Materials

A Home is Belonging to Someone is a filmstrip with cassette sound produced by Boulder (Colo.) Humane Society on the problem of abandoned animals. The package is available for $14 from Boulder Humane Society, 2525 55th St., Boulder, Colo. 80301.

(For groups interested in producing their own filmstrip, BHS Humane Educator Linda S. Puckett reports that the original cost of production was $800, some of which is recovered through sales of the filmstrip. The materials were not produced by professionals, however, the participants were reimbursed.)

The PAX5 Film is a 10-minute introduction to the problem of pet overpopulation and the resulting necessity for animal destruction. The film shows shelter life, and as the shelter becomes more crowded with animals, leads gradually to the actual euthanasia of animals. It ends with a cat looking directly at the viewer in a plea for aid. There is no narration, but the cello score has been described as very effective.

The film is available for loan or purchase from the Progressive Animal Welfare Society, Box 1057, Lynnwood, Wash. 98047. The purchase price is $50.

The pamphlet Saving Oiled Seabirds gives instructions for responding to oil spill emergencies involving seabirds. Single copies are available free from American Petroleum Institute, 2101 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. (Please note that this is not the HSUS address, although it is similar.)

If your organization or agency publishes a newsletter or other periodical, remember to add The Humane Society of the United States to your mailing list. Send two copies of your publication to: Library, HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Texas A&M University has established an Animal Control Information Service, operated by the University Center for Urban Programs and the C. Sterling Evans Library.

The service staff gathers information on animal control laws, animal handling procedures, shelter operation, public education and other topics, and then organizes and stores the information in a computer system for easy retrieval. Information sources include municipal and county animal control departments, pet food companies, state health and agricultural departments and humane societies.

For further details on contributing to or receiving material from the Animal Control Information Service, contact the Center for Urban Programs, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

Adoptors forfeit fewer deposits

fewer pet adopters are forfeiting their spay/neuter deposits at the Humane Society of Kent County (Mich.) since a lawsuit last summer over adoption policies.

The society filed a lawsuit against a local family for failing to have an adopted animal sterilized as required in the adoption contract. The society demanded that the animal -- a Female Dachshund -- be returned. The family allowed the dog to have one litter of puppies, saying they planned to have her spayed when one litter was produced. In a press release, the society pointed out that one litter of four puppies can result in 4,000 offspring in seven years' time.

The outcome was a consent judgment in which the adoptors acknowledged that the contract was binding and had the dog spayed -- and the society dropped the suit.

Betsy Pullen, director of the society, reports that the suit has had a lasting effect on the community and is regarded as a victory for the society even though there was no trial. The area newspaper has given the society more favorable coverage since the incident.

Pullen says that forfeitures of spay/neuter deposits have dropped because of an improved contract and because the society has demonstrated that the sterilization requirement will be enforced. She advises other societies and animal control agencies to consider such legal action to help combat the problem of adoptors not fulfilling sterilization requirements.

This animal adoption ticket was used successfully at the National Humane Education Center, Inc. in Virginia for several years.