Inside:

A Tribute to Phyllis Wright ............3

Hurricane Shows Need for Disaster Preparedness ......................4

Adopting Animals to Seniors .........5

SACA Recognizes Euthanasia Technician of the Year ..................13

New Secondary Textbook Ideal for Humane Educators ...............14
Personal PERSPECTIVES

PHYLLIS LED, SHARED, AND INSPIRED

By Susan Bury Stauffer, First Editor of Shelter Sense

A fter a long boat with cancer, Phyllis Wright died October 3 at age 65. Shelter Sense readers will remember her as the creator of this publication and as HSUS's chief animal sheltering and control specialist for two decades.

But many readers will remember Phyllis in much more personal ways. If she testified before your city council about animal issues, you will think of her no-nonsense attitude and dedication to the welfare of animals. If you attended one of Phyllis's training sessions, you will remember how important it was to her that you got the training you needed to be a professional.

You called Phyllis in frustration because your proposed ordinance failed to pass. You cause you simply could not euthanize one more animal, she was the comforting voice on the end of the telephone line—the person who accepted your pain and inspired you to keep going. She was a mentor to hundreds of people, but she made each of us feel as though we were her special friend.

In Phyllis's early career, she trained animal shelters in 1975. In 1983, she was the person who accepted your pain and inspired you to keep going. She was a mentor to hundreds of people, but she made each of us feel as though we were her special friend.

She is gone from us now, but in a larger sense she still remains. We are much better people, many of us, for having fallen under her influence. Such a thing cannot be said for many we have known. And, in each of us who continue her work, our work, the memory of Phyllis will linger and her legacy will grow.

WRIGHT LEGACY IS TO ENCOURAGE US TO GROW

By Susan Bury Stauffer, First Editor of Shelter Sense

A fter a long bout with cancer, Phyllis Wright died October 3 at age 65. Shelter Sense readers will remember her as the creator of this publication and as HSUS's chief animal sheltering and control specialist for two decades.

But many readers will remember Phyllis in much more personal ways. If she testified before your city council about animal issues, you will think of her no-nonsense attitude and dedication to the welfare of animals. If you attended one of Phyllis's training sessions, you will remember how important it was to her that you got the training you needed to be a professional.

You called Phyllis in frustration because your proposed ordinance failed to pass. You cause you simply could not euthanize one more animal, she was the comforting voice on the end of the telephone line—the person who accepted your pain and inspired you to keep going. She was a mentor to hundreds of people, but she made each of us feel as though we were her special friend.

In Phyllis's early career, she trained animal shelters in 1975. In 1983, she was the person who accepted your pain and inspired you to keep going. She was a mentor to hundreds of people, but she made each of us feel as though we were her special friend.

She is gone from us now, but in a larger sense she still remains. We are much better people, many of us, for having fallen under her influence. Such a thing cannot be said for many we have known. And, in each of us who continue her work, our work, the memory of Phyllis will linger and her legacy will grow.

WRIGHT LEGACY IS TO ENCOURAGE US TO GROW

By Susan Bury Stauffer, First Editor of Shelter Sense

A fter a long bout with cancer, Phyllis Wright died October 3 at age 65. Shelter Sense readers will remember her as the creator of this publication and as HSUS's chief animal sheltering and control specialist for two decades.

But many readers will remember Phyllis in much more personal ways. If she testified before your city council about animal issues, you will think of her no-nonsense attitude and dedication to the welfare of animals. If you attended one of Phyllis's training sessions, you will remember how important it was to her that you got the training you needed to be a professional.

You called Phyllis in frustration because your proposed ordinance failed to pass. You cause you simply could not euthanize one more animal, she was the comforting voice on the end of the telephone line—the person who accepted your pain and inspired you to keep going. She was a mentor to hundreds of people, but she made each of us feel as though we were her special friend.

In Phyllis's early career, she trained animal shelters in 1975. In 1983, she was the person who accepted your pain and inspired you to keep going. She was a mentor to hundreds of people, but she made each of us feel as though we were her special friend.

She is gone from us now, but in a larger sense she still remains. We are much better people, many of us, for having fallen under her influence. Such a thing cannot be said for many we have known. And, in each of us who continue her work, our work, the memory of Phyllis will linger and her legacy will grow.
When Hurricane Andrew smashed through Dade County, Florida, in the early morning hours of August 24, it altered forever the lives of every creature in its path, human and animal alike. The devastation was unbelievable and the losses incalculable. The HSUS quickly joined local groups and citizens in providing hands-on assistance to animals in distress. But the need for comprehensive pre-disaster plans was evident throughout the ordeal.

The day before the disaster, South Florida mobilized for Andrew’s anticipated arrival. People fled along closed highways with their pets. Some arrived at evacuation shelters only to be told the sad truth that animals, no matter how small or how cherished, were not allowed inside. Others chose to ride out the storm in their homes. None, however, were fully prepared for the extent of Andy’s fury.

The number of animals killed in the chaos is immeasurable. As buildings were torn to shreds by gushes of wind up to 225 miles per hour, horses bolted from stables, dogs and cats fled in terror from their homes, and thousands of exotic animals—such as primates, boa constrictors, and private collector facilities—experienced complete chaos in the storm. Hundreds of dead and injured horses and birds escaped from the chaos is immeasurable. The HSUS Southeast Regional Office

Andrew And Animals: Surveying the Wreckage

By Laura Bevan, Director, HSUS

Southeast Regional Office

Scientists and psychologists are finally proving what pet owners have known for ages—pets enhance the quality of life. Not only is research on the way to showing the psychological benefits of the human-animal relationship, but also studies have shown that petting a companion animal actually lowers blood pressure, reduces the heart rate, and may increase length of life (See sidebar on pages 6-7.)

"A pet can provide a boundless measure of love, adoration, and unqualified approval," says well-known clinical psychologist Boris Levinson. "Many elderly and lonely individuals have recovered that pets satisfy their needs and enable them to hold on to the world of reality, of care, of human toil and sacrifice, and of intense emotional relationships. Their self-concept as worthwhile individuals is restored and even enhanced when they find that the pet they have been caring for loves them in return."

Companion animals satisfy the needs of the lonely, the depressed, and the ill. Pets can restore order to life and provide a sense of well-being and a firm grasp of reality. The potential for benefits from companion animals seems greatest, then, for senior citizens, for whom the bond with animal companions can have the strongest and most profound effects.

The Ideal Adopter

Not only are pets good for seniors, seniors are good for pets—out for shelters. Senior citizens, as a whole, embody the characteristics and attitudes the adoption counselor looks for in every potential adopter.

With the retirement years come a more flexible lifestyle, more time, and often more financial stability, all of which are prime advantages for companion animal ownership. Senior citizens who are retired and settled down and ready to relax and enjoy leisure time, and also those who are homebound because of their health, are often in the perfect position to adopt a comforting car or a devoted dog.

In addition, senior citizens, who have a lifetime of experience and the wisdom of the years, are a class extremely receptive to the humane ethic. If, during their lifetime, they have owned pets, they already understand the needs of companion animals and are less likely to give an animal up because of unforeseen difficulties.

Finally, at a practical level, seniors can be financially beneficial to the shelter. Encouraging seniors to adopt and support the shelter’s efforts will increase the likelihood of their remembering the shelter in their wills and bequests. Cultivating the support of the senior members of the community—through pleasant adoption experiences and other avenues—can translate into long-term organizational stability and success.

Fulfilling a Need

Seniors are also prime candidates for adopting older animals. Because the personalities of older animals are easier to accept, adoption counselors can make a match that will ensure a life-long friendship. Puppies or kittens, for obvious reasons, are less likely to be compatible with seniors who are less energetic or physically handicapped. Seniors who qualify for adoption are the precious and wonderful folk for whom an older pet is often the perfect mate. Marc Paulthis, vice president of companion animals for The HSUS, explains, "Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets. They tend to be attentive and unhurried and can lavish their attentions on those animals who need it most."

That’s why animal shelters should seek

Shelters and Seniors: Making the Perfect Match

By Jill Shepherd

Scientists and psychologists are finally proving what pet owners have known for ages—pets enhance the quality of life. Not only is research on the way to showing the psychological benefits of the human-animal relationship, but also studies have shown that petting a companion animal actually lowers blood pressure, reduces the heart rate, and may increase length of life (See sidebar on pages 6-7.)

"A pet can provide a boundless measure of love, adoration, and unqualified approval," says well-known clinical psychologist Boris Levinson. "Many elderly and lonely individuals have recovered that pets satisfy their needs and enable them to hold on to the world of reality, of care, of human toil and sacrifice, and of intense emotional relationships. Their self-concept as worthwhile individuals is restored and even enhanced when they find that the pet they have been caring for loves them in return."

Companion animals satisfy the needs of the lonely, the depressed, and the ill. Pets can restore order to life and provide a sense of well-being and a firm grasp of reality. The potential for benefits from companion animals seems greatest, then, for senior citizens, for whom the bond with animal companions can have the strongest and most profound effects.

The Ideal Adopter

Not only are pets good for seniors, seniors are good for pets—out for shelters. Senior citizens, as a whole, embody the characteristics and attitudes the adoption counselor looks for in every potential adopter.

With the retirement years come a more flexible lifestyle, more time, and often more financial stability, all of which are prime advantages for companion animal ownership. Senior citizens who are retired and settled down and ready to relax and enjoy leisure time, and also those who are homebound because of their health, are often in the perfect position to adopt a comforting car or a devoted dog.

In addition, senior citizens, who have a lifetime of experience and the wisdom of the years, are a class extremely receptive to the humane ethic. If, during their lifetime, they have owned pets, they already understand the needs of companion animals and are less likely to give an animal up because of unforeseen difficulties.

Finally, at a practical level, seniors can be financially beneficial to the shelter. Encouraging seniors to adopt and support the shelter’s efforts will increase the likelihood of their remembering the shelter in their wills and bequests. Cultivating the support of the senior members of the community—through pleasant adoption experiences and other avenues—can translate into long-term organizational stability and success.

Fulfilling a Need

Seniors are also prime candidates for adopting older animals. Because the personalities of older animals are easier to accept, adoption counselors can make a match that will ensure a life-long friendship. Puppies or kittens, for obvious reasons, are less likely to be compatible with seniors who are less energetic or physically handicapped. Seniors who qualify for adoption are the precious and wonderful folk for whom an older pet is often the perfect mate. Marc Paulthis, vice president of companion animals for The HSUS, explains, "Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets. They tend to be attentive and unhurried and can lavish their attentions on those animals who need it most."

That’s why animal shelters should seek

Shelters and Seniors: Making the Perfect Match
Promoting Adoptions to Seniors

The best way to reach seniors, as with everyone, is to think about what they like to do and where they like to gather. Following are some suggestions for where to start.

1. Senior citizen’s centers. Almost every town has a special organization for senior citizens. Shelters can advertise in their community newsletters, place public notices on their bulletin boards, and find out how to schedule a pet care class in their program.

2. Retirement communities. Privately owned residential areas for seniors who are not bedridden are a great place to promote shelter services, and even hold pet-care classes and similar events. And, because of the close-knit community nature of many of these facilities, one senior adopter or volunteer can culture others.

3. Church groups. Every local church is a likely place to find senior citizen clubs and activity groups. Check with the organizers to arrange pet care workshops and services and tack a list of volunteer opportunities on their activity bulletin boards.

4. Public service announcements. Make sure the PSAs that focus on seniors are aired on appropriate stations. Talk radio, classical, and easy listening are the most likely formats for mature audiences.

5. Senior adoption “specials.” A great way to promote adoptions to seniors, and to make qualified seniors less hesitant about adopting, is to set up a fund to give discounts to adopters over 60.

A Head Start Program for Senior Adopters

The Walton Purina Company is helping many shelters encourage adoptions of pets over six months of age by offering discount adoption rates to adopters over 60 by covering the cost of adoption, first inoculations, and spay or neuter surgery.

Andrea Sellers, Public Relations Coordinator for the Jacksonville Hu

with the outside world. Taking a dog for a walk in the park is the perfect way for an elderly person to get out into the world. A pet owner is more at ease talking with strangers who have pets.

A source of unquestioning love, affection, and support. According to the University of Maryland and Pennsylvania State University, people who aren’t yet aware of the shelter.

A reason to look outward, instead of inward. As anyone who spends time with animals knows, the entertainment value of watching and playing with companion animals cannot be underestimated. For the elderly who are isolated and somewhat introverted, animals help take the focus off the self for a while, which produces a sense of relaxation and happiness. Animals also help restore the sense of humor.

Encouragement to communicate with other agencies and organizations. Senior citizens can help promote shelter services, and even hold pet-care classes and similar events. And, because of the close-knit community nature of many of these facilities, one senior adopter or volunteer can culture others.

Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets,” says Marc Paulhus. “They can lavish their affections on these animals who need it most.”

“Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets,” says Marc Paulhus. “They can lavish their affections on these animals who need it most.”

“Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets,” says Marc Paulhus. “They can lavish their affections on these animals who need it most.”

The Head Proves What the Heart Knows: Animals Are Good for People

Pet owners have known for ages that pets improve the quality of life and make life more enjoyable. As often happens these days, though, scientists are beginning to prove what we, as pet owners and companion animal caretakers, have always known. Studies and clinical experiments are showing that pets can provide both physical and emotional support to human beings.

Researchers in Australia, for instance, have found that pet owners have stronger heartbeats and lower levels of cholesterol and fat than those without pets. Studies at the University of Maryland and University of Pennsylvania have shown that the survival rate for patients with chronic diseases is highest for those who own pets. Studies show that pets benefit their human companions in ways most animal guardians never think about.

Responsibility and a sense of worth. A companion animal, who is totally dependent on his or her owner for survival, gives the owner a sense of being needed and wanted. Someone to touch and be touched. Proven countless times scientifically and psychologically, the sense of touch as a profound effect on mental and emotional well-being.

A reason to look outward, instead of inward. As anyone who spends time with animals knows, the entertainment value of watching and playing with companion animals cannot be underestimated. For the elderly who are isolated and somewhat introverted, animals help take the focus off the self for a while, which produces a sense of relaxation and happiness. Animals also help restore the sense of humor.

Encouragement to communicate with other agencies and organizations. Senior citizens can help promote shelter services, and even hold pet-care classes and similar events. And, because of the close-knit community nature of many of these facilities, one senior adopter or volunteer can culture others.

Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets,” says Marc Paulhus. “They can lavish their affections on these animals who need it most.”

“Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets,” says Marc Paulhus. “They can lavish their affections on these animals who need it most.”

Promoting Adoptions to Seniors

The best way to reach seniors, as with everyone, is to think about what they like to do and where they like to gather. Following are some suggestions for where to start.

1. Senior citizen’s centers. Almost every town has a special organization for senior citizens. Shelters can advertise in their community newsletters, place public notices on their bulletin boards, and find out how to schedule a pet care class in their program.

2. Retirement communities. Privately owned residential areas for seniors who are not bedridden are a great place to promote shelter services, and even hold pet-care classes and similar events. And, because of the close-knit community nature of many of these facilities, one senior adopter or volunteer can culture others.

3. Church groups. Every local church is a likely place to find senior citizen clubs and activity groups. Check with the organizers to arrange pet care workshops and services and tack a list of volunteer opportunities on their activity bulletin boards.

4. Public service announcements. Make sure the PSAs that focus on seniors are aired on appropriate stations. Talk radio, classical, and easy listening are the most likely formats for mature audiences.

5. Senior adoption “specials.” A great way to promote adoptions to seniors, and to make qualified seniors less hesitant about adopting, is to set up a fund to give discounts to adopters over 60.

A Head Start Program for Senior Adopters

The Walton Purina Company is helping many shelters encourage adoptions of pets over six months of age by offering discount adoption rates to adopters over 60 by covering the cost of adoption, first inoculations, and spay or neuter surgery.

Andrea Sellers, Public Relations Coordinator for the Jacksonville Hu

with the outside world. Taking a dog for a walk in the park is the perfect way for an elderly person to get out into the world. A pet owner is more at ease talking with strangers who have pets.

A source of unquestioning love, affection, and support. According to the University of Maryland and Pennsylvania State University, people who aren’t yet aware of the shelter.

A reason to look outward, instead of inward. As anyone who spends time with animals knows, the entertainment value of watching and playing with companion animals cannot be underestimated. For the elderly who are isolated and somewhat introverted, animals help take the focus off the self for a while, which produces a sense of relaxation and happiness. Animals also help restore the sense of humor.

Encouragement to communicate with other agencies and organizations. Senior citizens can help promote shelter services, and even hold pet-care classes and similar events. And, because of the close-knit community nature of many of these facilities, one senior adopter or volunteer can culture others.

Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets,” says Marc Paulhus. “They can lavish their affections on these animals who need it most.”

“Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets,” says Marc Paulhus. “They can lavish their affections on these animals who need it most.”

The Head Proves What the Heart Knows: Animals Are Good for People

Pet owners have known for ages that pets improve the quality of life and make life more enjoyable. As often happens these days, though, scientists are beginning to prove what we, as pet owners and companion animal caretakers, have always known. Studies and clinical experiments are showing that pets can provide both physical and emotional support to human beings.

Researchers in Australia, for instance, have found that pet owners have stronger heartbeats and lower levels of cholesterol and fat than those without pets. Studies at the University of Maryland and University of Pennsylvania have shown that the survival rate for patients with chronic diseases is highest for those who own pets. Studies show that pets benefit their human companions in ways most animal guardians never think about.

Responsibility and a sense of worth. A companion animal, who is totally dependent on his or her owner for survival, gives the owner a sense of being needed and wanted. Someone to touch and be touched. Proven countless times scientifically and psychologically, the sense of touch as a profound effect on mental and emotional well-being.

A reason to look outward, instead of inward. As anyone who spends time with animals knows, the entertainment value of watching and playing with companion animals cannot be underestimated. For the elderly who are isolated and somewhat introverted, animals help take the focus off the self for a while, which produces a sense of relaxation and happiness. Animals also help restore the sense of humor.

Encouragement to communicate with other agencies and organizations. Senior citizens can help promote shelter services, and even hold pet-care classes and similar events. And, because of the close-knit community nature of many of these facilities, one senior adopter or volunteer can culture others.
The lifestyle of many retirees is well suited to companion animal ownership. Shelter staff should coach seniors on how to find the right pet for their goals and situation.

For seniors that would like financial assistance to expand their senior citizen outreach, a potential source of funds for shelters is Jeff’s Companion Animal Shelter (1128 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790), founded in 1990. Founder Betsey Douglas MacDonald and Bill Connelly opened their “prototype” shelter with the idea of promoting knowledge about senior citizens and pets and set up an adoption service specifically for senior citizens.

Besides education, the objective of Jeff’s Companion Animal Shelter, funded entirely by private donations, is to seek out senior individuals or couples living in the community and provide them with a companion animal. The shelter houses a small number of animals who are carefully selected from other local shelters and rescue leagues, inoculated, screened for health and behavior problems, and housebroken by MacDonald and Connelly. “They live like pets already,” says MacDonald, “with free roam of the shelter and lots of affection from us.”

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corporation, the developer of several drugs for treating diseases such as osteoporosis, Parkinsonism, hypertension, and Alzheimer’s, donated $100,000 to Jeff’s Shelter to be used as a “grant bank” to help other shelters that wish to emulate their programs and companion animal contact, fostering relationships and, in turn, helps shelters make contacts with senior associations and organizations in the community. Gaining the senior perspective can be beneficial to shelter personnel and to other volunteers. It will also promote the functions of the shelter to people who may be willing to donate time, and possibly funds, to the cause.

Another outreach that senior volunteers can provide is to participate in activities designed to promote pet ownership. Volunteers whose friends live in retirement communities that prohibit pet ownership can meet with landlords to discuss the possibility of replacing breeding and tenant clauses with reasonable pet ownership clauses. Lease restrictions such as a $100 worth of damage) can be implemented, and special fenced-in dog-walking areas can be sectioned off on the property to allay the fears of landlords, thus freeing more people to consider the possibility of owning a pet.

Lending a Helping Hand

In the case of seniors who have difficulty getting around, are homebound, or are on a fixed income, however, owning a pet may be an appealing but seemingly impossible prospect. Those who are in most need of animal companionship are often those who have the most difficulty providing the daily care and time necessary. There are also those who already own pets and who feel their age, and their pet’s demands, are starting to overwhelm them. Oftentimes, all that is needed by these seniors is the helping hand of shelters—a volunteer to walk their dogs or provide transportation to the vet, or even a little financial aid. Seniors who have companion animals probably don’t need to be convinced, like too many young pet owners today, that pet ownership is a rewarding sacrifice—many forsake their own meals to buy pet food. They merely need a little boost to maintain a balance between fulfilling their needs and their pet’s needs.

Progressive shelters across the nation have developed programs to make it possible for these special people to experience the benefits, but not all of the worries, of having a pet.

SHAREing the Load

He was a five-year-old Boxer, down on his luck. He'd been found in an abandoned house with no water, no food, and a chair. He had no food or water and was emaciated. Humane officers had rescued him and he had spent the next two months in an animal shelter and various foster homes. His exceedingly calm and trusting nature belied a past of abuse and uncertainty; he seemed more than anything to want to be loved and to please. She was an 85-year-old widow, homebound and living on a fixed income. She had no family to speak of. Her most recent loss—her 12-year-old Boxer—left her completely alone.

“Alas had owned Boxers all her life and felt a deep connection with her dogs; they gave her strength and companionship throughout her many years. But she felt she was getting too old to start over again. What would life be like without one?”

Dog walking alone provides the interaction, exercise, and mutual satisfaction that pet ownership provides—without the commitment. Volunteering will not only benefit the volunteers by giving them purposeful projects and companion animal contact, it will also open doors for the shelter. Cultivating the support of these senior volunteers helps foster relationships and, in turn, helps shelters make contacts with senior associations and organizations in the community. Gaining the senior perspective can be beneficial to shelter personnel and to other volunteers. It will also promote the functions of the shelter to people who may be willing to donate more time, and possibly funds, to the cause.

As volunteers, seniors can offer animal shelters advantages that range from more flexible hours to more varied talents.
This story was told in a newsletter for the volunteers of the Marin Humane Society. Fortunately, thanks to their award-winning SHARE (Special Human-Animal Relationships) program, this story had a happy ending, and the shelter was able to make two half lives whole again. The SHARE program began in 1988 due to the influence of the 1989 International Model Program Award from the Delta Society (F.O. Box 1080, Renton, WA 98057-1080), an organization that provides workshops and training on the subject of the human-animal bond. The program, begun in 1988 and funded by a group called Erica’s Friends, named in honor of an eight-year-old killed in an accident, raised $20,000 in the first year. Under the umbrella of SHARE, several different services are provided by volunteers to help encourage senior citizens enjoy companionship with animals. Adoption for people over 65 is simplified by a waived adoption fee; free spaying and neutering pets; free flea control, and maintenance of a lot of companion-ships, by being able to help out. “I hear almost every day how much the program has helped. Seniors call and write to say that if it wasn’t for the SHARE program, they wouldn’t have this friendship that means so much to them, and that’s the greatest reward of all our work.”

Promoting the Benefits while Promoting the Shelter “It’s the best thing,” said Betsey MacDonald of Jeffs Companion Animal Shelter, “to make yourselves and your special programs visible to senior citizens after their own death or disability. Therefore, each of us who has pets and is concerned about what will happen to them when we die should think about having a ‘no-kill’ animal shelters. Many shelters’ adoption contracts include a “reversionary clause,” which requires the adopter who is no longer willing or able to care for an animal to return that animal to the shelter. The HSUS recommends that such contracts be amended to include a specific “death or disability” clause. Under such a clause, an adopter who makes responsible arrangements (such as those recommended below) to provide for the pet’s disposition upon the owner’s death or disability would be exempt from the reversionary clause requirement.

Humane agencies are encouraged to reprint this article in their newsletter and may wish to provide copies of it directly to selected adopters. Please credit The Humane Society of the United States.
SURVEY REVEALS IOWA ANIMAL SHELTER STATISTICS

The Iowa Federation of Humane Societies (1166 W. Airline Hwy., Waterloo, IA 50703) recently sponsored a statistical survey of the 23 animal shelters in the state of Iowa, Facilities were asked to provide data from the 1991 twelve-month period. Over 70% of the facilities responded, allowing projections to be made for the entire state. Here’s a quick look at the statistics:

• Iowa sheltering facilities took in 32,237 cats, 72% of whom were stray or abandoned. Of the total, 3% were claimed by owners, 20% were adopted by new owners, and 76% were euthanized (at research facilities). The ratio of euthanized cats to adopted cats was 3.85.

• Iowa sheltering facilities took in 43,573 dogs, 72% of whom were stray or abandoned. Of the total, 22% were claimed by owners, 25% were adopted, and 53% were euthanized (4% at research facilities). The ratio of euthanized dogs to adopted dogs was 2.15.

• Of 21,000 cats and dogs surrendered by their owners, one out of every three was a kitten or puppy. One out of every five was surrendered for behavior problems.

• Of the 48,000 cats and dogs euthanized, one out of every four was a kitten or puppy.

• Iowa sheltering facilities held animals a minimum of 3 to 21 days before euthanasia, with 99% of the facilities using lethal injections, and the remainder using carbon monoxide or firearms. Of those responding, 40% reported adopted animals to be well fed, and 7% to be in poor health, euthanasia may be the most humane alternative.

• Use your last will and testament, at the most, to confirm the transfer of the animal to the person who has made a commitment to provide alternative care and to bequeath an outright gift of money to that individual which, by a prior understanding between the two of you, will be used to take care of the animal. In this event, you must make it clear that the legal custodian of the animal has already been transferred by an understanding which you have with the person so that under no circumstances does the matter of transferring the animal to that person become just one more item that needs to go through court proceedings. Obviously, this solution has a high degree of trust between you and the person who will take care of your animal.)

SACa HONORS EUThanaSIA TECHNICIAN

There is one job in the field of animal care and control that we would like very much to eliminate,” said William Hurt Smith, director of The HSUS’ Animal Control Academy.

If you know a euthanasia technician working anywhere in the U.S. who embodies the qualities of compassion and excellence in their field and who you would like to nominate to represent all ETs in accepting the Barbara Hurt Smith Award for Euthanasia Technician of the Year, please submit your nomination. Each year, The HSUS recognizes an outstanding Euthanasia Technician of the Year Award. The purpose of this award is to honor all persons who, in the course of their job, must provide euthanasia for the animals in their care. The person selected receives the award on behalf of every ET.

Lisa Partiss, an ET for three years at Broward County Animal Control in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was this year’s recipient of a tuition-free, two-week session at The HSUS’ Animal Control Academy. Thanks to Schrifer Manufacturing Company/Shor-Line, Vetrex Pharmaceuticals/Fatal Plus, and an anonymous donor, up to $1,500 dollars will be provided for her transportation, lodging, and meals.

Lisa Partiss accepts her award from Marc Paulhus, HSUS vice president for companion animals, and Bill Hurt Smith, director of The HSUS Animal Control Academy.

Thus began a speech made on June 26, 1992. The occasion was the presentation of the first annual SACA Outstanding Euthanasia Technician of the Year Award. Smith, who has been conducting euthanasia technician workshops for 12 years, explained, “What makes this long
Shelter Shop

Prove Adopters With Instant I.D. Tags

Help dog and cat adopters become responsible pet owners the minute they leave the shelter by providing their new companions with instant, write-on identification tags.

Produced by the Merion Station Mail Order Company, Write-On! tags provide immediate identification—and safety—for the pet just leaving the shelter. Pet information is written on the tag before the tag is folded and "locked" closed, keeping the information clean inside. Made of a tough plastic resin, the temporary tags will last until the pet owner obtains permanent, engraved tags.

Write-On! tags are also ideal for traveling. They make it easy to provide a local and/or emergency address and phone number on the pet. Humane agencies can order Write-On! tags for $2 per 100 with a minimum order of 100, postage paid. Just mention this Shelter Sense article to receive this price. For shelters that order 5,000 or more tags, Merion Station will privately label the tags with the agency name on one side at a cost of $15 per hundred. Other bulk rates are available.

For more information or to order, contact Merion Station Mail Order Company, P.O. Box 100, Merion Station, PA 19066; (800) 333-TAGS or (215) 642-1000. For a free sample, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to that address.

Secondary School Text May Help Humane Educators

Humane societies are looking for a well-rounded, all-encapsulating textbook to use in their secondary humane education programs. The HSUS has found their resources limited. However, a new book entitled Animals in Society, by Zoe Weil, can make things much easier. This is one of the first school texts that covers the complex issues of animal use in contemporary society.

From companion animals to wild animals, from animals raised for food production to those used in entertainment and experimentation, Animals in Society offers a thorough and thought-provoking introduction to humankind's treatment of and relationship with animals.

Each chapter of the 126-page paperback includes challenging questions and imaginative projects, and the book's appendices provide resources for further research and exploration. It encourages students to explore our culture's unspoken assumptions about animals and to develop their own opinions through examination of the various perspectives outlined in the book.

Animals in Society is available to shelters and humane organizations at the following rates: 1-4 copies, $5.95 each plus $3.25 postage; 5-24, $5.50 each plus $4.25 postage; 25-50, $5.95 each plus $5.25 postage; over 50, $6.25 each plus $7.25 postage. Contact Animalers/AAVS, 801 Old York Rd., Ste. 204, Jenkintown, PA 19046-1685 to order books or for more information.

Another Pre-Expo Seminar Planned

For animal care and control professionals planning to attend the Animal Care Expo '93 (March 17-20, 1993, in Orlando, Florida), a new pre-Expo seminar—Disaster Planning and Preparedness—has been added. This seminar, which costs $50, and the other two seminar/workshops to be offered—Pet First Aid and CPR ($99), and Earthing: The Human Factor ($50)—will be held the day of March 17th. The seminar for disaster planning and preparedness was designed in the wake of Hurricane Andrew to help animal care and control shelters know what to do before disasters—such as hurricanes, tornados, floods, forest fires, oil spills, and chemical or nuclear contamination—occur. The focus will be on local shelter preparation and coordination with other local organizations such as the Red Cross, the Army, the National Guard, veterinarians, groomers, boarding kennels, wildlife rehabilitators, zoos, and other local shelters. Emphasis will be placed on preparing the shelter even before the threat of a disaster.

If animal care and control professionals have suggestions for topics to be covered by the seminar, they may call Nicholas Gilman, HSUS Field Representative, at (202) 452-1100. To register for this or one of the other two seminars, call 800-248-EXPO (national) or 714-338-1192 (international). The registration deadline for the seminars, and for the early registration ($18) to Expo '93, is January 15, 1993.
The nation's four largest animal protection organizations have united to proclaim 1993 "The Year of the Cat" in an effort to educate people nationwide about the rewards and responsibilities of owning domestic cats.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the ASPCA, the Massachusetts SPCA, and the American Humane Association (AHA) are inviting local humane societies, animal shelters, and veterinarians to join in promoting this effort. The goal is to present the facts and dispel the myths about cats, who are often perceived as mysterious and frightening creatures who do not require much care or attention. By proclaiming 1993 as The Year of the Cat, the four organizations hope to curb abuse and neglect of domestic cats and to further encourage responsible pet ownership.

Staff of local humane agencies should watch the mail for a special campaign packet that explains the campaign and includes useful materials. The packet will include a cover letter, a sample proclamation, logo slicks, a list of suggested activities, a myths and facts brochure, and an order form for additional materials. The campaign poster and brochure will feature whimsical drawings by Suzy Becker, author and illustrator of *All I Need To Know I Learned from My Cat*.

Look for more details in an upcoming issue of *Shelter Sense*, or write to Year of the Cat, The HSUS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.