news

HOPE FOR THE COYOTE?
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Pets, People & Problems
by Senator Charles McC.Mathias, Jr. [Maryland]

Dogs and cats have established a uniquely intimate affiliation with human beings. Through the ages the man has worked diligently to place them in poses and emotional gratification. Even when the value of dogs and cats was primarily utilitarian, people demonstrated a special fondness and favor for the company of dogs and cats.

The arrangement between man and pet has not always been harmonious. The first animal control laws in the United States were promulgated to protect horses from unconfined dogs. The term “dog days,” which was referred to days set aside to wage armed campaigns against unrestrained dogs. Animal control statutes were prominent in checking the spread of rabies to man and continue as a barrier against that dread disease, today.

Animal welfare agencies have struggled with a crisis in loose pets and delinquent owners for over a decade. They have managed to check the alarming growth of the problem but have been unable to get rid of it. Stray and snarling pets continue to drain financial and human resources. The public is out of patience with irresponsible pet owners.

The time has come for the Federal government to show genuine concern by committing the necessary financial and technical support to end this tragedy in American communities. A comprehensive legislative package must be aimed at assisting state and local agencies to deal with the full complexity of the problem.

The public must know and understand the economic and medical costs associated with bites and disease, livestock and wildlife losses, and the time, effort and resources spent in attempts to control loose pets. A hidden but devastating cost is man’s desensitization to sounds through their behavior. Most dogs and cats, however, fill psychological needs for modern man.

Life has richly blessed me with many good friends. But Chammy was a special friend and a faithful companion. It was a beautiful Chesapeake Bay Retriever who passed 15 years from puppyhood to the infirmities of old age as an esteemed member of the Mathias family. Chammy, a veteran of six election campaigns, accompanied me on trips around Maryland and often went with me to Congress.

In my office, the dog would gaze patiently, his leash looped over a fireplace fixture, as constituents, colleagues and I wrestled with the Nation’s problems. His warm eyes told me that he loved and devotion transcended the affairs of man. At times he slept through some of history’s exciting moments, dreaming of his dog days, which are allowed unrestrained freedom, without regard to the consequences to the pet and to society. Typically, dogs and cats are regarded as disposable, easy to obtain and easy to abandon. Careless and negligent pet owners are unconcerned for the impact of their actions on the animals or on the community.

Uncontrolled and unwanted dogs and cats cause enormous problems in our cities, suburbs and rural areas. They foul our sidewalks, yards and parks. Prop- erty is damaged, and the landscape is scarred. Wildfowl, game and fish are killed or destroyed. Unrestrained pets can spread disease to other animals and man.

The general public pays an intolerable price in environmental degradation, medical and emotional costs associated with bites and disease, livestock and wildlife losses, and the time, effort and resources spent in attempts to control loose pets. A hidden but devastating cost is man’s desensitization with respect to the plight of animals left to their own resources in human habitats.

The animals pay a dreadful price for the negligence of owners. About 15 million dogs and cats are collected and killed each year when owners fail to claim them. Others suffer consequences of neglect and are destroyed on roadways or killed by predators, or they succumb to exposure and disease. Jerrold Lamb, the English philosopher, economist and jurist identified our proper concern when he observed, “The question is not can they reason, nor can they talk, but can they suffer?”

Only those who perform the gruesome duty of sifting the life from unclaimed animals and stacking the carcasses in endless succession can fully appreciate the true costs to man and animal. Local veterinarians and animal welfare agencies have struggled with a crisis in loose pets and delinquent owners for over a decade. They have managed to check the alarming growth of the problem but have been unable to get rid of it. Stray and snarling pets continue to drain financial and human resources. The public is out of patience with irresponsible pet owners.

The time has come for the Federal government to show genuine concern by committing the necessary financial and technical support to end this tragedy in American communities. A comprehensive legislative package must be aimed at assisting state and local agencies to deal with the full complexity of the problem.

The public must know and understand the dimensions and elements of animal control problems. Responsible owners must be informed of the responsibilities which accompany the decision to acquire a pet. The responsibilities extend to the pet and to society; owners are accountable as stewards and as citizens. Educational programs should be directed to local, state and national audiences.

Educational programs will fail to reach or fail to penetrate theVia and national audiences. Educational programs will fail to reach or fail to penetrate the backbone of animal control. Existing ordinances and regulations should be aimed at penalizing the irresponsible pet owner.

It is time for Congress to attend to comprehensive legislation which deals with these problems. Un合格 owners who fail to care for their animals are requa
Humane Education Going Strong

Humane Education is KINDNESS IN ACTION. On the West Coast for 100 years or so humane education consisted of a good-hearted individual putting a puppy or kitten under her arm and visiting a school. Many teachers did not realize that teaching “the humane treatment of animals” was part of the state education codes. Many humanitarians did not realize that the one-shot appearance will not install permanent positive attitudes in the young.

Throughout the West Coast, there were local groups of humane educators at a meeting in Sacramento. The original idea was to have a round-table discussion with leaders from local societies who were involved in educating children. Interest in the subject was so high that over 65 in attendance. However, often they did not know that the one-shot appearance will not install permanent positive attitudes in the young. Many teachers did not realize that teaching “the humane treatment of animals” was part of the state education codes. Many humanitarians did not realize that the one-shot appearance will not install permanent positive attitudes in the young.

Throughout the West Coast, there were local societies here and there with excellent programs; however, often they did not know that another society within a few miles had a good program too. It became apparent that one of the things needed was a central clearinghouse of information. The HSUS, WCRD offered such assistance by setting up a coordination file. Each organization sent in copies of all the materials they used. They also gave permission for any other organization to reprint as long as they credited the material. This information was then shared with anyone starting a humane education program, and help was given in developing outlines for specific programs. A newsletter was prepared periodically listing new resources and ideas from all over the five western states.

Since 1974 humane education has grown rapidly. From Portland to San Diego, from Bakersfield to Monterey, the time, energy and money spent to raise a generation of children instilled with kindness is tremendous.

Humane education programs may be entertaining, but should never be just entertainment. They must be curriculum integrated, incorporating knowledge of feelings and facts about animals right into lesson plans. Right into spelling, music, art or reading lessons. In this way the learning process is continuing and effective.

Where do you find materials? Materials to use are everywhere. National organizations have kits, pet care materials and posters. Pet food companies have free materials available. Veterinarians’ associations are now producing filmstrips. However, the local societies on the West Coast are creative; many have developed their own materials. After completing a Honey Bee Unit, designed to teach just how important bees are to us, Central California SPCA’s education director, Barbara Westerfield, has gone on to develop kits about horses and other animals. Each kit is a complete resource unit with charts, coloring sheets, vocabulary words, and games. Any Fresno, California teacher can borrow or purchase a kit.

On the other hand, some societies specialize in on-site training. The Santa Barbara Humane Society teaches classes of 50 children in their own humane education room. This well-equipped room also has many interesting small live pets. The education manual says, “What ever presentation you are going to make must be designed with the appropriate approach for children at the age level you are teaching. Fannel Board presentations are particularly well received by primary age children.”

Some societies develop kits for specific needs. Pam Lewis, Education Director of the Pomona Valley Humane Society, developed an elementary level kit to teach animal safety. Not only does it teach children to love animals, but also how they can protect themselves from unfriendly, strange and stray animals. Pam uses puppets because, “Puppets are great in relating to children. You don’t have to be a good puppeteer, as children are so fascinated they don’t even notice if your mouth is moving.” Bev Armstrong, board member from Ventura, California’s humane society, is considered the master puppeteer on the West Coast. Bev teaches teachers and education directors how to make puppets out of almost anything from an old wig to a box of noodles.

The Marin County Humane Society has an interesting and important contribution they designed for teaching the subject. Madelon Tor manen has a mini unit she uses to take a series of different animals and information about them into the schools in San Rafael. In San Francisco, Ann Brice, Education Director of the SPCA, has in-depth education programs for all ages. Ann believes senior citizens need educating and help too. One of her programs uses visits to senior citizen centers with pets to instruct other seniors in what they should do in an emergency, and is setting up a financial assistance program for older pet owners.

Volunteers are needed for all and all programs. No one can be a one-man band for too long. However, some groups that have tried volunteer programs have failed. In San Mateo, the Peninsula Humane Society has succeeded. The approach seems to make the difference. Peninsula set up their volunteer program with the same care that a business would use in hiring qualified people. They use a job application and interview followed by intense training sessions. Volunteers must agree to commit a definite time to participate. Those who are unreliable are dropped from the program. People need not be adults to be good volunteers. Sherri May at Monterey SPCA is outstanding at putting together junior volunteer programs. She works a lot with younger humanitarians. The Monterey SPCA, nestled in a country hillside setting with an adjoining wildlife area, is the perfect place to teach the humane ethic.

Traditionally, animal control did little about educating the public, let alone tackling the humane education of children. This is rapidly changing. The Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation has tried Animal Awareness programs for all ages. Ulrike Crossen, really a one-woman band, does a lot with younger humanitarians. She works a lot with younger humanitarians. The Monterey SPCA, nestled in a country hillside setting with an adjoining wildlife area, is the perfect place to teach the humane ethic.
Humane Ed. Cont.—

Barbara Westerfield, Central Calif. S.P.C.A. co-hosts the “8 PM” show every Monday night. Topics such as overpopulation and pet selection are discussed.

The West Coast is blessed with too many enthusiastic, hardworking humane educators to mention all of them in one article. The thing we try to keep in mind is how can the WCR O office help all of them? In general, we try to: 1) Aid them in developing curriculum integrated materials. 2) Keep them informed of new resources via our Humane Education Happenings publication. 3) Bring programs to the West Coast to teach teachers and humane society education personnel. Above all we want to share all available information to avoid costly duplication.

Last year the HSUS Education Department headed by John Dommers put on a series of humane education seminars co-hosted by West Coast societies and animal control agencies. Hundreds of people attended and learned not only from HSUS staff, but from each other.

The WCR O encourages any group not involved with humane education to start such a program. We will be happy to help them plan it. For example, the Animal Care Center in Rancho Santa Fe, California, under Mel Morse’s direction is developing into an education center for Southern California. The WCR O is also working with two counties in California to do a complete countywide education program using animal control personnel.

Humane Education on the West Coast is a viable, exciting, expanding process. We think it is headed in the right direction based on the enthusiastic hardworking humane educators. We believe one animal should not suffer for another. Isn’t it better to humanely reduce the burro population? In more than 40 years of burro eliminations by the Park Service, they have selectively shot about 2,500 burros. Now they wish to condense the 40 years to 5 and end their management program for good. If, as you say, man is the culprit, then man must pay the piper by putting up with the burros, rather than killing them.

Ed.

Burros

I am alarmed to see that HSUS is taking action to prevent the Park Service from killing off the wild burros in the Grand Canyon. Man introduced the burro to the Canyon. Man destroyed the large predators that would control it. Today, the burro thrives in the Canyon, destroying the native vegetation and animal life in a fragile and unique habitat. Since man cannot control the burro it must be removed from the Canyon.

The Park Service is acting in the best interest of the American people by its planned action. I honestly love wildlife, but I won’t sit back while our magnificent Canyon is turned into a burro farm.

James R. Bain
Dept. of Zoology
Univ. of Florida
Gainesville, Fla.

We don’t want the Canyon to become a “burro farm” either. But we believe less drastic control methods can be used than the “easy way out” slaughter of approximately 2,500 burros. We believe the burro, though not a native to the area, has through its 300 year residency earned a spot of its own in that ecosystem, and its removal could have detrimental as well as beneficial effects. We believe one animal should not suffer for another. Isn’t it just and compassionate to remove all the burros so that the bighorn sheep can be fruitful and multiply?

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Wild Animals

My wife and I were very happy to hear that you saved the Bengal tiger in Haiti. This makes us very proud to be members. We were very pleased to hear that Sue Pressman saved this poor animal from certain death. It is a shame the people responsible for such cruel treatment of this animal were not punished.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Karaberes
Atteboro, Mass.

With respect to the Alaskan timber wolf, I am horified that since more we humans are engaging in the senseless destruction of wild animals. Next it will be necessary to slaughter 80% of some other animal population which the timber wolf has been keeping in balance. I, for one, am tired of it. I am getting some letters out to people whom I hope will be concerned and raise their voices. I’d appreciate your effort in notifying anyone whom you think could be helpful.

Nancy Tulla Mullan
M.D.
Chicago, Illinois

Tuna Boycott

The Nederland High School Humane Society has been very involved in the Tuna Boycott. We have put a Boycott Tuna display at our school, and have written some ten fifty or more letters to Congressmen, Cabinet Members, and Tuna canners. We were very pleased to see the Protect Purpense packet. Please send us 2 packets and an additional 36 Tuna buttons.

Marilynda Taylor
NHS Humane Society
Nederland, Texas

Youth

My son, Michael is very enthusiastic about his KIND membership and has interested his teacher in several of your articles by taking his magazine to school.

I have been very pleased with his enthusiasm, since I work for a veterinarian and had wished to impart some sort of empathy to Michael regarding animals. KIND has done it for me.

Rita Hampton
Trenton, Mich.

I am hopeful that that growing emphasis on animal rights will reach a substantial proportion of the children that are growing up now. I think that it is the Humane Society that conducts educational programs in the schools and that is a wonderful approach to helping the animals. An elderly friend told me the other day, with some awe, that his 12 year old granddaughter had given him a cat and told him that he must have it spayed. So we may be getting to the kids.

Mrs. Karen Sepolsky
Belmont, Mass.
Why not buy a KIND

Dear KIND:

My biology teacher brought out a frozen cat today, expertly cut to show off its insides. It was a beautiful little calico cat. Its teeth were pulled back into a grimace, its eyes were wincing, and its ears were flat against its head, as if it were enduring great pain. I was shocked into enduring great pain. I was shocked into

Good God, this is an outrage! This is not only a cruel thing to animals, it’s cruelty to the kids who are forced to take this class and go against everything that they believe in. I think that dissection should be taken out of the high school biology class, and kept in the college classes where those who need to know about how the body works could dissect whatever they wanted.

I need your help and support. I can work on my own school, but one school in millions isn’t much. Perhaps KIND could say a few words and get the other kids moving. And maybe something could be said in the Humane Society News to get the adults to work also. I know this is going to need a lot of work and patience. I’m prepared. But I need help.

Sincerely,

Kathie Thomas
Waukesha, Wisconsin

To be truly effective in your community, you not only have to protect animals—you must involve the community in preventing cruelty too.

—Phyllis Wright

It’s official! The Monterey County SPCA (Monterey, Calif.), The Peninsula Humane Society (San Mateo, Calif.), and The Animal Welfare League of Arlington (Arlington, Va.) are the first three animal welfare organizations to be awarded HSUS’s Certificate of Accreditation. Community involvement is the key element behind these awards.

“Each of these groups has kept up with the times,” said HSUS’s Animal Control Specialist, Phyllis Wright. “They’re responsive to new ideas. And, most important of all, they’ve involved their communities by becoming involved themselves.”

“It isn’t new shelters, gleaming cages, or big budgets that have made these groups superior,” said Wright. “It’s professionalism. They’re thoroughly dedicated to the prevention of cruelty to animals. This professionalism is illustrated by day-to-day operations and by the respect which their communities bestow upon them. When the community has a need, they respond. When they have a need, the community responds.”

It isn’t individual people either. None of these groups has one shining star that keeps it all going. It’s the attitudes of the community that have been nurtured and nourished by the individual societies. Unfortunately, there’s no secret formula that can serve as a panacea for other communities. But there is an approach that can serve as a model which deserves to be imitated.

MONTEREY COUNTY SPCA

Founded in 1905, The Monterey County SPCA is somewhat unique. They have a large amount of acreage teeming with wildlife, both native and rescued. Their center is thus an attractive spot for the casual Sunday visitor as well as a prime location for organized “field trips.”

The Monterey County SPCA performs a full range of animal welfare services, including animal control for the county. They have a spay and neuter clinic, a display farm, and a well organized humane education program for youth.

FIRST THREE SOCIETIES ACCREDITED BY HSUS

“COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PREVENTING CRUELTY IS THE KEY”

One of the more interesting aspects of Monterey’s relations with the community is their contract with the county. The contract includes concepts of humane care and a strong anti-cruelty law.

In his letter of congratulations to Thomas Little, Executive Director of The MCSPCA, John Hoyt said, “We especially wish to commend you for your outstanding education program at the shelter and in the schools, your exceptionally outstanding spay and neuter clinic, and your sensitive attention to wildlife. The management of The Monterey County SPCA, under your direction and the leadership of your Board of Directors, is especially noted for commendation.”

The Monterey County SPCA meets the needs of the community in many different ways. Animal Control Officers distribute educational materials as they make their rounds, talking to owners of pets and explaining how they can better care for their animals.

The Humane Education program includes visits to community schools and teaching tours of the shelter. A Junior Volunteer program provides many young people with the opportunity to experience for themselves the rewards of helping animals.

The SPCA Auxiliary sponsors many fund-raising activities to aid the shelter. Among them...
Societies Cont.—

are benefit balls and fashion shows, and three benefit shops selling donated items. The Auxiliary’s 1977 project is to raise funds for a Children’s Wildlife Care Center at the Shelter.

In everything they do, The Monterey County SPCA has as their first concern the welfare of the animals.

**PENINSULA HUMANE SOCIETY**

“We especially wish to commend you for your careful attention to all animals being received at your shelter, your outstanding education and community awareness programs, your excellent wildlife department, and the fine spay and neuter clinic operated by your Society.”

With these words, John Hoyt recognized The Peninsula Humane Society as the “finest” society “we have observed.”

Even the unknowledgeable visitor to Peninsula would agree with Hoyt. Approaching the front door, one observes a unique receiving station for after-hour drops of unwanted animals. It’s a system of cages that allow the person to place an animal within the unit and prohibits the animal from escaping, as well as prevents anyone from tampering with the animal. The animal is screened from view, isolated from other animals, and provided with nourishment and water.

This same careful attention to detail can be found in all aspects of the Society’s work. Staff enthusiasm is at a high point. They live, eat, and sleep the prevention of cruelty to animals.

According to Phyllis Wright, “I can’t say enough about The Peninsula Humane Society. They make the word “humane” stand for something.”

Peninsula was founded in 1952. Like many other animal welfare groups, they have had their ups and downs. But, since the beginning of this decade, they have made remarkable gains. They have a complete licensing program, a spay and neuter clinic, an enthusiastic wildlife department, a well planned communication setup with all community citizens, and an outstanding health checkup system for pets.

Peninsula’s investigation department is one of the finest in the nation. Each and every case is handled with precision. The animal is screened from view, isolated from other animals, and provided with nourishment and water.

Peninsula’s spay and neuter program is another unique feature. The animal is given a free collar and an engraved owner I.D. tag. Each year, approximately 7,000 animals are turned into the shelter. Emphasis is placed on the quality of adoptions, rather than quantity. Homes are checked out before adoption, and a follow-up check is made some time afterward to be sure the arrangement is a good one.

Interestingly, the Board of Directors is actively involved in the day-to-day operation of the shelter. There is a rotating schedule for Board members to assist in the shelter, primarily for adoptions of pets on weekends. In this way, the Board has gained a working understanding of the problems of running a shelter. This is reflected in the Board’s leadership of their staff. Mr. Meade has complete managerial control over daily operations.

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HOPE FOR THE COYOTE?

Too often, man's first response to a problem with an animal is to kill that animal. This has been the case in the sheep ranchers' war against the coyote. Claiming that coyotes are a major cause of sheep loss, ranchers have brought forth guns, traps, and poison in an often-government-subsidized effort to eliminate the problem by eliminating the animal.

It is difficult to pin down the extent of the coyote-sheep problem. A 1975 report from the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that more than 8% of lambs and 2.5% of sheep were lost to coyotes in 1974 in 15 western states. This is about one-third of the losses to all causes, including weather, disease, and other predators.

Since the beginning of the century, coyotes, like other predators, have been fair game for any human being that wanted to kill. However, the coyote survived better than wolves, cougars, badgers, and other less adaptable predators.

The coyote has avoided extermination by extending its range into areas formerly controlled by wolves (the wolves having been all but wiped out by man). Some coyotes are even edging in on urban areas, and have been sighted in Los Angeles, drinking out of swimming pools and ravaging garbage cans. Today there are approximately the same number of coyotes as there were in the early part of the century, proving its ability to adapt to man despite man's zeal to destroy it.

Hopefully, this means that more rational problem-solving methods will be used in the future, such as those being researched by Dr. Philip Lehner in the Department of Zoology at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Dr. Lehner is studying the nature and habits of the coyote with a view toward developing ways to decondition these predators from attacking livestock.

There is some reason to believe that man's intervention into the habitat of the coyote caused them to turn to livestock for food in the first place. The coyote's natural diet is small rodents, berries and birds. In cold weather, it feeds on carrion, living off the carcasses of larger animals that could not survive the rough Western winters. In the past, coyotes rarely found it necessary or desirable to attack and kill live sheep.

In their early efforts to destroy the coyote, ranchers baited the plains with poisoned carcasses. The clever coyote soon learned to avoid carrion, filling in his diet by increasing attacks on livestock. Coyotes are born pre­cocious, often on public lands rented to the rancher for grazing purposes, with no human protection. Ranchers claim the cost of labor is too high, and it is too difficult to find employees willing to spend long, lonely hours on the plains with the sheep. Even canine protection is not afforded, although sheep dogs are routinely used in Europe with great success. The USDA in Denver is currently testing the Komondor, a Hungarian sheep dog, as a possible protector of flocks.

Many ranchers do not even bother to bring in the pregnant ewes from the field. When the ewe is ready to give birth, she must leave the flock to do so, and she and her newborn lamb become easy targets for any predator. Since lambs account for most of the total sheep loss to coyotes, it seems that the provision of lambing sheds and corrals would be an obvious solution to this part of the problem.

Ranchers also overlook the coyote's role in rodent control. With the rodent population kept down, more grazing food is available to the herds. This gain may offset predator losses in terms of profit to the rancher.

It has long been the policy of The HSUS to oppose the indiscriminate killing of predatory animals, and to encourage the use of nonlethal control measures. It is heartening to realize that the research being done by Dr. Lehner and others may provide acceptable control alternatives, so that coyote and man can live in peace together.

Information along with their young. Experiments are being done with olfactory repellants and with lithium chloride. The lithium chloride in the mutton makes the coyote nauseous from eating the meat—an experience he is not likely to want to repeat. Results at this point are inconclusive as research continues.

Another possible solution being studied is birth rate control. Dr. Lehner has theorized that the distinctive yip-howl of the coyote is in some way related to their reproductive processes. It has been recorded in sanctuaries where the coyote is unmolested by man or other significant predators that females tend to have two or three less pups per litter than in areas where the coyote is pressured.

In this way, coyote populations that are depleted rebuild themselves fairly rapidly. Unthreatened populations remain relatively stable, with birth rates essentially matching death rates. It is possible that a high level of howling caused by a large concentration of coyotes in one area triggers a biological signal depressing conception rates. If so, artificial manipulation of howling levels may be used to reduce coyote populations in livestock grazing areas.

Knowledge of the territoriality of coyote packs led Dr. Michael Fox of HSUS's Institute for the Study of Animal Problems to theorize that socializing coyotes with sheep might be one method of protecting sheep. Socializing would be done by raising coyote pups with lambs. When mature, the animals would be turned loose on the range together. The coyotes could be expected to establish their territory around the sheep herd, thereby protecting the sheep from attacks of other coyote groups not as friendly towards them.

The sheep rancher's unwillingness to protect his own flock is an important factor in the coyote-sheep problem. Flocks are turned loose, often on public lands rented to the rancher for grazing purposes, with no human protection. Ranchers claim the cost of labor is too high, and it is too difficult to find employees willing to spend long, lonely hours on the plains with the sheep. Even canine protection is not afforded, although sheep dogs are routinely used in Europe with great success. The USDA in Denver is currently testing the Komondor, a Hungarian sheep dog, as a possible protector of flocks.

According to J. Frank Dobie, in his book, "The Voice of the Coyote," the word "coyote" came from the Aztec term "chiotli" abbreviated orally into ky­to­te, coyote, koyote, kayo­te, kay­to, kay­ote, kay­to, koy­to, koy­to. Perhaps there is no single right way for English speakers to pronounce the word. Like many, correctness of pronunciation often depends upon latitude or longitude. Historical pronunciation accounts all three syllables of the now-accepted form in­cluded kyo­to, koy­to, often ab­bre­viated orally into ky­to­te, koy­to, kyi­to, kyi­to. Perhaps there is no single right way for English speakers to pronounce the word. Like most, correctness of pronunciation often depends upon latitude or longitude. Historical pronunciation accounts all three syllables of the now-accepted form in­cluded kyo­to, koy­to, often ab­bre­viated orally into ky­to­te, koy­to, kyi­to, kyi­to. Perhaps there is no single right way for English speakers to pronounce the word. 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PLACE: A fenced field in Abilene, Kansas
PARTICIPANTS: About 100 greyhound dogs plus owners; 270 jackrabbits trucked in from Texas; 100 spectators on an average day.

PURPOSE: Pitting greyhounds against jackrabbits for testing their training as killing machines, also for entertainment and wagering.

“Run rabbit run” the spectators scream as two greyhounds chase down a jackrabbit within the confines of a diamond-shaped field. The dog owners and spectators have come to enjoy themselves watching and wagering. The dogs have come to be winners. The rabbits have come to die.

This bloody event some call “sport” is coursing. Coursing has been with us for about 100 years. Originally, the greyhound was brought to this country to help midwestern farmers rid their fields of rodents and rabbits. According to the Greyhound Hall of Fame in Abilene, “The American farmer soon found the greyhound to also be a great source of entertainment and sport. Weekend coursing matches became popular, and eventually led to the first organized coursing meet held near Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas, in 1886.”

Today, there are about 20,000 registered greyhounds in the country. Greyhound racing is a popular “sport,” and coursing remains the most method of choice for training the racing dogs.

A HSUS investigator engaged the man who trucked the rabbits from Texas in a conversation. “Don’t get too close to me,” the driver said, “I’ve got hair from those damn rabbits all over me.” The driver and his son had just finished unloading the rabbits. The investigator asked the driver why the rabbits had been brought from Texas. “Ain’t any rabbits left in Kansas,” he said. “They’re all been trapped and poisoned. They’re all gone. They’re out of here.”

During the events, the dogs don’t make a sound. They’re like finely tuned missiles tracking down and destroying an enemy target. The rabbits, on the other hand, make pathetic squealing noises. Occasionally the men who tear the rabbits away from the dogs show a little compassion by slamming the injured rabbit’s head against a hard object to put it out of its misery. Otherwise, it will be thrown into a trash can with the dead rabbits from preceding events, to die slowly from its injuries.

One typical coursing match pits two greyhounds against one rabbit. The rabbit is turned loose in the field first. If it does not immediately begin to run, men on the fence harass it until it moves. If they fail, the announcer blurs over the loudspeaker, “This rabbit won’t do.” The rabbit is immediately changed.

One dog wears a red collar and the other a white one. They are turned loose shortly after the rabbit begins to move. Occasionally, the dogs are so swifit that the rabbit does not even know they are there until it’s too late. Usually, the rabbit spots the dogs and a two or three minute chase follows.

When a rabbit gets “home” (a hole in the fenced-in area that allows the rabbit to escape to another confined area), it is given a few minutes rest and then trucked back into the field. If the dogs fail to get it, a relief dog is sent in to make the kill.

Some of the spectators cheer for the rabbit. Others cheer for the dogs. Large signs are posted prohibiting gambling, but even the casual observer can see money changing hands. Speed is often the factor in determining the event’s winner. Points are also awarded for the following maneuvers:

THE TURN—1 point. A turn is where the greyhound forces the jack to turn at right angles.

THE WRENCH—½ point. A wrench is where the greyhound fails to turn the jack but forces him off a straight line, running in a zigzag manner.

THE KILL—2 points or on a descending scale in proportion to the degree of merit shown in making the kill. The kill may be of no merit. Thus, one greyhound forcing the jack to turn into his opponent’s mouth, or catching a weak, stumbling jack.

THE TRIP—1 point. A trip is where a greyhound throws the jack but holds him.

The alleged purpose of coursing is sport. The Humane Society News has answered that question. All life is sacred. The HSUS investigators sent an agent to the coursing meet to witness the events to determine if the “animal fighting venture” section of the 1976 Animal Welfare Act Amendments had been violated.

At least 30 courses were run each day of the meet. Many of the rabbits were killed. Those that were left were sold to local greyhound racers for training purposes.

According to a HSUS investigator, coursing meets provide a place for people to sell and lease racing dogs, test the abilities of dogs for possible track racing. “Coursing is cruel,” he said. “There’s no doubt about it. There’s just no redeeming qualities about it at all.”

Of course, greyhound enthusiasts see it another way. One man who spoke with a HSUS investigator put it this way: “These rabbits and dogs are treated more humanely than a lot of other animals,” he remarked. “You should spend your time on other cruelties rather than picking on greyhounds and people who enjoy coursing.”

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One HSUS investigator argued that they could sign a complaint, but he said, “We believe it is cruel to allow animals to breed and run lose. The average life of a loose cat or dog is less than three years. And they don’t die peacefully like most well cared for pets. They die of disease and under the wheels of automobiles.

The user can ask, “What good is a rabbit?” The humanitarian has answered that question. All life is sacred.
HSUS Receives Award for Disaster Relief Work

The Humane Society of the United States has received a Certificate of Appreciation from the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Shell Fisheries in recognition of the Society’s contribution to the state’s emergency waterfowl feeding program. This program was initiated in an effort to supplement the natural diet of birds which were confronted with a serious food shortage resulting from extreme cold temperatures which caused coastal marshes to freeze. In response to an appeal to the HSUS disaster relief program, the Society contributed funds exclusively along the hard hit northeast portion of the state. Through the emergency waterfowl feeding program, the Society contributed funds to supplement the natural diet of birds which winter in that area. A shelter program was initiated in an effort to protect the HSUS’s Terris Humane Education Center. She is assisting Director John Dommers on educational programs and activities for schools, community groups, libraries, and summer camps. She will also produce educational materials and work on animal welfare legislation.

HSUS West Coast Regional Office Booth Popular at Nature Fair

From the West coast regional office, Investigator Eric Sakach reports the success of an HSUS booth at the “World of Nature” Conservation Fair at the Tilt Mall in Hacienda Heights, California. Sponsored by the Sunset Junior Women’s Club of Hacienda Heights, the fair drew over 150,000 people. The HSUS booth was manned by Boy and Girl Scouts, and was well supplied with HSUS materials on trapping, hunting, pet overpopulation, KIND magazine samples and membership information.

Attention: Shelters

The HSUS has learned that The Food and Drug Administration has recently made an inspection of the drug records of a local society. It is important that all purchase and use records be kept up to date. HSUS believes this inspection is the forerunner of more such checkups. The people who use the animals for local “sport” do so for two reasons: PROFIT and FUN. Whenever the animals are exploited for these two reasons, the welfare of the animals assumes a very low priority. Similar animal abuses occur at rodeos, horse races, dog tracks, bull fights and animal drawing contests. Unless a person were to follow and monitor the animals on their regular circuit of events night after night and week after week each year, it is difficult to prove that cruelty laws are broken. A giant bruise, a ripped ear, or an anemic appearance are problems that most prosecutors would call “marginal” in reference to cruelty cases.

Donkey Basketball

The following editorial appeared in April in the Shore-Line Times in Madison, Connecticut. A local high school had planned a donkey basketball game as a fund-raiser, with local teams riding donkeys supplied by the Buckeye Donkey Ball Company of Columbus, Ohio. Many schools and other organizations have been attracted to this idea for fund-raising, not realizing the cruelty involved to the donkeys. HSUS’s John Dommers, Director of Education, wrote this editorial explaining why humanitarians cannot condone this “sport.”

Weller Assists Local Societies

Bernie Weller, Field Representative in the Gulf States Regional Office, has been assisting local organizations toward improving their animal control programs. At the request of the Volunteers for Animal Welfare, Weller testified at the Oklahoma City City Council on improvements needed at the Oklahoma City Animal Shelter. The City Council subsequently awarded $215,000 of revenue sharing money for more personnel, equipment and possibly a humane education classroom at the shelter. The cities of Yukon, Edmond and Del City, Oklahoma also requested and received Weller’s assistance in reviewing their shelter facilities and guidance on the upgrading of their animal control programs.

NY Humane Education Workshop Led by Dommers

The New York Humane Education Workshop in Hudson, New York, was attended by 92 teachers, including Hudson’s Superintendent of Schools and the Director of Pupil Services. The workshop was conducted by John Dommers, Director of HSUS’s Norma Terris Humane Education Center. It was the first formal workshop designed to implement New York State’s mandated humane education curriculum. Due to the positive and enthusiastic response to the workshop, Dommers plans to ask the New York State Department of Education for an endorsement to continue implementation of the curriculum throughout the state.

Intern Program

At Norma Terris Center

Susan Porteus, a sophomore at Goddard College in New Hampshire, is presently working on a 15 week work-study project at HSUS’s Norma Terris Humane Education Center. She is assisting Director John Dommers on educational programs and activities for schools, community groups, libraries, and summer camps. She will also produce educational materials and work on animal welfare legislation.

At the Office Booth

The programme was initiated in an effort to assist the waxed brant goose which winters in that area. A shelter program was initiated in an effort to protect the HSUS’s Terris Humane Education Center. She is assisting Director John Dommers on educational programs and activities for schools, community groups, libraries, and summer camps. She will also produce educational materials and work on animal welfare legislation.

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This year's theme, "Educating for Action," should set the tone for one of the most lively educational conferences ever. Underlying every workshop, speech, and presentation is the call to action in defense of our fellow creatures.

The Conference Pre-Sessions at the Animal Care and Education Center and the San Diego Zoo will be thoroughly educational. Mel Morse, former HSUS President, will host you at his Animal Care and Education Center. Sue Pressman will take you backstage at the Zoo. Following opening remarks on Friday morning, conferences will hear a keynote address by Roger Caras. Caras, well-known writer, radio personality, and the nation's first full-time TV animal correspondent, will provide the verbal fuel for the "action" to come. Past conferees will recall that Roger Caras has always inspired and provoked "action" lasting long after the conference has ended.

Dr. John C. Lilly, Director of The Human/Dolphin Foundation will treat us to an inquiry in interspecies communication between man and the marine mammals. Workshops on Friday all deal with "action" programs. Friday's workshops will not be repeated. So, choose carefully.

Friday evening will be a combination of fun and learning. Sue Pressman will take us backstage at San Diego's well-known Sea World. To top it off, we'll have a picnic dinner where you can refresh old friendships, talk shop, and eat. The picnic is included in your registration fee.

"Animals in Biomedical Research and Testing" is the subject of Dr. Michael Fox's address on Saturday morning. This is a must for all concerned with this growing plague on our animals. John Dommers, Director of The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, will electrify us with his thoughts on humane education, also on Saturday morning.

Some of the Saturday workshops will be repeated. Please check the schedule carefully and plan your time accordingly. The high point, as always, will be the Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. This year's Joseph Wood Krutch medalist has been selected for "significant contribution towards the improvement of life and environment." Please note the increased registration fee after August 15.

See you in San Diego!
ANIMAL CONTROL

HSUS goals in this significant portion of our endeavors are simple. One goal of the HSUS is to reduce the massive overbreeding of animals by improving pregnancy control, promoting, and enforcing responsible pet ownership.

Teaching animal control officials, educators, humane society personnel, and others interested in animal control has been continued with the Society's vehicles and those of our colleagues in the nation's cities this year. In addition, our animal control specialists have provided assistance in local and state criminal and civil proceedings.

Our relationship to animal control issue continues to pour into HSUS Washington and regional offices. Our new Regional Responsible Pet Ownership booklet has been used by numerous cities and states in connection with animal control legislation.

Again this year, HSUS staff members participate in the annual National Animal Control Personnel Development Conference held at Texas A & M University. HSUS staff personnel also participated in the National Dog and Cat Control Conference held in February in Denver, Colorado.

Pet control research was an important project in the HSUS in '76 as the HSUS opened the Western Animal Control Institute for the Study of Animal Problems Office in Colorado. The Institute has been charge of the Study of Animal Problems, being used as basic research in ISAP's on-going review of factory farming.

ANIMALS IN MOVIES

The abuse of animals in motion pictures, and even TV commercials, was active propaganda employed by The HSUS throughout the year. This program was aimed at preventing the abuse of animals in films, TV shows, and TV commercials. We are current seeking to end the use of cruelty to animals in films.

Because the day of the major studios is gone, there are now more difficult to find. However, the HSUS continues these investigations.

The HSUS has been active in supporting the Motion Picture Association of America in their efforts to protect animals in films.

ANIMALS in the Pacific and Africa, and seals in the Arctic and on the Pribilof Islands. HSUS' involvement in the protection of these fragile areas concerns itself with protecting endangered species in the western world, the protection of wildlife, the protection of endangered species in the western world and the protection of endangered species in the western world.

The HSUS has gone to court to protect wolves in Alaska, wild horses in Idaho, dolphins in the Atlantic and Pacific, and seals in Africa and on the Pribilof Islands. HSUS' involvement in the protection of these fragile areas concerns itself with protecting endangered species in the western world, the protection of wildlife, the protection of endangered species in the western world and the protection of endangered species in the western world.

The killing of innocent dolphins by tuna fishing boats is a primary concern in the HSUS. In addition, the HSUS has worked to reduce the number of dolphins that are killed by the tuna fishing boats in the Atlantic and Pacific.

The HSUS has also been active in reducing the number of birds trapped in the United States, and has also worked on the effect of the Department of the Interior to help prevent animal abuse.

The HSUS has worked to prevent animal abuse in the past, and is currently working to prevent animal abuse in the future.

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Operating Income and Expenditures

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<td>Membership and General Public Information</td>
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Excess of Income Over Expenditures $149,607

Note: Audited Financial Statement Available Upon Request

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EduCating For Action

Tuesday

October 15

8:30 a.m.
Registration

9:00 a.m.
"Animals in Biomedical Research and Testing"
Dr. Michael Fox

10:15 a.m.
Coffee Break

10:30 a.m.
"Focus on Humane Education"
John J. Dommers

2:00 p.m.
Workshops

(1) Cruelty Investigations
Frantz Dantzler & Phil Steward

(2) Trapping
Guy Hodge

(3) Biomedical Research
Dr. Michael Fox

(4) Fund Raising & Public Relations
Paul Irwin & Charles Herrmann

(5) Humane Education Programs
John J. Dommers

3:30 p.m.
Coffee Break

3:45 p.m.
Workshops

(1) Euthanasia
Phyllis Wright

(2) Legislation
Patricia Forkan & Charlene Drennon

(3) Contemporary Concepts in Animal Control
Phyllis Wright

(4) Cruelty Investigations
Frantz Dantzler & Phil Steward

(5) KIND Programs
Dale Hylton

SUNDAY

October 16

9:15 a.m.
Resolutions Committee Report

12:00 p.m.
Adjournment of Annual Conference

Get your room reservations in early. There are only a limited number of rooms available Thursday night, October 13.

Room Rates

Single: $30
Double: $34
Suites: $45-$65

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Cost Per Person | Number of People | Total
---|---|---
$30 | | $
$10 | | $
$15 | | $
$2 | | $
$2 | | $
Total Enclosed | | $

Vegetarian Meal Desired For Banquet?
San Francisco SPCA recently announced a pet health care plan for senior citizens with limited incomes. Realizing that many older people have the time and the heart to care for an animal, but do not have the money to provide proper veterinary care, the plan offers everything from vaccinations to surgery for $2 per service. All citizens over 65 and on low, fixed incomes are eligible. The SF SPCA Hospital provides the medical services. The difference between the $2 fee and the actual cost of the service is made up by subsidies, donations, and requests to the Society.

The Society also plans to seek City approval for half-priced licenses and adoption fees. “We are painfully aware of the need to find homes for unwanted animals,” a Society spokesman said. “This is an opportunity to give them warm, loving homes, and to brighten the lives of countless numbers of seniors at the same time.”

UNHAPPINESS IS A HOT DOG

Summer can be a good time for a dog, with owners taking longer walks and spending afternoons in the park to enjoy the warm summer sunshine. But there is danger in that sunshine for your dog, if he is left in a parked car for even a short time. Even with the windows slightly open, the temperature in the car can quickly climb to 120° and higher. Dogs cool themselves by panting. With only overheated air to breathe, they can’t live very long. If they do escape death by heat prostration, they may suffer irreparable brain damage. The same goes for cats.

First aid can be given by immersing the animal in cold water until the body temperature is lowered. Then get him to the vet. Better yet, leave your pet home when you know you’ll be shopping.

A Warning from ISAP

Nationwide there is a proliferation of wolf-dog hybrids which are being bred and sold as pets. While they may appeal to those who want to have something wild and exotic, most of these hybrids do not make good pets when they attain maturity. They tend to be shy, emotionally unstable and sometimes aggressive and unpredictable toward people, especially strangers, and sometimes toward other dogs of the same sex. The breeding and ownership of such animals should be restricted to those engaged in behavioral studies and education. While few hybrids make good pets the majority do not adapt; thus breeding and keeping them is inhumane. Such animals should be placed in the category of wild animals. They should be subject to state laws controlling wild animal ownership. A wildlife owner’s or breeder’s permit should be mandatory and then given only if the animals are kept for behavioral studies or educational purposes, in accordance with HSUS policy concerning the ownership and breeding of wild animals.

Court Orders Puppy Mill Operator to Stop Dog Breeding—Forever!

The case of the Kansas puppy mill raid, reported recently in an HSUS Close-Up, received its final disposition in a Kansas district court this March. Midwest Representative Ann Conner and Bob Weideman, President of the Joplin Missouri Humane Society, were among those present as the case was brought to a close. The owner of the breeding farm was ordered not to breed any dogs in the future, and the dogs from the raided kennel were turned over to the Joplin Humane Society.
Animal Lab Cleans Up!

HSUS Correspondence Relates Two Year Struggle

The following are excerpts from a lengthy series of correspondence and reports on one of the cases HSUS has been dealing with. These fragments tell the story of the perseverance and determination of methods sometimes necessary to bring about humane treatment for animals.

ORGANIZATIONS:

- **HSUS: Humane Society of the United States**
- **NTSU: North Texas State University**
- **USDA: United States Department of Agriculture**

PEOPLE:

- **STUDENT:** NTSU student who first raised the issue of conditions at the University Biology Department, and who helped with documentation throughout the case.
- **BERNARD WELLER:** Investigator for HSUS Gulf States Regional Office.
- **PHILIP STEWARD:** Investigator, Field Services & Investigation Dept., HSUS in Washington, D.C.
- **DR. DALE SCHWINDAMAN:** Senior Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care Staff, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Washington, D.C.

September 15, 1975—**Report of NTSU student**

I have been given your reports and the student's data on the research facility at NTSU. You are correct—in this needs attention. Please provide me with any update information you can.

February 4, 1976—**Report of NTSU student**

We have recently received several complaints regarding the conditions of various animal cages held for experimentation and research at your University. Numerous allegations have been made indicating that possible violations of the Federal Animal Welfare Act of 1972 are occurring.

March 11, 1976—**Letter from Dr. Schwindaman to B. Weller**

We have been in touch with regional USDA inspectors to investigate the conditions at NTSU experiment in the first run and one dog had broken ear and erythematous nose. There were at least a few fleas in each cage with puddles of urine. And flies covered the dogs.

December 19, 1975—**Memo from P. Stewart to B. Weller**

I have been given your reports and the student's data on the research facility at NTSU. You are correct—in this needs attention. Please provide me with any update information you can.

April 7, 1976—**Letter from NTSU student to B. Weller**

I received your letter with the letter from the school enclosed. At the time I hope and figured things would clean up, but to my surprise the situation with the dogs is the same except with different dogs. I have documented the same problems and I am sending a copy of these notes along with the photographs you sent. I found 2 dogs huddled in the first run and one dog huddled in the center of the fourth run. There were fleas in all of the runs; there was no food or water visible, it was raining outside and the kennel floors were wet, and the dogs were obviously frightened and cold.

June 23, 1976—**File memo by P. Steward**

Talked with USDA official Dale Schwindaman, and the report had been received. Agreed to check with regional USDA inspectors to determine what to do. Will advise you of photos and conditions.

September 17, 1975—**Letter from D. Schwindaman, USDA, to P. Steward**

Concerning NTSU, investigation performed by a Texas field veterinary medical officer on June 28, 1976, reported “no evidence of dogs live, dead or diseased” ... no evidence of unsanitary conditions in the small mamals housed at the center.

You indicate, however, that written and photographic documentation exists which substantiates ongoing deficiencies in this research facility. If these documents could be made available to us, we would like to forward this information to appropriate investigatory personnel in Texas for additional follow-up action.

September 21, 1976—**Memo from P. Stewart to B. Weller**

Attached is a copy of Dr. Schwindaman’s letter concerning NTUS. According to this letter, all is up to standards as of June 28th. The last photographs you sent were of April 23rd, which indicates a total contradiction about the conditions.

I would appreciate your reinspection of the facility as soon as possible.

November 30, 1976—**NTSU Inspection report by B. Weller**

The first room I entered had the door open. I found 10 cages with a rabbit in each cage. The cages were dirty with rabbit hair stuck to the sides and floors. From the amount of feces it looked as if there were several days of droppings in the trays. The room was full of dust, hair and debris which gives evidence of the lack of sanitation.

In another room, I observed 20 rat cages, some very overcrowded. They were filthy and appeared as though they had not been cleaned for some time. Some water containers had green algae inside.

February 1, 1977—**Report of NTSU Inspection by P. Steward and B. Weller**

Upon entering room #5, we observed numerous large cages containing rabbits. Several had a sizable accumulation of dead urine and matted hair. In the center top cage we found a dead white rabbit, completely stiff.

Room #10 was filled with metal rodent cages. Each cage contained an undetermined number of white rats. In the drooping tray of one cage we found three dead baby rats and one partially eaten dead rat. The shavings in all trays were extremely wet with urine and had an extreme amount of accumulated fecal waste.

February 1, 1977—**Letter to Denton County District Attorney from P. Steward**

Enclosed are copies of all pertinent reports relating to the ongoing investigation of the housing and sanitation conditions in the animal quarters at NTSU. It is clear the University has made no effort to improve conditions or even to attempt to meet minimum animal husbandry standards.

The overcrowded conditions and total lack of sanitation procedures is, in our opinion, in total and direct violation of Section 42.11 of the Texas State Penal Code.

We respectfully request you impose an immediate time limit on the responsible individu­als at NTSU, and if these conditions are not improved by your time limit, that formal criminal charges be filed.

Both Mr. Weller and myself are ready to act as complaining witnesses.

March 7, 1977—**Report of Inspection of NTSU by B. Weller**

Cages have been ordered to allow the animals to be moved to a clean cage when the cages are being cleaned. New and larger rats containers have been ordered to reduce overcrowding of mice and rats.

All doors now have locks and will be kept locked to allow only authorized persons in the animal quarters. A second person has been hired to help care for the animals. Cages were now clean, expanded to a larger size. Dirt, dust and surplus hair had been removed. Each room had a clean atmosphere, was sanitized as it should be, but will have new cleaning equipment in the near future.

I contacted the District Attorney to inform him of the changes made at the University. □
IT IS THE BEST BIRTH CONTROL DEVICE, preventing random matings and helping to control unwanted puppies.

IT IS THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR DOG UNINJURED, restraining your pet from darting into traffic, eliminating pain and veterinary bills.

IT IS THE BEST GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICEMAKER, keeping your pet from being a troublemaker, destructive or otherwise, on your neighbor's lands or on the city's sidewalks. It will also keep your pet from jumping up on children or adults and possibly inflicting an injury on them, as well as the discomfort or fright it might cause.

IT IS THE BEST IDENTIFICATION SERVICE, as the license tag attached to the collar will get your pet back to you if the dog should be lost.

IT IS THE BEST WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, keeping your pet from harassing deer and other wild animals, either by itself or as part of a wild dog pack.

IT IS THE BEST WAY TO DEVELOP AN AFFECTIONATE PET, as the touch of it gives your dog definite assurance that it is protected, loved, and wanted.

IT IS ALSO THE BEST CRIME PREVENTION DEVICE, because, when this leash is not in use, then your pet will be at home, overseeing matters and protecting its 'family.'

USE IT. KEEP YOUR DOG LEASHED, AS A HABIT AND AS A MATTER OF CIVIL CIVIC PRACTICE.

Guest Editorial
Taking the Teeth out of the Animal Welfare Act
By Ann Cottrell Free

So far, the short history of the Federal Animal Welfare Act is proving the truism that no law is stronger than its enforcement. That Act, upon which so many humanitarians pinned their hopes, is beginning to resemble the numerous state, county and municipal anti-cruelty laws that are backed up by neither dedication, ability, manpower or money.

We hear that the Act's enforcers in the U.S. Department of Agriculture approve a disreputable puppy mill when they should close it. Dr. Dallas Pratt's book, Painted Experiments in Animals (Augsburg Archives, New York), has charged that scientists are flouting the Act's pain rule concerning anesthesia. We learn that The Humane Society of the United States has filed suit to spring loose USDA's long-delayed transportation standards regulations required by the 1976 amendments to the Act.

What should we do? Give Up? But would not this mean saying good-bye to some of the progress that has ensued since 1966? At least hundereds of sub-marginal dealers and roadside zoos are out of business.

Or do we listen carefully to what highly-placed USDA officials are now saying behind their scenes? Speaking up at last, they tell of fiscal sabotage within the department. Their request for a modest $1.8 million, primarily to enforce the transportation and dog-fighting amendments, was insultingly cut back to a measly $208,000. Earlier, USDA had estimated that it would take $24 million to break up the dog-fighting racket alone. The budget for the entire Act, covering dealers, zoos, laboratories, and everything else is a disgracefully small $2.8 million.

Commercial interests that worked to defeat the amended bill through a White House veto now? At least hun­dred links to the equal killing of dolphins by killing dolphins but, in fact, to protect them. . . . We call for an immediate move toward zero mortality and serious injury rate on the part of the American tuna industry.
FEDERAL LEGISLATION

As the 95th Congress gets down to business, several bills of major concern to HSUS members have a good chance of passage. In the Spring issue of the HSUS News, Rep. George Brown discussed his Humane Slaughter bill, H.R. 1404, an amendment of the Federal Meat Inspection Law requiring humane slaughter in all federally inspected packing plants.

Many plants are still not required to slaughter humanely. In March of 1974, Brown’s bill would require daily on-site inspection of slaughter methods. The price to pay would be immediate.

One day, in the near future, we may walk into the presence of a living, breathing animal and watch the process of its sacrifice. Although the laws are in place, they are not being enforced. All the animal can see are workers and cattle in a dark building. The animal will be dreadfully frightened, lying still as the shot is administered, and the cattle will squeal in pain as they are taken by the leghold trap, interact and forever change their commerce in products caught with the device, and any products trapped in states that have not banned the trap. Although no hearings have been scheduled on these bills, HSUS intends to make the elimination of cruel trapping practices a major item on its legislative program.

After this year’s baby seal slaughter in Canada, Congress passed a resolution, H. Con. Res. 142, requesting Canada to reassess its policy on the annual seal kill. Unfortunately, the strong word of Rep. Leo Ryan (Cal.) original proposal was watered down when Congress weakened references to the methods used.

Legislation prohibiting the export of horses by sea for slaughter should pass this year. Last year, the Export Administration Amendments which contained this provision were deleted for other reasons. Legislation has now cleared both the House and Senate with the horse provision intact. A Conference Committee will work out other differences in the bills. A final bill will be sent to the President shortly.

Alternative to animals in research is a subject before the House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology chaired by Rep. Raymond (Ark.) H. Con. Res. 130, sponsored by Rep. William Whitehurst (Va.) would make it the “sense of Congress” that no funds be appropriated for research using animals when alternatives could be used. H.R. 2448, sponsored by Rep. Edward Koch, would earmark $10 million to develop alternatives. No action on either bill is anticipated.

STATE LEGISLATION

The New York State Assembly has repealed the Metallic-Hatch Act, which permitted seizure on demand of unwanted animals from municipal and certain humane shelters for experimental use. The bill is now pending before the Senate. Governor Mario Cuomo, a transit supporter, will probably sign. The bill would regulate trapping on federal lands (including age limits of 18 or older), provide research funds to develop humane alternatives to, and restrict commercial use of traps and products caught in them. States could issue their own regulations if they are at least as strong as the legislation.

Michael Fox testifies in April before the Maine Senate Agriculture Committee in support of L.D. 192, bills that would phase out the use of leghold traps by mid-1975. The bill would allow the manufacture and sale of the steel “jaw trap,” which does not have the same problems associated with the leghold trap.

The Washington State Legislature has passed a bill allowing use of sodium pentobarbital by humane societies.

The North Carolina Senate has passed a bill restricting the use of the leghold trap, although it was amended to exempt 25 counties. The bill, SB 110, must now be acted on by the House. N.C. Governor Jim Hunt proclaimed March 20 Humane Trapping Day. The Georgi­a Senate passed SB 79, and the House will act on this bill banning the trap next year.

New Jersey members should contact their state legislators and urge them to support proposed legislation to outlaw the leghold trap statewide. Contact your representatives in their district offices or at the State House, Trenton, N.J. 08625.

Humane trapping legislation has passed the New York Assembly and is pending in the Senate. HSUS Regional Director Jack Inman and Martha Scott­Garttvedt testified on similar legislation respectively on trapping legislation, but no further action has been taken on either bill.

In its effort to improve educational programming, the creation of learning materials, and the dissemination of humane education information, The Humane Society has structured The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE). Located at The University of Tulsa, under the direction of Drs. Stuart Westerlund and Eileen Whitlock, NAAHE has been relocated at The Norma Terris Humane Education Center in East Haddam, Connecticut. John Dommers, Director of the Connecticut Center has assumed Directorship of NAAHE.

The Tulsa-based curriculum materials development program shall continue creating, testing, and publishing learning/teaching mate­rials in the fashion of their well received “Sharing” units. These audio-visual kits featuring film strips, spirit masters, and teachers’ guides are used to teach language skills in the primary grades.

Drs. Westerlund and Whitlock are now in the process of testing new teaching units that continue to integrate the humane ethic into the standard school diet of reading, ’riting, and ’rithmetic.

One of the major reasons for this new align­ment is the desire on the part of The HSUS to allow the Tulsa Center, now called The Humane Education, to concentrate their total effort on creating more high quality learning aids. Additionally, The HSUS has long felt that humane education transcends most of the other activities of the organization.

There is a general agreement as to the need for and the implementation of programs for youth. The technique used is the movement to impart the humane ethic to young people differ­ent. But the desire to reach youth and programs to do so are employed all across the country. While HECC concentrates on materials development, NAAHE shall continue as a means of communication between humane educators. The NAAHE Journal has been revived, but it does not exist in its first edition under Dom­mers’ direction, it will stress “practical, every­day ideas” that teachers and humane society educators will find useful.

Typical articles appearing in Humane Education will deal with reviews of commercially available learning materials, useful reports in the class­room, developing humane education bulletin boards, and goals for humane education pro­grams. In addition, Humane Education will feature announcements of meetings, workshops, and programs from other concerned organiza­tions, and reports and stories from practicing humane educators from all across the country.

According to Dommers, “This down-to-earth approach will work to unify the efforts of our organizational members so that we can reach directly into school classrooms and the commu­nity without duplicating effort. Humane Educa­tion will be a sharing vehicle for the best work­able ideas out there.”

NAAHE will also be introducing a new catego­ry of membership for local humane groups. The organization will then be eligible for dis­counts at workshops and on the bulk purchases of educational materials published by NAAHE. Membership in NAAHE is open to interested individuals and local animal welfare agencies.

NAAHE will remain an educational division of The HSUS. HECC, on the other hand, while receiving financial support from HSUS, will be seeking multiple sponsorship for its projects and programs from other concerned organiza­tions.

If you would like a sample of the charter edition of Humane Education, please forward $1.00 to NAAHE, 2100 1st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.
SOCIETY GIVES OPINIONS ON ANIMAL SHIPPI NG REGULATIONS

HSUS has used the United States Department of Agriculture to compel issuance of regulations under the Animal Welfare Act Amendments of 1976, which extended federal standards of humane care and treatment to animals shipped in interstate commerce by common carriers such as airlines, railroads, and trucking companies. The statute specifically required USDA to have regulations in effect by January, 1977. The regulations are necessary to administer the Act. Not by mere coincidence, USDA was still anticipating delays of several months in completing the regulations, and HSUS decided to file a suit to speed up the process. By February, USDA was still anticipating delays of several months in completing the regulations, and HSUS has submitted detailed comments on the regulations, which will be considered by the USDA in finalizing these rules.

When enforced, these regulations will be a vast improvement in the animal welfare situation as it is now. Still, HSUS thinks they suffer from vagueness and overgeneralization, stating goals without specifying means. For example, the regulations simply require the shipping company to notify the consignee of the arrival of the animal. HSUS suggested the regulations specify notification by telephone within 90 minutes of the arrival, with subsequent attempts at notification being made at least 4 hours after that. HSUS also said that some regulations did not rely upon existing, fairly sophisticated research on such matters as air supply requirements for animals which has been conducted by airlines and air research institutions.

Among the other suggestions made by HSUS were:

• the minimum enclosures for puppies and kittens to be shipped to be ten weeks (rather than 8 weeks as proposed by the USDA).
• every shipping cage have a service tag attached to the outside on which the name of the animal is fixed or watered.
• female animals in their third trimester of pregnancy are not to be shipped.
• shipping cases be constructed to withstand being dropped on a corner on concrete from a height of six feet without suffering damage which would injure the animal inside or permit it to escape.
• other suggestions dealt with air circulation and temperature, separation of certain species, health and itinerary documentation, and number of animals that can be transported in one enclosure.

The HSUS joined in with the HSUS in protest of the overly general regulations governing the humane handling and care of animals held by exhibitions. When enforced, these regulations will be a vast improvement in the animal welfare situation as it is now. By February, USDA was still anticipating delays of several months in completing the regulations, and HSUS has submitted detailed comments on the regulations, which will be considered by the USDA in finalizing these rules.

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Wild Animals That Help People
by Michael W. Walker, (David McKay Company, Inc., $7.95)

Michael Walker has written a fascinating book for young and mature readers that shows us the wild creatures are really our brethren of lands, I killed wild creatures for the fun of it."

"And how they benefit the lives of other living creatures, including humans. I hope the book gains converts for that growing group of people who revere all life."

"Many of us think we know the many and varied ways wild animals contribute to the web of life. Walker touches on the familiar and then goes a step beyond. Our awareness grows as we read on. The Herrings, the beaver, the butterfly, the manatee, the wolf, and the dozens of other creatures Walker discusses become significant builders, predators, burrowers, and pollinators. Their roles become blended into one large puzzle. Each piece of the puzzle is essential if we are to understand the whole."

Wild Animals That Help People should be a basic book for all who care about animals—including themselves.

The Pet Profiteers

Americans have developed a passion and affection for pets as perhaps no other society in history. We are a nation of animal lovers and a million dollar industry has developed to cater to and exploit our pet mania. Many businesses provide a legitimate and useful service with regard to the breeding, care, feeding and amusement of dogs and cats. However the promise of monetary gain and relative freedom from government regulation has also proven an irresistible lure to less scrupulous merchants. Too often dogs and cats are treated as merchandise by an industry in which the profit motive more than occasionally outweighs consideration for the animals which are so vulnerable to abuse and suffering.

The Pet Profiteers is a remarkably well documented and articulate expose of the great American confidence game: the commercial exploitation of dogs and cats. Never before has the story of puppy mills, backyard breeders, and pet stores been told with such detail or with such sensitivity and insight. Ms. Benning provides case histories of the plush canine training facilities and kennels which are actually institutionalized ghettos where animals are confined in small wire cages wallowing in their own filth and where pet owners return to find a loved pet malnourished, injured and maladjusted. No element of the pet industry escapes scrutiny including the veterinary profession, animal welfare organizations, pet food manufacturers, record firms, and pet shops.

The Pet Profiteers is among the most authoritative, interesting, and important animal welfare books of 1977. Ms. Benning is certain to evoke anger and shame from all those who share her concern for the exploitation of America’s pets.

Wild Dogs Three
Dr. Michael Fox, (Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, Inc., $6.95)

This is not really a happy book. It is the story of three abandoned dogs in a rundown section of St. Louis, and how they manage to survive. The truth is, most dogs in such a situation don’t survive. The dangers faced by Tipps, Stiffy and Yeller are continual. For every hour of freedom and unsupervised play in the park, there are days of hunger, cold, sickness and fear. But through all this, they maintain a bond of affection and companionship with each other that adds a dimension to their lives beyond the daily scramble for survival.

This is basically a true story, based on many hours of observation of these three dogs by Dr. Fox and two associates. The photographs taken during the observations amply illustrate the conditions in which throwaway dogs live. The author has used an education in the ways of domestic pets forced to revert to the wild in the inhospitable environment of a big city. It is a challenge to those who believe that it is kinder to “let a dog go” than to risk the possibility of humane euthanasia at an animal shelter. And, Wild Dogs Three is a touching story of the friendship of three dogs with only each other to depend on.

Humane Education: One Way to Fight the Violent TV Tide

The National PTA doesn’t like violence on TV and neither do we. It’s an appalling fact that by the time the average American child reaches 14, he or she has witnessed 11,000 televised murders—most of them in Hawaii. Here are some of the PTA television commission findings:

1. Imitative Behavior—Some young people will be inclined to commit violent acts in direct imitation of similar behavior seen on TV.
2. Desensitization—Among youth and adults, there is a growing callousness and indifference to violence and the suffering it causes, due to the quantity and intensity of violence on television.
3. Quality of Life—Continual exposure to television’s parade of murder, rape, arson, assault, and other violence to persons, animals, and property diminishes the quality of life for both children and adults.

The National PTA (representing 6½ million members) is doing something about violence on TV and so are we. The PTA has launched the First Action Plan which focuses on a massive letter writing campaign to top executives of local TV stations, network chiefs and advertisers.

Our efforts are focusing on integrating the non-violent humane ethic into the schools. In order to do this we are greatly expanding our humane education workshop series for educators throughout the U.S. These programs work to sensitize teachers and youth to life with genuine respect and care for all creatures. Many teachers have become so convinced of the quality of HSUS humane education programs that they have volunteered to explain them to interested teachers attending our workshops.

There is probably no more comfortable and valid method of creating enthusiasm for HSUS programs in a teacher than by having another teacher explain and support our effort. In this way one teacher becomes a beacon, guiding scores of teachers into the HSUS humane education program. The transmission chain reaction does not stop with the teacher. When a teacher becomes enthusiastic about humane education and learns the proper skills with which to convey it, he or she becomes a humane generator, exposing hundreds, and eventually thousands of children to HSUS humane education programs.
Tonic Immobility—
Playing 'Possum

Many creatures "play dead" when alarmed or frightened. The classic example is the opossum, which, when cornered by an intimidating animal, will suddenly curl up and behave as though it were dead. In such a state it is neither asleep nor dead, but rather its entire nervous system is in a state of inhibition. Even the heart rate slows down to half or less its usual rate. This behavior is more accurately termed tonic immobility or catalepsy, since it may be an anthropomorphic mistake to imply that the animal is actually pretending to be dead.

It would seem that this behavior is of value because the predator may suddenly stop chasing its prey when the latter plays dead. The movement of the prey tends to trigger the hunter to chase and attack it, while immobility may inhibit these reactions.

More important still is the high probability that if the prey suddenly becomes immobile, it may be very difficult for the predator to find it, especially if it is camouflaged or concealed in dense cover.

Some of you may have literally fallen over a deer fawn hiding in the grass. When alarmed, older deer will run off, but young ones will freeze. Many mammals behave in this way when young and eventually grow out of it. Others show this reaction even in adulthood—rabbits, for example.

A horse that balks and refuses to move, or a cow or sheep that goes down and won't get up is in a similar state of tonic immobility. It can be triggered by a sudden fright, transportation stress, or acute trauma or disease.

Sometimes the animal won't come out of this state readily and irreversible physiological changes may follow, terminating in death. This is especially a problem in transporting wild ungulates—gazelles, antelope and the like. Prior tranquilization and intravenous therapy with certain minerals and glucose to correct blood chemical and lactic acid imbalances seems to be effective.

There is some evidence that an animal in a state of tonic immobility may feel little or no pain. Recently, natural opiate (pain killing) substances have been isolated in the brain. One may speculate how such a mechanism might have evolved and for what purpose—so that an animal being attacked by a predator feels no pain? If no pain is felt, it may remain immobile or cataleptic, and if the predator isn't hungry (a 50% probability) it won't be eaten. A satiated coyote or fox will still chase and catch prey, but won't eat it. If it remains still, it will probably not be killed either. This is most likely how this extraordinary behavior has evolved.

From the humane standpoint it is nice to think that the prey does, in fact, feel pain but cannot react physically due to its immobilized condition. More research is needed before we can be sure.

By Dr. M. W. Fox
If someone has a cat spayed because they heard it on the radio... tell the station

Otherwise, request a staff announcer record it. Know the station personnel and request a specific announcer. The announcer will be flat-tered that you singled him out (we radio people have very big egos). A non-staff voice is best.

III. The Approach

Don't arrive with the approach "radio stations are required to run public service announcements so here's mine..." Radio stations receive many, and that attitude will usually result in your announcements being filed for future possible use. Don't just mail the PSA's... call the station... talk to the PSA director... make an appointment to see him... don't just arrive unannounced. Explain the problems in the community to which the PSA's are addressed, and be extremely grateful for any consideration. Don't leave elaborate instructions for which spot runs on which day. Don't ask to have material mailed back to you-arrange to pick it up or leave it. If you are running dated material, make arrangements well in advance.

IV. The Follow Up

This is, perhaps, the most important, and most often overlooked aspect of public service announcements. If someone adopts a puppy because of a PSA on the radio... tell the station. If someone has a cat spayed because they heard it on the radio, tell the station. And don't just call—put your thanks in writing, and, always include a specific anecdote which resulted from the radio spot. Each radio station must keep a public file of mail received. Each station needs to prove it has, indeed, served the community. And, each station likes to hear that radio advertising does have an effect and does provoke action. Put it in writing—often!

V. The Talk Show

Most radio stations have interview programs or call in talk shows. Most will do special programs on community problems, again, because the FCC requires it. (Don't you wish the FTC required the same service of newspapers?) Talk show hosts are always looking for guests and special programs. You should make yourself available, but do not call and say "I'm from the Humane Society and want to do a show with you." We get lots of volunteers. Instead, call and say "In discussing community problems, I hear you often get calls or discussion about stray cats or unlicensed unleashed dogs... We have lots of material that might help you—and feel free to call me if you need a guest." That way, the host is calling on you in response to an expressed community need—again, an important aspect of that station's license renewal. Be available on a moment's notice! Have current facts and figures prepared.

VI. Territorial Considerations

Don't send your PSA's to a radio station in a community where there is another Humane Society. Their spots may get bumped for yours! Let each Society provide spots and programs for stations in its own area. You probably have a basic theme—but don't localize it. We all have enough of a problem with public support and image—we don't need to be fighting with each other!

HSUS Accreditation Program: What's It All About?

Why has The HSUS begun the monumental task of accrediting local humane societies? Why are local humane societies applying for accreditation when they know the process is lengthy and the standards are rigorous?

As should be the case in every activity of an animal welfare organization, the prevention of cruelty to animals is the single driving force behind HSUS's Accreditation program. Preventing cruelty is more than hanging up a sign that says "Humane Society" on the front of a building. Preventing cruelty is more than raising funds and printing stationery. Preventing cruelty is more than having an animal control contractor. Preventing cruelty is more than incorporating for that purpose. In order to prevent cruelty, an animal welfare organization must enlist the aid and cooperation of their community. This can only be done by setting a "Humane example" for all to follow. HSUS's Certificates of Accreditation are awarded to those applying organizations who set the humane example through:

1. QUALITY ANIMAL CARE—Sheltered societies must guard the health of all animals in their care. This includes proper sanitation, provision for the detection and isolation of diseased animals, regular provision of food and water, and availability of medical care for sick or injured animals. In addition, every effort should be made for the psychological welfare of the animals, so as to subject them to as little stress as possible. Unsheltered societies should make it their business to see that municipal shelters in their areas conform to the highest standards of shelter operation.

2. HUMANE EDUCATION—conducting a total education program that reaches out to all segments of the community with the total humane message. Concern for domestic and wild creatures must be communicated to the public. The HSUS does not believe an animal welfare organization can be "soft" on any animal related issue even if local tradition has not recognized certain activities as "cruel or inhuman.""...

3. ANIMAL CONTROL—Having policies that prohibit the release of animals for biomedical research or other forms of experimentation. Societies must provide for the collection of deposits at the time of adoption to help insure the sterilization of the animals. Humane euthanasia procedures, administered by trained, competent personnel in an atmosphere that precludes pain, fear, or stress is mandatory.

Emergency services must be provided unless another agency has already assumed the task. Finally, a follow-up program to determine if proper care is being provided to adopted animals is required for any "humane" shelter operation.

4. INVESTIGATIONS—Investigating cruelty is also a way of preventing cruelty. Animal welfare organizations should maintain an investigations program, unless such work is being conducted by others.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES—having a representative Board of Directors that meets regularly and conducts the affairs of the society in a democratic manner.

Recordkeeping, bookkeeping, and financial reporting must be handled in a competent manner that leaves no room for suspicion of wrongdoing. The society must use ethical fund-raising methods and must expend the funds raised in the manner in which the public was told. Election procedures should be democratic; the opportunity should be provided to the membership to question the Board and express themselves at regular meetings.

6. COMMUNICATIONS—Any organization expecting public support must publicize its activities. Soliciting and using public funds in the public's business requires a continuing program of communication through any and all media available. The "why" of HSUS's Accreditation program is PREVENTION OF CRUELTY. It can only be accomplished by local organizations working in cooperation with the entire community. The HSUS can provide guidance, training, literature, constructive criticism, and on-site inspection. But, the real success of the endeavor depends on the local society and its community.
Special Bonus Pullout Center Section: “What Your Pet is Saying to You”

Hope for the Coyote
Page 10
New research and theories related to deconditioning of coyotes is discussed.

Pets, People, and Problems
Inside Cover
Maryland’s Senator Mathias discusses legislative efforts to control the pet overpopulation problems.

Humane Education
Going Strong on West Coast, Page 2
HSUS West Coast Director, Charlene Drennon provides an overview of humane education efforts.

First Three Societies Accredited by HSUS Page 7

Annual Report
Special center insert
A look back at the more significant activities of The HSUS in 1976. Financial Statement included.

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WHAT YOUR PET IS TRYING TO TELL YOU

by Dr. Michael Fox

Do you realize that when a cat rubs its head against your leg, it isn’t merely cleaning its face but is sending you a message? There are special scent glands around a cat’s mouth and on each side of its head just below and in front of its ears; cats mark their close companions (both human and feline) with these glands as a friendly gesture. Dogs pant in order to cool off, since they don’t have sweat glands as we do. But are you aware that panting is also a special social signal? It says, in effect, “I’m ready to play.”

Animals communicate more through body language than through sounds. They have a rich and varied repertoire of facial expressions and tail and body postures that communicate mood and intentions. Recognizing these can help you understand what your pet is actually saying, not what you think it’s saying. A woman recently told me that her dog embarrassed her by crawling woefully on its belly. “People will think I beat him or something,” she complained. To break him of this behavior, she had scolded him severely, but this only increased his groveling. When I saw her dog, I gave him a few brief pats and kind words and then ignored what he was doing and told her to do the same. Soon afterward she told me her dog was behaving less like a whipped puppy. All it had been asking for was some small and affectionate recognition.

In another case a woman thought her dog had become psychotic when it nipped her and ripped up the rug. It was simply having a temper tantrum: It was jealous because a young niece was visiting! Another woman wrote to me in despair about her dog “who
acts absolutely crazy the moment my husband comes home from work each night, hiding and trying to bite Jim!” Again, this dog was jealous at having to share its mistress. All she had to do was pat the dog on Jim’s arrival and give it some extra attention.

Another commonly misinterpreted signal is a dog’s urinating at someone’s feet—especially at the feet of a stranger it is greeting. Most people conclude this happens because the dog is excited or frightened, when actually it’s an act of friendly submission to the newcomer. Instead of being cross with your dog, pile on the love and attention, and in time he’ll outgrow the submissiveness. (And in the meantime, try to keep all greetings safely outside of the house.)

The same misunderstandings occur with cats—perhaps even more so because their body language is even more subtle. I know a sensitive adolescent girl who was upset that her cat would close its eyes and yawn when it was around her. “I’m boring her,” she wailed. Actually, the cat was saying “You’re okay—and I feel okay. I’m relaxed with you.” On the other hand, a cat being tickled on its stomach may suddenly claw at you angrily and run off. No, it’s not going crazy; being on its back sometimes triggers a defensive-aggressive reflex, which seems to surprise the cat as much as it does its playful owner.

A cat who suddenly won’t use its litter box is not being naughty for no reason. This is usually a sign of some emotional disturbance and a signal to you. Look for some change around the house—a new child? another pet? The cat may be signaling its desire for some love and assurance.

In some instances, it’s best to take animal gestures at face value since, like young children, pets are unable to conceal their feelings and intentions. My neighbor’s Siamese cat kept bringing things over to her feet. It never occurred to her to accept a simple explanation—her cat wanted her to throw these things so the animal could retrieve them! My neighbor thought that only dogs were retrievers and kept ignoring her cat’s invitation to play!

Another common misinterpretation occurs when the owner of either species decides that a sulking pet is reacting to some transgression or slight by the owner. Sometimes, indeed, the pet is emotionally depressed—but more often, prolonged sulking results not from being miffed but from being physically sick. Warning: When in doubt, don’t play psychiatrist; see your vet.

Basically, all the signals a dog or cat gives are inborn, instinctive. How your pet communicates is pretty well fixed by heredity, but to whom the animal relates depends on its early socialization and emotional attachments. Signals in the animal world serve some specific, basic functions. Some are for warning (the low growl of a she-wolf, for instance, sends her cubs into hiding) and for increasing, decreasing or maintaining certain proximity with others. A dog’s growl or

a cat’s hiss is meant to keep rivals at their social distance. And a silent baring of the teeth and raised back hair or an arched back and fluffed-out tail are meant to be intimidating.

Friendly signals include the purring of cats and the licking of dogs. Also as friendly gestures, both species will nuzzle and push with their heads like nursing infants. Displays of submissiveness in the dog include crouching, tail wagging, the lowering of the head, ears and tail, and the retraction of the lips to form a submissive grin. Paw raising, rolling over and urination are also submissive gestures. The cat has a less complex repertoire of submissive gestures; it is often seen crouching or approaching like a kitten with hind end raised and tail erect.

Both cat and dog have a specific play-soliciting signal that is also seen during courtship: The dog bows (or lowers the front part of its body so that it seems to be bowing) and the cat rolls on its side. Eye contact is another channel of communication. A direct stare is a threat signal given by both cat and dog, while avoidance of eye contact is usually associated with fear or submission.

Vocal speech is only a small part of the human repertoire of communication. Some experts believe that as much as 80 percent of all human communication is silent—and that most is made with eyes, facial expressions, body postures and gestures. And animals are acute observers of our body language. Some people interpret their animal’s awareness as extrasensory, but it is simply observational learning. My cats know when I’m in a hurry or getting ready to go out; they have learned to read some of my actions and habits.

Most of the time we communicate with our pets using this human body language. In fact, it is primarily because of the close similarity between the silent language of man, cat and dog that all three can communicate so well with each other! For example, an uptight person will scratch or adjust hair or clothing; a nervous cat will briefly groom itself; a dog may scratch itself or look over its shoulder. The following listing shows you the body language that is shared by dog, cat and human.

To assert rank: Humans, dogs and cats all assume an erect posture and a direct stare. All attempt to look bigger—humans draw themselves up and inflate their chests, cats arch their backs, dogs raise their hackles.

To indicate aggression or pose a threat: Humans, dogs and cats purse or tense their lips in an aggressive pucker, and humans and dogs snarl and sneer. Humans hunch their shoulders, the hair on the backs of cats and dogs rises. Humans, cats and dogs lower their heads and stare directly at the object of their emotions.

To indicate submission: Human, dogs and cats crouch, lower their bodies, avoid direct eye contact. Humans and dogs often retract their lips in a submissive grin.
To show playful intentions, a friendly greeting: Humans and dogs open their mouths, making a "play face" or grin; humans and dogs indulge in arm/paw raising and hugging/nuzzling; dogs pant, humans laugh, cats purr. Dogs bow playfully, cats roll onto their backs. Dogs act as though they intend to bite; humans may pretend to strike or cuff gently; cats may bat out with their paws.

Is it possible to use some of this "animal language" on your pet? It's fun to try a Dr. Dolittle on your cat or dog, but beware—a strange Pekingnese nearly took off my nose some years ago when I was trying out a canine bow and playful panting! And one evening a friend decided to walk and call like a mountain lion as a demonstration of animal behavior—and one of my cats remained on top of the refrigerator for a full day after witnessing this incongruous change in human behavior.

However, you might get quite a charge out of "playing" with your dog in his own language. On your hands and knees and face-to-face, "bow" with the forward part of your body, grin and pant, and you'll be surprised by the reaction. At a friend's house the other night, their dog became very excited when I entertained it by communicating in dog language rather than human body talk. I kept giving him a canine play signal by bowing my head and shoulders with an openmouthed, smiling, panting face. The dog, normally shy, started to play as never before. My eight year old son, Wylie, tried it and flushed with excitement. "You're right, Dad, it really works!" he exclaimed. "It's the first time that I ever talked to a dog in his own way."

--- Illustration by B. Belser