint is interesting because other studies show a much larger percentage of people complain about a neighbor’s dog barking than complained about their own dog barking in our study,” Dr. Anderson said. “Behavior problems are often in the eye of the beholder.”

“Other common complaints included: not coming when called, 43 percent; pulling the owner down the street when walking, 42 percent; escaping from the yard, 35 percent; jumping on furniture, 34 percent; excessive excitability, 31 percent; digging, 27 percent; poor house-training behaviors, 24 percent; and chewing, 22 percent.”

“This study signifies that pet owners love their pets and are willing to overlook or work around many common-behavior problems as long as they don’t cause great harm,” Dr. Anderson said.

Pet aggression, which might be expected to top the list of complaints, was actually much less common. Threatening behaviors placed eleventh, reported by 21 percent of pet owners surveyed, and biting placed eighteenth, with only 10 percent reporting this problem.

However, owners of aggressive pets are much more likely to seek help in eliminating the unwanted behavior. In fact, dog aggression aimed at owners and family members is the most common complaint reported at several animal behavior clinics and may be avoided by seeking help from a veterinarian or animal behavior specialist as soon as a puppy displays even minor or isolated aggressive behaviors, according to a separate presentation by Ilana R. Reisner, D.V.M.

“Domestication aggression may involve male dogs, and it may occur in any breed or mixed breeds. Early on, dominant aggressive behaviors may be mild and infrequent, as in a puppy displaying aggression to another dog. They say these behaviors usually do not result from 'spoil- ing' or mistreatment by the owner. In most cases, aggressive behavior does not develop until the dog is over one year old. ‘Dominance is a normal behavior. People need to recognize early signs by training the puppy from the beginning to allow all kinds of manipulations—checking the puppy's mouth, ears, and toes. If the puppy resists, this is a sign of dominance aggression,' Dr. Reisner added. ‘It is also important to understand the significance of postures and attitudes in all puppies.’

Dominant aggressive dogs may act like watch dogs, but their aggressive behaviors are directed at owners and family members instead of strangers or prowlers. Happy, lovable pets 99 percent of the time, baffles their owners when they ‘seem to turn on a family member for no apparent reason.’

‘Most dominant aggressive dogs are males, and castration is one of the recommended treatments,’ reported Victoria Voith, D.V.M., Ph.D., in a related presentation. ‘Castration alone, however, may not completely suppress the dog’s dominant tendencies, and some dogs do not respond to castration at all. Behavioral techniques are generally necessary as well,’ she added.

Up to 80 percent of dominance aggression involves male dogs, and it may occur in any breed or mixed breeds. Early on, dominant aggressive behaviors may be mild and infrequent, as in a puppy displaying aggression to another dog. They say these behaviors may be ignored or treated if they are treated promptly and properly by a specialist." In a separate presentation, Katherine Houpt, V.M.D., of the Cornell Feline Health Center, reported that cat aggression against people stems from several causes, but is usually not the result of poor ‘training’ by the owner.

‘Aggression problems rarely result from anything the owner is doing wrong. Cats aren’t like dogs. You don’t train them,’ Dr. Houpt explained. ‘In most cases, a cat owner doesn’t have to do anything to have a perfectly friendly pet.’

According to Dr. Houpt, in addition to responding to fear or pain, cats may become aggressive toward people due to physical problems—a brain tumor, for example. They also may redirect aggression aimed at an out-of-reach object—such as another animal seen through the window—toward the owner.

Playful cats may also be aggressive if they have not learned to extract their claws or inhibit bites. ‘Once we identify the kind of aggression, we are more apt to be successful in treating cat aggression against people,’ Dr. Houpt said.

The AVMA, based in the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg, is the professional association of the nation’s more than 52,000 veterinarians. Over 300 scientific presentations were made at the 129th annual meeting, the largest gathering of veterinarians in North America.
HOW TO INFLUENCE FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

By Martha Cole Glenn, HSUS Director of Federal Legislative Affairs

I n my work with local animal protection groups, I have met many who want to make a difference at the federal level but don’t quite know where to start. You may think, “I have enough to do running a shelter and dealing with local officials and state legislators. I can’t keep track of Washington, too,” or, “Washington is too far away. They don’t have anything to do with my issues or, “I don’t know my representative or senators. They don’t listen to me,” or,” I have no idea how to find out about what they are doing.”

I want you to know that it’s easier than you think to make a difference in Washington.

People like you were responsible for Congress passing the original Animal Welfare Act in 1965 and its several amended versions since then. As you may know, this federal law provides safeguards for many animals used in labs, puppy mills, and circuses, or sold at auctions or in stores. If you don’t already know it, Congress in 1990 declared April “National Prevent A Litter Month.” This resolution encouraged pet owners to have their dogs and cats spayed or neutered. Many employees of local animal protection agencies helped get that resolution signed into law.

Many issues before Congress—or ones that should be before Congress—affect animals. Some, such as pound seizure, pet theft, and possible taxes on pet ownership, are of local concern. Other issues of national concern affect animals in general or are more specifically beneficial to your one personal relationship to local humane agencies, but they also have much smaller constituencies—which means fewer demands on their time.

However, even members of Congress are accessible to everyone in their community—and especially those who approach them as representatives of local organizations or agencies such as humane societies, SPCA’s, or public animal control agencies. By far the most successful way to influence a legislator is to get to know him or her. Here are some ways to go about it:

• Read the legislator’s voting records. These are often found in local newspapers.
• Write and ask to be on the legislator’s newsletter mailing list. They will be happy to add your name. Ask them for their voting record, too.
• Pay attention during their campaigns. Attend a rally or meeting. Ask them a simple question, such as, “Why are you running for Congress?” or, “What are the most important issues to you?”
• Find out if they have pets. Members of Congress who have pets can be very receptive.
• If you make a trip to Washington plan some time to go to Capitol Hill. Call in advance and make an appointment. In addition to your representative and senators, be sure to meet their staff members. Visit for 15 or 20 minutes and tell them what your areas of expertise are. Thank them for their time and offer to be an information resource. They can’t know everything. You are the kind of expert they and their staffs depend on.
• Remember that you don’t have to go to Washington to meet your legislators. They all maintain staffed offices in their Congressional districts. They are home when Congress is not in session, such as at Easter recess. You can schedule a get-acquainted session in the district office during one of those periods. After your meeting, write the Congressperson a thank-you note and stay in touch periodically.
• When federal legislators are doing work you support and wish to encourage, commend them by writing a letter or placing a phone call.

Communicating with Your Legislators

When you meet with a Congressperson, remember to talk about animal issues but also let him or her know about your other concerns. As legislators, it’s extremely important for you to understand their perspective. Recognize the complexity of the lives of these people who are business leaders, community members, perpetual candidates, public relations specialists, counselors, radio and TV personalities, legislators, arbitrators, writers, spouses, parents, etc.

Look at their total record. Don’t judge them on their stand on one single issue—even if it’s the one that’s most important to you. Don’t get mad or stay away if they don’t agree with you. If they respect your judgement, they will be willing to talk with you about other issues in the future.

Once you know your legislators, you must be informed about the issues you care about in order to influence them. You must know not only your side of the issue, but the other side as well. It will help to know what the opposition’s arguments are and who is making them. An example is occurring now with Congressman Ben Cardin’s puppy protection act (H.R. 3718), which was introduced in 1991 to give consumers who purchase a sick animal the option to keep it and recover vet—many expenses up to three times the cost of the animal. The legislation is opposed by many dog breeders afraid that the bill will affect them. The bill

RANKING OF EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

as rated by Members of Congress (Partial Listing)

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<tr>
<td>Visits from Washington representatives</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editorials in district weekly newspapers</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>News articles in district weekly newspapers</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>15</td>
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Source: The Institute for Government & Public Information Research, The American University
does not apply to "reputable" dog breeders but rather to those commer­
cial facilities that are breeding sick animals and shipping them to pet stores. (It also targets breeders who breed their animals indiscriminately, without concern for passing on genetic defects or behavioral problems.)

Remember that your problem may not always be that you want a new law passed. If you see a traveling zoo in which animals are being abused, for instance, you can call your representative's office and ask the staff to contact the U.S. De­partment of Agriculture, which adminis­
ters the Animal Welfare Act.

Try to make your interests fit into issues that might interest your legislator.

For example, the environment is still a hot issue in the news. Learn how the misuse of animal agriculture-intensive farming practices and overuse of antibiot­
ics and pesticides—not only contributes to animal suffering but also harms the environment and poses possible health problems for consumers. Make the con­nection to your legislator.

Know the Legislative Process

When contacting members of Con­gress, it's important to have a basic understanding of the way bills become law. The HSUS has publications avail­
able that explain the way our legislative system works (see the end of this article for details).

Keep in mind that a representative or senator can be more effective if he or she is on the committee that deals with the legislation of interest to you. For example, members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees are in a better position than those of other committees to initiate stronger legisla­tion to address the pet theft problem.

Contact your representatives in the early stages of the legislative process.

To stay up-to-date on bills before Con­gress, you can call (202) 225-1772.

This call is long-distance, but the infor­mation is free. Give your name and organization, and operators at this number will tell you the status of any piece of legislation before Congress.

Leverage Your Influence

Next, you need to know how to turn your voice into many voices. In other words, how do you leverage your influence?

Letters are a good idea in many cases, though they are generally more effective at the state level than at the fed­eral level. The most effective letter is short, to the point, and speaks from personal experience. If you know your member, a personal call is very effec­tive. And, of course, a personal visit works best.

Whichever form of communication you use, state your case, but don’t preach. And don’t get angry if your representative doesn’t agree with you. Find out why, and ask whether or not information on your perspective would be welcomed. Leverage your vote by attracting more people to your side.

Utilize the following:

• Letters to the editors.

• Appearances on radio or television talk shows.

• Press conferences.

• News releases.

Create a news story. Invite your representative or senator to visit your shelter and have the press there, and you can call your representative's office and ask the staff to contact the U.S. De­partment of Agriculture, which adminis­ters the Animal Welfare Act.

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MATTER

NEW TOY IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

H abro, Inc., one of the largest toy manufacturers in the U.S., has taken a step backward in educating future pet owners. Anyone working to promote humane values and striving to teach children the importance of patience and nurturing will not only be surprised, but appalled, by Hasbro's new stuffed-­
animal toy Puppy Surprise®.

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PLANS FOR HSUS ANIMAL CARE EXPO ’93 SHAPING UP

Next March 17-20, 1993, The HSUS will present its second Expo for the animal care professional. Animal Care Expo ’93, to be held at the Twin Towers Hotel and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, promises to surpass last year’s benchmark event.

Exhibitors confirmed for the international trade show include equipment suppliers like Clark Cages, pet food companies like Gaines CYCLE, marketing and fundraising companies like Gritzard Advertising, and specialty organizations like Bunny Bliss. Some 30 seminars on a variety of topics relevant to animal-care professionals will be offered as well.

Animal Care Expo ’93 is sure to be an educational and rewarding event for all who work with domestic and wild animals. Further details will follow in future issues of Shelter Sense.

STOCK UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This season...to prepare for the season! And The HSUS wants to help nonprofit humane organizations celebrate with a cheerful holiday fundraising offer. While supplies last, HSUS holiday cards from previous years are available at reduced rates.

The cards are sold in packs of 25 and come in three different designs (as shown). At half the original price, each pack costs $4.00 (or 30 packs for $100.00), including shipping and handling. Humane groups can sell the cards to make some easy holiday cash. So order now and cross it off your list early! Just send in the coupon below.

GREETING CARD ORDER FORM

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Kittens in Wreath</td>
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Method of payment: ☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard (Please check one)

Account number: _____________________________ Signature: _____________________________

Name: _____________________________ City: _____________________________ State: ___ Zip: _____

Phone: _____________________________ Method of payment: _____________________________

All orders must be prepaid and will be filled while supplies last. Please make all checks payable to The HSUS and send to: 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037. We ship UPS; please provide street address. Allow four to six weeks for delivery.

When You See Something That Bothers You...

You can do something about it.

Making a call to your local animal-protection agency is the most important action you can take.

If you think the agency about a neighborhood who keeps his dog chained outside in all kinds of weather, your animal protection officer will work with the owner.

If you report a dog running loose in the neighborhood, the agency will help get the dog off the street and out of danger.

If you call about a mother cat and her kittens, you've seen rummaging through the garbage, you don't have to look the other way. The animal-protection agency can help find responsible homes and put end to their vagabond existence.

If there is a problem with animals in your community, please call. You can remain anonymous, if you wish.

Don't let animal abuse or neglect continue. Your call can make a big difference.

[Your agency’s name and phone number here.]

Provided by the Humane Society of the United States.
JOIN THE HSUS TEAM OF ACTIVISTS!

You can make a difference—and the AAA tells you how! Just join The HSUS's Action Alert Team and receive the Animal Activist Alert, our award-winning quarterly newsletter, free! We keep an eye on current legislation for you, and when a bill needs your support—or needs to be stopped—we let you know! We tell you where to write, and even what to say, to get the best results for the animals!

The AAA keeps you up-to-date on a wide variety of animal issues.

HELP THE ANIMALS!

The HSUS has recently learned of a proposed Species Act that will be signed into law by President Clinton, effectively ending your support for the animals.