she discovered that Chesapeake, a sprawling city of almost 100,000 created 10 years ago, had no humane organization.

Mrs. Stein and Mrs. Jay Hinds of the fledgling Chesapeake Humane Society learned how invaluable HSUS's assistance was when they attended an animal control seminar conducted by HSUS's Phyllis Wright in 1973. Miss Wright, director of animal sheltering and control for HSUS, concluded Chesapeake's problems were so acute she should personally investigate. When she visited Chesapeake in June, 1973, she was horrified at the cruelty being practiced in the name of animal control.

The city dog pound was a building that had probably never been adequate for the community, let alone for a city of 100,000, she concluded. Porous cement floors were impossible to disinfect, and an open drainage system provided a reservoir of disease and parasites for animals and people alike. The cages were so rusty they were beyond any hope of cleaning and disinfecting. Outside runs had no protection from sun or rain. It was obvious that the single part-time attendant had absolutely no knowledge of animal management procedures.

Worse of all was the barbaric method used for euthanasia. Surplus animals were dropped into a 4 x 8-foot unlighted cinderblock box through a small door and killed slowly and painfully by hot carbon monoxide fumes generated by a truck parked outside. Two days after Miss Wright's visit the Chesapeake Humane Society succeeded in enlisting the help of local veterinarians to euthanize animals with an injection of sodium pentobarbital. Since then, the old cages have been replaced and a roof has been built over the outdoor runs. The untreated animal control employe was replaced by Lt. H. L. Capps of the Chesapeake Police Dept., who immediately obtained professional training. Capps now administers sodium pentobarbital himself and operates the shelter in a humane and efficient manner.

Furthermore, he conducted a training program for all animal control employees on his staff and animal control wardens from neighboring communities. A new animal control ordinance is being drafted, using the HSUS model ordinance as the basis.

On a follow-up visit to Chesapeake in February, Miss Wright praised the Chesapeake Humane Society, municipal officials, and Capps for their progress. "This is a beautiful example of what local residents can do with direction and support from HSUS," she said.

In Franklin, La., James Sinclair and his wife, Dorothy, have spent many years trying to obtain humane conditions for lost and surplus pets. Miss Wright, upon learning of the Sinclairs' frustrations, went to Franklin last November to investigate for herself. She found a totally unsatisfactory shelter, where animals shivered in the cold and lived in their own filth. Some pens were seriously overcrowded, while others remained empty. Healthy animals were mixed with obviously sick ones, and females in heat were in the same pens with males. Sinclair said he had witnessed cannibalism among dogs as a result of too many animals being put in a pen and small animals being mixed with large ones.

"This is undoubtedly one of the poorest excuses for an animal shelter I have ever seen," Miss Wright said. "The citizens of Franklin should be ashamed to permit this barbaric treatment of animals to continue another day."

Sinclair arranged for Miss Wright to present her findings and make recommendations to a meeting of county officials. As a result of major press coverage of Miss Wright's comments, immediate measures were taken to make basic improvements at the pound, while county officials consider the possibility of erecting a new facility. The single part-time animal control employee, who lacked any professional training, has been replaced by a trained person with part-time help.

Concerned individuals can make a difference in their communities! HSUS will provide technical assistance and advice on any aspect of animal control. Of special help is the HSUS publication "Responsible Animal Regulation," which outlines the basic steps necessary for an efficient animal control program, including a model animal control ordinance. Copies are available at 50¢ each from HSUS headquarters.

"This is a beautiful example of what local residents can do with direction and support from HSUS," she said.

In Franklin, La., James Sinclair and his wife, Dorothy, have spent many years trying to obtain humane conditions for lost and surplus pets. Miss Wright, upon learning of the Sinclairs' frustrations, went to Franklin last November to investigate for herself. She found a totally unsatisfactory shelter, where animals shivered in the cold and lived in their own filth. Some pens were seriously overcrowded, while others remained empty. Healthy animals were mixed with obviously sick ones, and females in heat were in the same pens with males. Sinclair said he had witnessed cannibalism among dogs as a result of too many animals being put in a pen and small animals being mixed with large ones.

"This is undoubtedly one of the poorest excuses for an animal shelter I have ever seen," Miss Wright said. "The citizens of Franklin should be ashamed to permit this barbaric treatment of animals to continue another day."

Sinclair arranged for Miss Wright to present her findings and make recommendations to a meeting of county officials. As a result of major press coverage of Miss Wright's comments, immediate measures were taken to make basic improvements at the pound, while county officials consider the possibility of erecting a new facility. The single part-time animal control employee, who lacked any professional training, has been replaced by a trained person with part-time help.

Concerned individuals can make a difference in their communities! HSUS will provide technical assistance and advice on any aspect of animal control. Of special help is the HSUS publication "Responsible Animal Regulation," which outlines the basic steps necessary for an efficient animal control program, including a model animal control ordinance. Copies are available at 50¢ each from HSUS headquarters.

Photo by Fred Nash

Nothing is more frustrating to a concerned citizen than trying to improve conditions at the local animal shelter. Anyone who gets involved in such a campaign immediately acquires more information on how municipal government works—or doesn't work—than any accredited civics class could provide.

Progress now being made on animal control problems in two southern communities demonstrates how effective local humanitarians can be when they work in partnership with The Humane Society of the United States.

In Chesapeake, Va., the partnership between local humanitarians and HSUS began when HSUS helped Mrs. Phyllis Stein and other local residents form a humane society in 1972. Mrs. Stein had learned the need for animal control in her community a few months earlier after seeing a kitten thrown from a car near her home. When she attempted to contact the humane society,

HSUS has conducted workshops for local animal control and humane society leaders in Birmingham, Ala., Ponce, Puerto Rico, and Fort Worth, Texas; since the first of the year and has another scheduled in Raleigh, N.C., May 23-24.

Under the direction of Phyllis Wright, HSUS director of animal sheltering and control, HSUS workshops throughout the nation and in U.S. territories to aid municipal officials, animal control officers, animal shelter workers, and local humane society leaders in solving animal problems. Teachers, school administrators, and professionals in humane education for local societies are invited to attend sessions on HSUS humane education programs. These sessions are conducted by Charles F. Herrmann, HSUS director of education, or John Dommers, director of the HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education Center.

The Raleigh workshop will be held at the Royal Villa Motor Inn, 6338 Glenwood Ave., on Friday and Saturday, May 23 and 24. Interested persons should send a $20 registration ($10 for one day) to HSUS headquarters. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel ($16.25 a day, single, $21.25, double). For further information or registration write: SEMINARS, HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Photos by Fred Nash

Begin by Attending An HSUS Workshop

Effective Animal Control
With Help from HSUS

On her first trip to Chesapeake, Va., in 1972 HSUS animal control expert Phyllis Wright examined the opening in the animal shelter where the exhaust from a truck was hooked up to kill surplus animals. Under the supervision of Lt. H. L. Capps (right), the new animal control officer, the shelter has abolished this system in favor of injections of sodium pentobarbital.

Effective Animal Control
With Help from HSUS