Dear Friend:

This is the first issue of a new publication for you -- the professional in the animal control and shelter field.

I know from my visits with you at your locations and at animal control workshops that you are interested in improving your work and that you need information on:

- how to make your animal control programs more effective.
- how to work out an adequate budget for your needs.
- how to improve conditions for both animals and people in your community.

SHELTER SENSE will bring you information and resources, with details about programs and ordinances that have been successful in communities around the country.

We will bring you articles on shelter management and animal control, with how-to-do-it guidelines for handling the tasks of today's animal control or humane society worker.

And perhaps most important: we invite you to share your ideas with us -- to write us about the programs that have worked for you.

There has been little communication between animal control and shelter workers; therefore, good ideas and workable programs have not been shared. SHELTER SENSE is your vehicle for sharing information and learning from others.

Readers of this publication are professionals in the animal control and shelter field, and its purpose is to provide information and resources for those working in this field.

Utah drivers must assist injured animals

Drivers who hit animals in Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County must stop to help them, according to animal control ordinances passed in both jurisdictions last September.

Motorists are required to try to locate the animal owner. Failing that (or if the victim is a wild animal), the driver must contact the city or county animal control department or the Humane Society of Utah to make arrangements for the animal.

The maximum penalty for leaving the scene is $300 or six months in jail. A public information campaign is underway to encourage witnesses to animal hit-and-run accidents to note the appearance of the car and driver and the vehicle license number so these drivers can be apprehended. Two such cases have been brought to court.

Brice Nelson, executive director of the Humane Society of Utah, reports that community reaction is generally favorable. People who express concern about handling an injured animal are advised to leave it alone and contact the authorities.

Continued on next page.
Birth control for pigeons

Shelby Dow, director of Salt Lake County Animal Control, acknowledges that the ordinance will result in more work for the city and county in answering the emergency calls, but regards cooperation with HSU as a good arrangement.

He comments that the accidents are generally not the fault of the drivers, but of the pet owners for letting animals run loose.

Jefferson Parish, La., which includes six municipalities, now requires cats to be registered and vaccinated against rabies. I. Richard Collard, III, animal shelter director, reports that although registration tags are not required, they will be issued also and owners will be encouraged to have their pets wear them.

The ordinance also directs that the animal shelter department will handle registrations, receiving revenue which went to the health department before 1978. Area veterinarians also issue licenses with vaccinations, and they will deal directly with the animal shelter department.

Enforcement now depends on "nuisance cat" complaints, but stricter enforcement measures are being developed.

The parish council passed the ordinance last September because of concern about rabies spread. Collard said the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is strongly in favor of rabies vaccinations for cats, and gave support to the ordinance.

Avitrol Corporation has announced the acquisition of "Ornitrol," a birth control agent for pigeons carried in whole kernel corn.

Ornitrol controls reproduction by making eggs infertile, but does not injure the pigeons. However, the treated corn should not be accessible to other birds, domestic animals or wildlife.

For complete pricing and usage information, write Avitrol Corporation, P.O. Box 45141, Tulsa, Okla. 74145 or call toll-free 1-800-331-4215.

Many people consider the term "Animal Control" an attempt to glorify the role of dog catcher. However, the role of the animal control officer has materially changed in the past several years due to the problems with human/animal relationships that exist in every community.

The new animal control officer is a far cry from the old lasso-throwing, net-tossing, pistol-packing cast-off from the police department. The "new breed" of animal control officer has become a professional.

Many cities and counties have set up their animal control programs as separate departments, and more are seeing the wisdom of such a designation so that the program can take its rightful place along with other public services. The public pound is gradually being replaced by a more modern and more efficiently operated animal control center.

Even after the establishment of an up-dated facility, however, there is always a need for a general awareness of the problems of animal handling and destruction.

Hence the importance of the animal control officer and his or her role in the community public health and safety. The duty of the officer is to assist in the enforcement of the animal control ordinances, but along with this should be a desire to help resolve the problems that are created by an unaware animal owning public or an irresponsible animal owner.

Applicants should be prepared to study and work hard to achieve a degree of professionalism so that they can function in an efficient manner and be proud of themselves and earn the respect of the citizens.

The animal control officer must be able to learn and understand the local ordinances as well as enforce them with efficiency and consideration for the humans and animals involved. There is also the need for a working knowledge of state and federal laws.

A general knowledge of animals and identification of breeds, kinds and species is important, especially those animals that are more commonly involved in domestic ownership or custodianship.

There should be an ability to understand directives and to carry them out in an efficient manner. There is need for the officer to be able to write legibly and to complete forms and reports so they are readable and understandable.

Many departments now have radio communications so the officer should have an ability to speak clearly and to comprehend communications from this source.

The officer must be able to drive a vehicle and pass any driving or safety test. The vehicle assigned to the officer brings with it a double responsibility, not only to obey the traffic laws but to realize that live cargo is being carried.