APPENDIX D

TEXTUAL AND OTHER MATERIALS

D1: Board of Health Minutes Regarding Animals and the Pound, 1822-78

Below is a resume, taken from the manuscript minutes of Board meetings, of all recorded significant minutes of the Board regarding animals and the District pound.

17 Aug 1832: Proposal to loosen regulations regarding hog sties; 24 Aug: preceding is rescinded; 29 Sept 1835: proposal to tighten hog regulations; 30 Sept 1854: “to abolish hog pens and prevent all female hogs to run at large”; 21 Oct 1869, 18 May 1870: stray hogs and cows proposed added to nuisance list. These various proposals either did not pass or were recommendations to the Corporation, which did not adopt them as law.

3 July 1843 and later years: Dead animals declared nuisances and subject to legal action.

19 Oct 1866: Board reads a Police report on hog slaughtering/pens; discussed again, 9 Apr.

17 Aug 1870: Complaints about dead animals left on wharf by contractor, and “parties” carrying dead horses over Long Bridge “in a very offensive condition.”

13 Sept 1870: Hog-raising restrictions delayed to next January; Mayor asked to remove “the large hog pen on New Jersey Ave.”; latter problem still not resolved, 4 Oct.

5 May 1876: The Board’s muzzling order to be published; and again, 8 May 1877, 10 May 1878.

30 June 1876: All Board employees except the Poundmaster and his staff are immediately discharged [!], and the PM’s and poundmen’s salary reduced; the order was rescinded the following day. The impetus for this extreme measure is not given but at this time the Board was locked in a financial dispute with Congress, and it might have been a negotiating play. At the same time, we must admit that the Board minutes from this period are spangled with complaints about its staff and with actual firings (e.g., 13 Apr 1877).

4 Aug 1876: A committee will plan a reorganization of pound operations and the salary of “employees selected” be raised to $1.50/day. The committee’s report was delivered at the 8 August meeting but then failed approval, 11 August; it was tabled again four days later and not reported on further. The minutes vaguely refer to financial considerations in regard to this.

2 Apr 1878: Wayman Brooks wrote the Board regarding “existing appointment on the Pound force.” No further information is given on his concern. Brooks made regular appearances in newspapers of the time, usually in connection with some crime.
**D2: Newspaper Profiles**

**Good Newspaper Profiles of the Pound and Its Operations**


*Nat. Republican*, 18 June 1874, p. 4 “About Unmuzzled Dogs – A Tour with Poundmaster Einstein Yesterday”

*Nat. Republican*, 25 June 1877, p. 4 “Doomed Canines”

*Nat. Republican*, 23 May 1881, p. 4 “Raiding the Goats”

*Evening Star*, 19 Sept 1885, p. 2 “Hunting the Dog – An Early Morning Chase Through the Streets of the City”

*Evening Star*, 30 Aug 1890, p. 12 “With the Pound Man – The Adventures of the Bold Hunters of Stray Animals” (with drawings)

*Wash. Post*, 30 Aug 1891, p. 9 “With the Dog-Catcher” (with drawings)


*Morning Times*, 19 Oct 1895, pt. 2 p. 10 “Killing the Canines”

*Wash. Post*, 9 May 1897, p. 21 “Chasing the Growler”


*Wash. Post*, 18 Dec 1899, p. 12 “War on Stray Canines”

*Evening Star*, 29 June 1901, p. 28 “Meeting of the Ways” (with drawings of staff)

*Wash. Times*, 13 Apr 1902, p. 17 “Campaigning with ‘Gen.’ Einstein” (with photos)

*Wash. Times*, 26 July 1903, Magazine p. 5 “The Fate of Convict Dogs at the Washington Pound” (with photos)*

Wash. Times, 7 Aug 1904, p. 4 “It’s the Day of the Dog-Catcher and How He Does it” (with photos)

Evening Star, 16 July 1905, pt. 4 p. 1 “Dog Calaboose of the National Capital” (with photos)

Evening Star, 20 Sept 1908, pt. 4 p. 4 “The Gehenna of the City’s Dogs” (with photos)

Evening Star, 10 July 1910, pt. 2 p. 6 “Sidelights on the Pound and the Dog-Catcher’s Life”

Evening Star, 27 Aug 1911, pt. 4 p. 3 “Spending a Busy Day with the Dog-Catcher” (with photos)

Evening Star, 29 Mar 1920, p. 2 “2,747 Dogs Handled at Pound; Sales May Reach $1,400”

Wash. Post, 25 Sept 1921, p. 10 “Dogs of Low and High Degree on Equal Footing at the Pound”

Evening Star, 3 Aug 1924, p. 11 “Day’s Trip with Dog-Catchers Gives Food for Philosophers”

Evening Star, 6 July 1947, p. 92 “Refuge for Dogs” (with photos)


Evening Star, 13 Apr 1971, p. 1 “We Cover the Sins of Their Owners”


* These two articles share almost exactly the same text.

Footnotes at the first substantive mention of the successive buildings, poundmasters, staff and other features specify newspaper sources of drawings and photos.

Good Newspaper Profiles of WHS Operations

Wash. Critic, 16 Dec 1886, p. 3 “The Humane Society’s Work”

Wash. Post, 24 July 1898, p. 10 “Shelter for Animals” (Barber Shelter)

Wash. Times, 7 Apr 1901, pt. 2 p. 17 “Boarding House for Cats” (later shelter)


Wash. Times, 30 July 1905, Magazine p. 6 “A Hot Day with the Humane Society”

Evening Star, 8 Jan 1911, p. 52 “School Children Form Bands of Mercy” (youth program)
Good Newspaper Profiles of the WARL Shelter

Evening Star, 20 June 1914, p. 9 “Cats Cared for During Vacation”

Evening Star, 6 Apr 1916, p. 5 “Little Gray Cat Saved from Death”


Evening Star, 9 Oct 1921, p. 59 “The Animals’ Poor House”

Wash. Times, 29 Oct 1922, p. 7 “Washington Has Reason to Be Proud of Comfortable Haven for Outcast Beasts at Animal Rescue League” (with photos; some errors of fact; inc info on Pound)

Evening Star, 25 Oct 1931, p. 14 “Pets to Have New Free Clinic” (with drawing)

Good Newspaper Profiles of the HES Shelter

Evening Star, 4 Aug 1922, p. 22 “Farm Home for Stray Animals Is Aim of D.C. Organization”

Evening Star, 29 June 1924, p. 7 “‘Animal Poor Farm’ for Capitol Derelicts Makes ‘Dog’s Life’ Something to Be Envied” (with photos)

Wash. Post, 9 Nov 1924, p. SM10 “Famous Old Steeplechaser Ending Days on Rest Farm” (with photos)

Wash. Post, 29 Oct 1933, p. SM6 “Animals’ Poorhouse ‘Broke’” (with photos)
D3: Pictures of the Dog Hunt

The Epic of the Raid

A representative of The Republican secured a seat with General Einstein and accompanied the raiders. The poundmen are recognized afar and soon after striking North Capitol Street the warning cry was rung out by half a hundred throats, the sounds of alarm mingling strangely with the bells of St. Aloysius, and across the open lots and commons in every direction could be seen the flying forms of men, women and urchins rushing to secure their goats, cows or horses. If the animals were all secured and safe before the enemy arrived, as was the case in most instances, we were greeted with jeers and derisive laughter as we passed. So far nothing had been captured and General Einstein had received a full measure of abuse from the Irish women and curses from the men and boys.

We had got beyond the crowd and cries of Swampoodle when a herd of cows without keepers were espied about three squares ahead. The men, accustomed to such work, were out in a jiffy and had the cows in charge. Looking to the right we saw two boys lying stretched under a large oak, one forming a pillow for the other. When they realized the situation the corners of their mouths dropped and big tears were soon streaming down their cheeks. As they happened to be only a short distance from where the animals had strayed the General lectured them for their carelessness, exacted promises of better things in future, and changed their grief to joy by returning the cows.

A crowd formed at this point, of course, and we had to dash off lively to get away from it. Turning in suddenly above Freedmen’s Hospital, we get into a lot of horses, goats and cows. No time must be lost. The hoodlums’ “yodel” of “Hog catchers!” had again gone up and was resounding far and near.

We occupy a commanding position, and the scene which ensued almost beggars description. From every hut and house in the valley below and on the hillside beyond pour out men, women and children. They rush in every direction as though the Millennium was at hand. Whipped and frightened goats go bounding into doors and gates; flocks of geese with wings spread are hurried into yards and pens. Boys rush up and grasp the horned tethers [of cows] and hold them [tight]; while the war cry of “Hog catchers! Hot catchers!” resounding in every direction, and mingled with the cries of children, threats of women and coarse epithets of men and boys, made the pandemonium complete. Attempts at rescue of impounded animals, even with police officers present, were not uncommon.

We followed quietly and are amused at the abuse which the women heap upon the poundmaster. The men are silent and sullen – we have the laugh on them now; but the women cudgel their brains for epithets to hurl at us. “Thieves!” “Robbers!” “Hog stealers!” come from every side, and the colored poundmen laugh and sometimes “guy” them in return.

We pass down Seventh Street into the city again, the cows are taken to the pound, and General Einstein remarks: “I haven’t caught much, but I guess it’s a good Sunday lesson.” The Republican man trudges off to write up his trip, firmly convinced that “a poundman’s life is not a happy one.” (Nat. Republican, 23 May 1881, p. 4; abridged)
Boys vs. Dog-Catchers

_Neighborhood boys were a constant if bothersome auxiliary to the dog hunt. Here are a few accounts, abridged:_

As the morning wore on the work of the dog-catchers became somewhat complicated by the fact that the streets were becoming filled with people. The small boy was emerging from his home. He appeared everywhere. Whenever a dog was sighted generally half a-dozen small boys appeared about the same time. The small boy, through his ignorance of the good accomplished by the pound service, and his sympathy with a dog, naturally arrays himself on the side of the dog. By yells and hoots and kicks, he manages often to get a dog out of the way, just as the dog-hunter thinks he has secured it. Then he runs ahead of the wagon yelling: “Dog-catcher! Dog-catcher!” in a high key and thus puts all the other small boys within several squares on the alert. _*(Evening Star, 19 Sept 1885, p. 2)*_

In hot weather an early start is made, for the troublesome small boys are not out in such large numbers to chase away the dogs and annoy the men so as to seriously interfere with their business. The appearance of the wagon on the street, no matter how early in the morning, soon attracts a number of boys, and the horses have to be driven fast to escape them. When the wagon reaches the neighborhood of a school building about recess time it is an amusing spectacle to see two of the poundman’s colored assistants trying to make a catch. If the dog has good use of its legs it can give the boys and the men a long chase. _*(Evening Star, 30 Aug 1890, p. 12)*_

The dog wagon has a special charm for the average school boy, white and colored, and when it appears on the streets it is followed around by dozens of boys who delight to join in the chase. The small boys organize themselves into an advance guard and inadvertently warn the populace that the dog-catcher is coming. _*(Wash. Post, 30 Aug 1891, p. 9)*_

_Adults also joined the chorus:_

A subtle flash runs from house to house before the wagon comes in sight, often: “The dog-catcher’s coming,” it says, and Mrs. So-and-so waits on her front stoop with a tea kettle when the wagon drives up, and: “After my little Fido, ar-re ye, ye murderin’s thafe av’ th’ worruld, bekase he have no muzzle? Well, if ye shtep a fut in me yar-rd I’ll scald th’ black-shkin off yez.” And then a shout to the neighbor across the street: “Oh! Mrs. Schmidt, ‘tis th’ dog-catcher; hurry and get Bismark into th’ house.” _*(Evening Star, 27 Aug 1911, pt. 4 p. 3)*_

_Sometimes the boys were not so lovable:_

Now over to Florida Avenue near North Capitol Street. Boys are playing baseball on a vacant lot. They don’t think much of dog-catchers. A juvenile anvil chorus is striking up. The boys crowd around. “You ain’t going to take that dog. G’wan away from here with your old dirty wagon!” The dog is led out [to the wagon]. His appearance starts a young riot. “Aw, don’t let ‘em take that dog, Mrs. Jones.” “I’ll wrap this hat aroun’ your trowsy ole dome, you ___.” Three quick steps does [Poundmaster] Smith make toward the
gang. He is intrepid in the face of threats. The boys retire to second-line trenches. And Prince goes to the pound. (Evening Star, 3 Aug 1924, p. 11)

Chatter Among the Poundmen

_A few articles attempted to record the talk among the poundmaster and the dog-catchers during their duties, and this gives some idea of the relationship among them:_

Finally some ill-starred dog rashly jumps through a hole in a fence and in his fatal ignorance yelps saucily at the chuckling and wily dog-catcher. The dog-catcher stops and says: “Doggy, doggy, doggy.” The dog comes up another foot and yelps and prances about. “Come hyar, doggy,” softly pleads the dog-catcher, and the dog prances another foot nearer. “Whop, whop, doggy, doggy, doggy, come, come,” continues the dog-catcher seductively, and holding his hand as if he had a piece of meat. The yelping dog takes the fatal step and the next moment he is bagged.

“Got him, ‘Lijah?” asks another of the colored men, who has been watching the operation from the other side of the street.

“Yah, yah, you bet. When I drops this yer net over him he ain’t gwine to get away,” and Elijah carefully lifts up one corner of the net, and catching hold of the dog behind the ears, swings him up into the wagon and locks the gate. (Nat. Republican, 25 June 1877, p. 4)

At the corner of First and B Streets NE the first unlicensed animal was seen by “Lynx-Eyed” Burrell. He immediately passed the tip to John Wells, who reached for the net.

“Watch him close, Buck,” exclaimed General Einstein in a stentorian stage whisper.

“I got my eye on him,” replies Buck.

Without an instant’s hesitation the black-and-tan turned tail and scooted across the street.

“It’s no use,” said General Einistein in tones of disgust. “I’ve either got to disguise John Wells or fire him. It’s got so that every unlicensed dog in town knows him a block away.”

“I’ll git him yet,” cried Wells, as he leaped upon the wagon and touched his spirited horse with the lash.

“Go after him, John,” shouted General Einstein in an encouraging voice.

(The dog got away. Wash. Times, 13 Apr 1902, Ed/Drama p. 17)
D4: The District Pound Compared with Those of Other Cities

Einstein was proud of his operation and loved to compare it to pounds in other large East Coast cities, especially in his early years when he was anxious to establish it on a sound footing with the District government.

I am convinced that our pound system is the most effective of any in this country, certainly far superior to that of any of the large Eastern cities with which I have become acquainted (PM Ann Rpt, 1878); There are fewer stray dogs in the District of Columbia than at any previous time; and from my observations in other cities I believe that local conditions compare favorably with those elsewhere (PM Ann Rpt, 1905).

Here are some more specific comparisons (abridged):

The system of capturing dogs in this city is perhaps the best and most economical in vogue. In New York and other cities a stipulated price is paid by the poundmaster for every dog delivered at the pound. In New York the price paid is 50 cents each. This is a costly policy, as well as being an incentive to dishonesty. To take 2,456 dogs by this method would entail an expense of $1,228, whereas we have captured that number and 246 other animals at an expenditure of $671, nearly 50 percent less.” (PM Ann Rpt, 1877)

From reports and correspondence with some of our larger cities I am satisfied that better results are accomplished by our system than any other in vogue in this country. In Brooklyn, N.Y., with ten men employed, the number of dogs captured from July 1 to September 15, 1878, was between 1,200 and 1,300; while in this city, with four men and one wagon, there were over 2,000 taken during the same period. There they had some 4,200 licensed, the amount received from license, redemption, &c., footing up $4,800; their expenses from July 1 to September 15, were $2,300. Our expenses, including everything, for the same period did not reach quite $575, or about one-fourth of that city. (PM Ann Rpt, 1878)

From newspaper articles: Mr. Einstein favors killing dogs by electricity, and will try to get an appropriation to be used in perfecting a system. Baltimore drowns dogs and Philadelphia puts them in a close room and turns on the gas, but Mr. Einstein says frequently a canine will come back to life. (Wash. Post, 30 Aug 1891, p. 9) – [Quoting Einstein:] “Compared with the methods adopted in other cities for disposing of outlaw dogs, that practiced here has the advantage both in dispatch and from a humane standpoint. In Jersey City, for instance, the killing is effected by drowning, which, to say the least, in not more humane, to say nothing of the accidents that are liable to occur. Why, not long ago in Jersey City a cage containing thirty dogs was being lowered into the dock, and in their struggles for freedom the dogs broke some of the bars and escaped. The Philadelphia plan, suffocation by asphyxiation, is a decided improvement on drowning, but then even this could be greatly improved on.” (Morning Times, 28 July 1895, pt. 2 p. 9) – [SPCA, in its annual report of 1883, tells us that Boston poisoned its dogs with cyanide.]
D5: Citizens Write MPDC About Dogs

MPDC Annual Reports of the 1900s included letters (always laudatory) from District citizens. Below are two regarding dogs (from the MPDC Ann Rpt of those years, abridged):

February 23, 1909

Sir: Your favor of the 20th instant, relative to the report I made to you of having been bitten by a dog in front of the synagogue, with which you have honored me, is received. Please accept my most grateful thanks for the kind and prompt manner in which you have taken the matter up. I went from the station house to the place where I was bit to see if I could locate the dog. I saw the dog and believe I can locate the house where the owner lives. The boys are too young to take into court, but I want the dog killed. I am advised by my attending physician, Dr. Thomas Martin, to have that done as soon as I can learn the owner of the dog. I will report the fact to you, together with the number of the house in which he lives.

Thanking you again, Major, for you kind promptness in the matter,
I am, sir, most respectfully,
Theo. C. Ray

April 6, 1903

Dear sir: It affords me great pleasure to extend to your department my appreciation of the kind attention one of your officers displayed in taking in my dog “Bob”, a valuable pointer who strayed away from my residence yesterday evening. Aside from being valuable for hunting, he is a great prize as an intelligent family pet and companion to my children.

You can hardly realize how welcome [was] a ring at our doorbell, followed by the information from one of your officers of the Mount Pleasant precinct that my dog was being held as found property and could be recovered by proving ownership.

I earnestly congratulate you on the efficiency and complete system of your department, [and] the close supervision your men exercise in saving of property from loss and destruction, as well as the prevention of crime.

Very respectfully,
Geo. F. Zeh
D6: The Mythical Origin of Washington’s Stray Animals

Excerpted from “The Runic Inscription at Great Falls”, a satirical article recounting a band of wandering Vikings who visited the Nation’s Capital. “The Northmen came over five centuries before Columbus. They heard he had taken passage by the Cunard line, and [echoed?] him by chartering the yacht Henrietta, beating him 500 years by the dodge.” Among other achievements they left a rune prophesying that the Evening Star would “eclipse all other papers.”

They left one sick old man, with two hogs and two dogs for company. He was very old and very feeble, but lived about three hundred years in the salubrious climate of South Washington. Getting discouraged about dying in South Washington he took the street cars for the city, got the typhoid fever and died directly. His hogs and dogs begat other hogs and dogs, and dogs and hogs, and hogs and dogs, propagating in such prolific style that there are now 486,387 hogs in the Seventh Ward, and 9,826,942 more dogs than hogs in that part of the city. They are held in the greatest reverence on account of their distinguished descent. It is held to be a sin to kill or molest them, and the policemen treat them with the greatest consideration. (Evening Star, 20 July 1867, p. 1)
D7: Mark Twain Lampoons the Animal Problem in Washington

On New Year’s morning, while Mr. George Worley’s front door was standing open, a cow marched into the house – a cow that was out making her annual calls, I suppose – and before she was discovered had eaten up everything on the New Year’s table in the parlor! Mr. Worley was not acquainted with the cow, never saw her before, and is at a loss to account for the honor of her visit. What do you think of a town when cows make New Year’s calls? It may be the correct thing, but it has not been so regarded in the circles in which I have been accustomed to move. Morals are at a low stage in Washington, beyond question. ("More Washington Morals", 19 February 1868, Daily Alta California; quoted in Muller, Mark Twain in Washington, D.C., p. 68.)

This is a pure spoof by Twain – there was no George Worley in the city at that time. My thanks to Mr. Muller for pointing out this anecdote to me.
To the Editor of The Evening Star [9 Aug 1897, p. 9]:

[I wish to call attention] to what has become another nuisance to the civilized portion of the city. I refer to the hundreds of cats that prowl our alleys and make night hideous. They mount the woodsheds, then with powerful voices sing:

Come forth, my love, let’s bay the silvery moon
Nor care we for the golden orb of light:
The poundman runs the mongrel dog: the coon
Is chased by coppers every night.

But we, my love, may howl and squall
Till weary by the way.
And those who do not like our ball
Can only curse or pray.

No rooster dares his clarion voice unfold.
Or wabbling duck his quacking love express.
Or goose give warning as of old.
Or pig with grunting words caress.

But we, my love, may howl and squall
Till weary by the way.
And those who do not like our ball
Can only curse or pray.

There is much more of this, but as I am not a cat I might be punished if I kept it up. . . I. N. Hammer

Poundmaster Emil Kuhn published this cheeky little doggerel in Wash. Herald, 22 June 1912, p. 6, parodying Kipling’s famous model; cat impoundment was a third-rail for all District poundmasters.

When the oldest Tom Cat has been drowned
And the youngest scared out of its hide;
When the Cat Club has been long a ‘dead one’
And the youngest cat-catcher has died;
Then the District of Columbia Commissioners
Will be silent for an aeon or two,
Until anxious to get to the limelight
They will find something to do that is new.
This gem quite likely was not written specifically with Washington cat-catchers in mind but nonetheless deserves re-publication. It appeared in Wash. Times, 20 June 1912, p. 12, attributed: “From the unpublished songs of the Village Dogcatcher by M. E. T.”

Put on the kettle, mother,
   And make me a cup of tea.
All day I’ve been on the wagon,
   And I’m tired as I can be.
We turned down into an alley,
   Where a blear-eyed tabby sat,
At half past five in the morning.
   And till night we chased that cat.
I’ve climbed full fifty fences
   And crawled under stables too.
I’ve shinned up trees and barked my knees,
   Dear wife. I’m black and blue.
I’ve gone through yards on my hands and feet.
   I’ve cursed ‘till the air was thick.
But never a’near that pussy cat
   Did get – it makes me sick.
I’ve made up my mind about something.
   I can stand their yowls at night.
I can stuff my ears with cotton
   And shut my windows tight.
But since I am not a monkey,
   Nor an acrobat, nor a flea,
Either I must resign my position,
   Or the law must rescinded be.
So put on the kettle, mother, etc. etc.
## D9: Samples of Cases Handled by the SPCA/WHS Agents

### Table of Cases Prosecuted by the Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Complainant</th>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Disposition of Case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Beating horse with large stick</td>
<td>Fined $3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>A member</td>
<td>Working lame mule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>R. Ball</td>
<td>Overworking horse</td>
<td>Fined $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Overloading and overworking horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Beating horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Working diseased horse</td>
<td>Fined $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Tying calves</td>
<td>Fined $5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Muzzling calves</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Working galled mule</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abandoning glandered horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Overdriving cart-horse</td>
<td>Dism. with reprimand</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Muzzling calf</td>
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<td>Beating mule on the head</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Overloading ice-cart horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beating horse with stick</td>
<td>Fined $5, or 10 days in workhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>R. Ball</td>
<td>Starving and neglecting horse</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Working horse with sore back</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abandoning glandered horse</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>R. Ball</td>
<td>Beating horse with whip and stick continuously for an hour and a half</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Working horse with sore back</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Working mule with sore back</td>
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<td>Working horse with severe case</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>Working injured horse</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Working lame horse</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>Setting dogs on cat and leaving cat to die</td>
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<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>R. Ball</td>
<td>Beating horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Offense Description</td>
<td>Penalty/Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Overworking and abandoning back horse</td>
<td>Fined $10; appealed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Overloading Herdic [taxi] coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Tying cow head and foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working horse with sore back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Starving dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>R. Ball</td>
<td>Cutting and torturing horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Overloading horse</td>
<td>Fined $10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Overworking glandered horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Working mule with sore back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working horse with eye knocked out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working horse with sore back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Overdriving sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>R. Ball</td>
<td>Breaking dog’s leg</td>
<td>Fined $25, or 60 days in workhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Working horse with sore back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Whipping horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Whipping mule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working two mules with sore backs</td>
<td>Judgment suspended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>R. Ball</td>
<td>Working crippled horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>J.H. King</td>
<td>Working horse with sore back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working two mules with sore backs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working horse with sore back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working mule with sore back &amp; shoulders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working horse with &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Running into and killing Herdic horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Working horse with sore back</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the foregoing, 14 cases were prosecuted by the Police and convictions obtained in 13, with fines amounting to $100.95, which was paid to the District.

*SPCA Ann Rpt, 1881*
Summary of work by Agents of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the Year ending December 31, 1898

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agent Rabbitt</th>
<th>Agent Reiplinger</th>
<th>Agent Haynes (7 Months)</th>
<th>Agent King (5 Months, 25 Days)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of cases investigated</td>
<td>5,063</td>
<td>4,666</td>
<td>3,279</td>
<td>2,225</td>
<td>15,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remedied without prosecution</td>
<td>4,821</td>
<td>4,454</td>
<td>3,133</td>
<td>2,161</td>
<td>14,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecuted</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convicted</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquitted</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of animals unfit to work</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of animals abandoned to die</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals killed by the Agent</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of beating or whipping</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of overloading</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of overdriving</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving when galled</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving when lame</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of food or shelter</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount collected in Police Court</td>
<td>$1081.69</td>
<td>$947.01</td>
<td>$597.00</td>
<td>$275.30</td>
<td>$2,900.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPCA Ann Rpt, 1898

Synopsis of Work for the Years 1915 and 1916

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1915</th>
<th>1916</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of animals examined</td>
<td>8,945</td>
<td>6,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of cases prosecuted</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of convictions</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of acquittals</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of personal bonds taken</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases in which collateral was forfeited</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases in which fines were imposed</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases in which workhouse sentences were imposed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals killed by the agent</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collateral forfeited</td>
<td>$3,192</td>
<td>$2,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines imposed</td>
<td>$448</td>
<td>$506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Amount 1</td>
<td>Amount 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines uncollected</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount collected in Police Court for Society</td>
<td>$3,520</td>
<td>$3,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days of jail or workhouse sentences</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The prosecutions were for the following offenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Amount 1</th>
<th>Amount 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases of animals unfit for service</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of animals abandoned to die</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of beating or whipping</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of overloading</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of overdriving</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases of overworking</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working animals with sore necks or shoulders</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working animals while lame</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to provide food and shelter</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working horses with Cuban Itch</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working sick horses</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglecting sick horses</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting dog</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutting and beating dogs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branding horse with hot iron</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating goat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoning young pigeon to starve</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kicking horse in stomach</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutting horse with knife</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working horse with bit cutting mouth</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating cow</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locking cat in house two weeks without food</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working mule with chain bit</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SPCA Ann Rpt, 1916*
Two contrasting accounts of Sarah Beckley, both probably accurate (abridged).

A representative of The Post found Mrs. Beckley sitting with a cat on each shoulder and a couple of cats in her lap. Cats occupied the sofa and rubbed against the legs of the center table. In each corner was a comfortable cat, and in the bedroom cats curled cozily on the cushioned pillows and spread themselves along the coverlet. One big maltese occupied a statue-like position on the small stand at the head of Mrs. Beckley’s bed.

Cats are proverbially fastidious in their choice of food, but even the daintiest could not complain of Mrs. Beckley’s daily bill of fare. “I give them the best that a cat can possibly desire in the way of food,” she said.

[For breakfast, at 7:30] “I give them a saucer of milk each, following it with fried liver chopped up with whole wheat bread. I never feed white bread to my boarders. It does not agree with them. At noon I give them a light luncheon of salmon and brown bread, and at 5:30 comes their main meal. I give them for this meal chopped beef, potatoes and string beans. No, my charity cats do not fare as well as boarders.”

On a remote corner of the stove sat a saucepan with contents stewing in a depressing sort of way. “Oh, that’s our dinner,” said Mrs. Beckley. “It’s just bacon and beans – I wouldn’t feed my cats on that – but it is good enough for us.” (Wash. Post, 18 Oct 1908, p. SM3)

[This] is she who has dedicated her life to the rescue of suffering creatures, Mrs. Sarah Berkley [sic] of 126 D Street SW. She – what does she get in return for her immeasurable services in a hallowed course? Love and esteem? Not by the multitude. To her many other difficulties is added the difficulty in an age of vulgar prejudice that the African race can boast of her as partially theirs.

Mrs. Beckley has often told me of the insensate ridicule to which she is exposed. But she has the strength to ignore it, for she is mature enough, sympathetic enough, to realize the real tragedy of the situation. She told me of how she once rescued a cat from a sewer while a mob stood around laughing. Amid hardships unimaginable, she kept a whole winter a horse whom she had rescued from cruel hands. She tended him and healed him; he grew in strength as she declined. For while she gave to the horse, she faced starvation herself. She came home loaded with food for him, and even the seller cursed her for feeding a “worthless” horse.

She, poor and worn-out, did the deed of rescue which the comfortably situated of the world, though cheerfully accepting the services of the outraged, have shamelessly neglected to do, and still shamelessly neglect. Her life is one of continual sacrifice; she gives not money, she gives herself. Here is a rare and worthy worker in the cause of true humanity, one with a heart bleeding for the suffering of the oppressed, yet willing and able to face the horrors and go into their midst to give the aid she can. Another Mrs. Beckley is not easy to find, search the continent through and through. (Wash. Bee, 6 Feb 1909, p. 5)
D11: The WARL Shelter Compared with the Pound

The differences between the District pound and the private WARL shelter are well presented in the League’s 1950 application for continued funding from the Community Chest. Note that the pound operations reported here are somewhat more limited than those of an earlier time.

There is no other agency, public or private, promoting the same type of program as the Washington Animal Rescue League. The pound is open only from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM five days a week or about forty hours a week. We are open to receive ambulance calls and animals 24 hours a day every day in the year, or a total of 168 hours a week. We have an emergency pick-up service for injured animals, on call 24 hours every day. The pound has no emergency pick-up service. The pound calls only for dogs. The League shelters all types of animals — as an example, the League receives approximately 11,000 cats each year. The League has veterinarian service which the pound does not have. In comparing the operation of the pound with that of the League, we wish to call attention to the fact that the League received approximately $7,200 from the Chest. The pound received approximately $34,000 from the District. From this comparison of cost, it can be seen that it would be enormously expensive for the tax-payer if the pound extended their services to meet those of the League. It is doubtful in the extreme if the pound would ever be allowed that much money. Until the pound extends its service to meet that of the League, the League is not duplicating the work of the pound, simply supplementing it. (WARL, Community Chest funding application, 1950; WARL archives)
D12: U.S. Capitol Police Deal with Critters (and Humans)

*From the Architect of the U.S. Capitol archives (File “Animals”; abridged):*

Dec 13, 1901
[To] Capt. J. P. Megrew

Dear sir:

I respectfully submit the following report of the boy Charles Ferguson, age 10, white, #302 C St NW.

At 1:30 this afternoon I caught the above-named boy in the act of chasing squirrels in the NE part of the Capitol Grounds. He said he thought they were wild, and he was at liberty to catch or kill them if he could. I took him to the Guard-Room, where he spent ¾ of an hour crying and promising “not to do it again” and to tell all the other boys the squirrels were to be left alone.

Officer A. W. Swenson knew the boy’s parents. He went home with him and the parents gave the boy a severe chastising, which I think ought to keep him from troubling the squirrels any more.

Yours Respectfully,
A. F. Barrett

[To] Mrs. J. T. Bodfish
The Congressional, Washington, D.C.
June 6th, 1918

My dear Madam:

I have made diligent inquiry as to the fate of your poor cat but have not been able to find out a single thing about it.

None of the officers appear to have killed such a cat and it seems to me that they would have known it from your description. I am also informed that the officers have been killing cats in the Capitol Grounds when they found them pursuing any squirrels but the officers tell me that most of the animals have been of mongrel and very wild type and that they are careful about animals that appear to be very domestic. I really sympathize with you in this matter and I am very sorry that I can give you no information. If any comes before me I will be glad to send it to you.

Very respectfully,
E. W. [Elliott Woods]
Superintendent, U.S. Capitol Building and Grounds
D13: Tangential Notes on Animals in the District

These brief reports record various aspects of animal life in the city uncovered during my research that seem useful to preserve but which do not fit comfortably in the main narrative. None claim to be comprehensive but all have interest.

Dog Names and Breeds (Common and Presidential)

A reporter’s visit to the Tax Collector’s office in 1893 resulted in the preservation of an odd bit of trivia: the most common dog names in the late 19th century. We will let his words carry this tale: “Quite a story could be written of the names of the dogs as they appear in the license book. There are at least a dozen Grovers and, strange to say, that name is always given to big dogs. Then there are Harrisons, Blaines, Shermans and one Tom Platt.¹ There are the usual number of Tootseys Jacks, Fidos and the like.”

Three articles of the 1930s catch us up on the then-current trends in canines’ names. By 1931 “an examination of the . . . dog tags issued last year shows not a single Towser, . . . but a single Fido, and nary a Rover.” Popular names had shifted to Pat, Mike, Jack, Buddy, Peggy and Sport. “Hundreds of dogs have been called Lindy since the famous 1927 . . . flight. Scotch terrier owners usually whip their imaginations no further than Scottie, and lots of dogs are named after Zero, beloved comic strip hound. . . Pop-Eye and Texas belong in the Smith and Jones class.” An article concentrating on society dogs flatly states: “None of the debutantes-to-be . . . has a dog named Fido. . . High-sounding Oriental titles are usually bestowed upon snub-nosed Poms and plume-tailed Pekes. And the most fashionable names for other breeds . . . today sound like a page from the Almanac de Gotha. Even dogs of uncertain ancestry have risen out of the Towser and Rover class. . . A dog today can have as many spots as a leopard and still escape the name Spot.”

As for White House pets: presidents from this period seem to have preferred fairly unpretentious names, perhaps to demonstrate their common touch. President Harding’s dog Laddie Boy was a favorite of the humane movement, whose photo appeared in both the WHS and WARL annual reports. Coolidge had Peter Pan (fox terrier), Laddie Buck (Airedale), Oshkosh, Rob Roy, Prudence Prim (collies); Hoover had Weeja (Norwegian elkhound). Of the latter’s earlier pets, a wag reporter wrote: “The White House dogs, which one might expect to find with names such as Moratorium, Depression, Farm Relief and the like, have on the contrary, very democratic names. Patrick, Big Boy, Mark and Gillette make up the first kennels of the land.”

In regard to popular breeds, a veterinarian noted in 1885: “Newfoundlands, setters, terriers, pugs [are common], but not many fox terriers as yet. They are the coming pets for ladies’ dogs.” Reports about the licensing office did not list breeds but the largest number were noted as brown; Hattie Small, director of the dog-license division, commented in 1936 that “pugs and fox terriers have given way to Scotch terriers, police dogs and Boston bulls.” The 1934 society-oriented article quoted above gave this run-down for the upper-class: out – German shepherds (“as outmoded as horsehair sofas and fainting spells”), Airedales (“as

¹ Grover, naturally, after the large-sized president; the others were contemporary political figures, including Platt, who was more of a political operative than actual politician.
out of style as high-top, button shoes”), poodles, bulldogs, Russian wolfhounds; in – Great Danes, sealyhams, scotties, Pekingese, Pomeranians.

Daily Critic, 8 July 1885, p. 3; Evening Star, 9 Oct 1893, p. 8; 14 Dec 1923, p. 6; 12 July 1931, p. 1; 15 Aug 1936, p. 7; Wash. Post, 28 Apr 1929, p. SM4; 8 Aug 1934, p. 12; the 1923, ’29, ’31 and ’36 articles have more information on presidential pooches and some amusing anecdotes (Theodore Roosevelt’s dog once treed the French ambassador at a White House garden party).

Buying Pets

Washingtonians brought their pets mostly from small-scale breeders and families with litters to sell; their ads appeared in the classified sections regularly from the late 19th century onward, often with no name but just an address. (Of course, you could always buy a used dog at Gen. Einstein’s establishment.) The first regular commercial outlets for pets sold birds: Schmid’s Bird Store at 712 12th Street NW began to advertise in 1886, joined soon after by Hastbrecht’s (1880-90s) and Lee’s (1900s), both also downtown. The more suburban Norris Bird and Pet Store operated in the Brightwood neighborhood in the 1910s, while Fairchild’s located downtown in the 1920s. Over time Schmid’s began to offer other live products – goats, puppies, cats, rabbits, mice, rats, queen bees – so that owner Edward S. changed its name to Schmid’s Pet Emporium in 1892. Although Washington newspapers referred routinely to “pet stores” in the pet-advice columns, Schmid’s was the only such business listed under that heading when the City Directory initiated the category in 1935. The store closed in 1964.²

Only one identifiable large-scale local dog breeder could be found in this research: the Iowa Pet Farm of Rosslyn, Virginia, advertising in 1922. But of catteries (“or ‘kat kennel[s]’, as these colonies of pussies are now called”) the area was better stocked. The first was opened by Mary Cornish Bond in 1902 specializing in Persians, the only such establishment south of Philadelphia.³ Her friend Miss Burrett opened the Columbia Cattery soon after. To give an idea of the size of these operations, Bond held 11 cats and Burrett 19 in 1902, many or most of them seemingly their own prize babies and not for sale; five years later they held 125 between them: some boarders, some charity cases, some for sale, some pets of the owners. The Algonquin Cattery advertised in the 1900s also (specializing in Persians – a name for Bond’s establishment?). In the next decade we find the Chevy Chase and the Bostwick Catteries, and the College Park and the Calvert Catteries in the 1920s. Only the Columbia Cattery was downtown, and some of the later ones in the Maryland suburbs. Newspapers regularly carried ads for catteries throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. All of these establishments bred, sold and boarded felines.

An unnamed local dealer in 1891 discussed with an Evening Star reporter where he obtained his stock, and I record this unlooked-for information for a curious posterity:

- Turtles, frogs, snakes, common pigeons – Local boys “from their rural explorations”
- Cats, guinea pigs, ferrets – Ohio (but Angoras only from Maine)
- Chickens, peacocks, fine pigeons – Local breeders

² For anecdote-filled profiles, see Evening Star, 31 May 1936, p. 50; Times-Herald, 23 Jan 1944, p. C5. Lee’s also offered puppies and monkeys.
³ “From this inclosure no pussy cat has ever gone forth to a cat show but to win; none return but covered with honors.” Mrs. Bond owned the renowned Persian Menlik III.
• Monkeys – “Brought from tropical climes by sailors” or from New York dealers
• Mocking birds – Texas
• Common goldfish – Local breeders
• Fancy goldfish – Japan

(Pet stores) classified ads, various dates; (catteries) classifieds; Wash. Times, 13 Apr 1902, Magazine p. 8; Evening Star, 6 Jan 1903, p. 15; Wash. Herald, 25 Feb 1908, p. 7; (stock) Evening Star, 16 May 1891, p. 7. See also the DC General Files 1-107 “Pet Shops” at NARA.

U.S. Government Cats

Cats inhabiting federal buildings occasionally made the news. A Washington Post article of 1911 described the keeping of mousers in army depots, post offices, “most other large governmental buildings,” and even “the immense cold-storage depot in Manila,” which used exclusively a special breed from Pittsburgh that “do not thrive when transferred to an ordinary atmosphere.” The main Treasury building introduced a few cats in the late 1800s (after an unsuccessful experiment with ferrets) to control a burgeoning rat population only to find it then had a growing cat population also. The Department’s cleaning crew twice (1895, 1905) took matters in hand “by means not particularly humane.” Three were kept to resume their duties.

In 1918 the Post Office Department published its interest in acquiring mousers for its facilities. (Unfortunately I could not find the original announcement.) As a result, Victoria Emmanuel – a cat abandoned by the Italian embassy and living at the WARL shelter – became the “special pet and protégé” of District Postmaster M. O. Chance in 1919. “Now Victor [sic] Emmanuel spends his [sic] daytimes, when he is off duty, curled up on the postmaster’s official desk.” Soon thereafter Victoria Emmanuel gave birth to a litter of five “victory kittens”; over one thousand people put in bids for the little ones, which the Postmaster decided would be awarded to the clerks selling the most victory bonds. “Victoria is now the favorite of the whole post office.”

Up the street, at the office of the Provost Marshal General at 8th and E Streets, NW, Thomas (the mascot of the earlier occupant, the Land Office) became “the pet of soldiers and stenographers alike,” disdainfully accepting their attention. “He . . . cares little whether it be Gen. Crowder or little Sally King from Podunk, Ill., who pets him. As far as he is concerned, he prefers to be let alone. ‘Off my neck, general,’ he seems to say.”

The most curious incident, however, occurred in 1929, when the Director of Public Buildings decided to move against a colony of strays settled in the foundations of government temporary offices across the street from the Center Market. “Had [the cats] been orderly beings they probably never would have stirred up any undue notoriety, but they developed a propensity for exploring about the buildings during the night hours, leaving a wake of havoc in their prowling.” To make matters worse, they had a protector in clerk Mary E. Woodward, who surreptitiously fed them every morning. When government cat-catchers failed to take the lot (the few captives were turned over to WARL), Director Grant threatened to gas (chloroform) the whole colony or perhaps simply wall them in so that the structures could be weather-proofed before winter. Miss Woodward brought in WHS, which extracted an agreement from Grant to not seal the animals up but to turn them over to WHS rather than its less-conscientious colleague, WARL.

_Wash. Post, 29 July 1895, p. 2; 24 Nov 1905, p. 12; 5 Feb 1911, p. MS6; 13 Oct 1929, p. M4; Evening Star, 30 June 1918, p. 20; 6 Apr 1919, p. 13; 8 May 1919, p. 23; Wash. Herald, 19 Jan 1919, p. 3. All these articles are well worth reading. For further sketches of DC and federal mascot animals, see Times-Herald, 3 Sept 1944, p. B8._

**Rats and Cats Flee Center Market**

The 1931 demolition of the old Center Market in downtown Washington for construction of the National Archives led to an unlooked-for exodus of both resident rats and cats, and an even less-expected outcry over government plans to deal with the pests. The “large number of stray cats . . . made homeless” were collected “by gentle coaxing” by agents of WHS and WARL and (reportedly) sent to foster homes.

Homeless rats presented a more unusual problem. Mr. W. G. Gentry, “the most celebrated of all prairie-dog catchers” in Wyoming (“where men are men and rats are prairie-dogs”) and a recent immigrant to Washington, took the extermination contract, only to find his poison-gas plans shot down by the District Health Officer. Gentry then proposed an array of traps but a member of WHS protested the possibility that the rats would be sent to scientific labs for test use. (In fact, they were drowned.) We do not know the conclusion of this episode.

_Evening Star, 15 Apr 1931, p. 17; 17 April 1931, p. 8 (a first-hand account); 24 Apr 1931, p. 17 (with a photo of Gentry); 26 Apr 1931, p. 17._

**Starlings! Pigeons! Squirrels!**

_Starlings_, famously introduced into North America in 1890 so that every bird mentioned in Shakespeare would live in Central Park, migrated to the mid-Atlantic states in the late 1920s. From 1928 to about 1934 letters complaining about “these annual visitors” (the majority of the letters) and defending them (the minority) filled columns of local newspapers and the Commissioners’ in-box. Starlings ate valuable grain crops, destroyed song birds and other native species, made lots of noise and, of course, though not explicitly stated, pooped everywhere.

The Commissioners, besieged by merchants’ and civic associations, “tried everything they could think of”: hanging wires with bits of tin near building ledges, spraying water from fire hoses, letting off fireworks, trimming trees, tying pieces of glass to branches, setting out noisemakers, garish lighting, cat dolls (for their fright value), live owls (brought from the Zoo to protect the Smithsonian), smudge pots and “an inflated rubber tiger and a few toy balloons” (on the District Building), and once setting loose a mob of WPA workers waving “pebble-filled cans, poles and old telephone books.” The balloon trick showed promise but the problem persisted. Shooting, poisoning and encasing trees in wire gauze were ruled too extreme.

The Commissioners appealed to the Department of Agriculture, which only offered the helpful advice that these birds probably were not (as posited by some conservation clubs) protected as a migratory species. In 1933 they appointed a Starling Nuisance Abatement Committee headed by Clifford Lanham. “It’s taken me more than three years to learn how little I know about starlings,” he admitted. “Generalissimo” Lanham
was still at the job in 1940. Letters were sent to other cities asking their advice, and similar inquiries were received from Toronto, Lansing and Hamilton, Ohio. No one had a good idea.

The starling dilemma returned furiously in the mid-1940s. The District (now represented by its Committee on Cleanliness and Sanitation) experimented with an obnoxious “dusting powder” and considered loosening its bird-hunting restrictions. The public flooded the Commissioners with rather far-fetched suggestions, ranging from the tongue-in-cheek (starling pie) to silly (“tossing moth balls into the nests”). Someone remembered that a former Superintendent of Parks had built shelters for pigeons in Rock Creek Park and then had an assistant remove the residents’ eggs and return them boiled solid; reportedly, the birds supinely sat on these useless artifacts for the rest of the season (something that is difficult to credit), eliminating the pigeon nuisance.

The last spasm of starling-panic occurred before the 1956 presidential inauguration, when residents of Flushing and Rome, New York; Cincinnati, Ohio; Great Bend, Kansas; and La Crescenta, California all sent not-very-useful advice on the matter to President Eisenhower. The Treasury installed an electronic wire system on its headquarters in 1954 (replacing earlier nails) and the White House followed (a signal/noise system) in 1962.

Complaints about common pigeons date at least to 1897, when the birds appeared in the MPDC annual report: “There is no law existing . . . whereby the citizen may be protected from . . . pigeons alighting upon residential property . . . which might be despoiled by their temporary occupancy . . . Several elegant residences, put up at great expense, with delicate ornamentation, have suffered from this nuisance.” To put this in perspective, the complaint referred to privately-owned birds (which did not come under the same restrictions as “fowls”) rather than vagabonds, and a householder shooting them could be charged their value. The MPDC Superintendent recommended the Commissioners consider “a regulation concerning this evil.”

The late 1950s-early ‘60s also saw considerable discussion of wild pigeons, with (of course) no resolution. “The pigeons are causing hysteria around our house,” wrote a correspondent to the Evening Star. The Manor Park Citizens’ Association asked the city to spray trees “to scare away birds.” A lady living near Dupont Circle attached a fringe of “76-cent feather dusters” atop her house – with success. A Minnesota company supplied traps that captured many on downtown buildings, where they mostly starved. A man from Austin, Texas offered to buy all the District’s pigeons, but did not say how he would take them or what he wanted them for.

A report of 1916 (stating that 294 species inhabited the capital) commented on another offending bird: “Grackles stroll about the parks and Capitol grounds with a dignity suggesting that they are successfully imitating the senatorial gait.”

Squirrels fared much better in public opinion. Their chief human enemies were not irate citizens but hunters and couturiers, the latter instigating a squirrel-fur craze in the 1920s. Another natural foe had apparently quit the scene by that time: “A few years ago it was thought impossible for the small boy to resist stoning birds or squirrels in the public parks, but no one disturbs them now [1925].”

Public fondness for “our dear little squirrels” is wonderfully illustrated (unexpectedly) in the regular correspondence between public and the U.S. Capitol’s Superintendent of Grounds regarding their comfort and welfare (along with an occasional inquiry about birds), dating from the beginning of the century into the 1960s: offers to donate them to the Capitol, requests for Capitol squirrels from other institutions (the

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Soldiers’ Home in Washington, for example; only the Altoona (PA) Hospital seems to have been accommodated), a small number of complaints (“they drive away the birds,” send them to Rock Creek Park), and most consistently concern about their housing and alimentary needs. The Capitol put out squirrel boxes until the 1950s (at first purchased from the Schmid Emporium, later made in its own shop). Growers sent offers (and advertisements) of bulk nuts for their winter feeding; a man from Indiana supplied ten barrels in 1912 and had to be politely turned down for many years thereafter.

A new Superintendent in 1944 audaciously declared squirrels a nuisance and a danger to young trees, but confessed “that any war to the death against the critters would have repercussions from the thousand sightseers who annually feed and fondle them.”

Squirrels were so lovable that they appeared prominently in ads for new, bucolic suburban divisions. Dogs were prohibited from the Capitol grounds and Lafayette Park to protect them (and songbirds); when the city heavily trimmed downtown trees in 1934 the Park Service put out 132 wooden boxes as emergency housing for them; the same Park Service scattered peanuts (2,000 quarts) for them in winter, as did citizens and the Boy Scouts, encouraged to do so by the Humane Society. This sentiment was not confined to Washington – when squirrels died in numbers at the Virginia state capitol the groundskeeper attributed this to overeating. “They have been waxing fatter and lazier, sometimes refusing to give the public sitting room on the park benches.”

In the deepening Depression Clarence Gale willed $100 to WHS “for the care of the squirrels, . . . in appreciation of the pleasure given his mother by [their] antics [in] the park.” The National Zoo proposed a program to protect “homeless squirrels.”


**In-Town Hunting**

What recourse did the average Washingtonian have when irritated by feathered and furry pests? The District government several times emphasized to citizens that it had no provision for routing such nuisances as wild birds or squirrels, but that police regulation 302 “Taking of depredating wildlife” – one of the city’s

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5 As times change so do attitudes – the Park Service removed the boxes in 1985 and undertook a major squirrel relocation effort. Official complaints included the “overeating” cavil. (Wash. Post, 11 Apr 2016, p. B3, with thanks to the doughty John Kelly)
Hunting regulations – allowed private citizens to protect their own property “by humane means . . . as may be reasonably necessary.”

Apparently these restrictions had some effect: (1908) “No game . . . is being shot in the District except rabbits, [which] damage . . . young fruit trees, and then . . . only . . . on the property where the damage is done. No restriction is placed upon the killing of hawks, crows or owls of the larger variety.” The District’s great advocate for animal welfare, Virginia Sargent, wrote the Commissioners in 1964 urging that these laws require “humane disposal” of captured beasts.

Small animals had long been protected on the grounds of the Capitol and in federal parks of the District.

Evening Star, 15 Dec 1908, p. 9; Congressional acts “For the Protection of Birds, Game . . .”, 3 Mar 1899, and 3 Mar 1901; National Archives, RG 351, Entry 17 “Register of Letters Received”. A Congressional revision of District hunting and fishing laws was passed on 23 Aug 1958, followed by Comm Order 59-392 of 12 Mar 1959.

**Protecting Animals in Wartime**

An unexpected discovery of this research was the regular concern of the U.S. Government for animals in war situations. In 1916 the Department of War requested the American Humane Association to organize care of military animals – horses and mules – on the European front, resulting in formation of the American Red Star Animal Relief program.\(^6\) WHS became early involved, raising funds. AHA framed this work (modeled after a British program) as having both humanitarian (for the animals) and economic (for the army) benefits.\(^7\)

By the Second World War the Red Star had become “a civil defense organization for animals.” With no animals employed in battle, its efforts turned to their protection during air raids, an event which of course did not occur in the U.S. The organization distributed pamphlets advising owners how to properly tag their pets, shelter them during air raids, and treat them for panic (“sodium bromide, or aspirin, from 2 to 10 grams, according to size, makes a good bromide for a fear-stricken animal”) and injury. After the war, the project was renamed Red Star Animal Emergency Services and remains an active AHA effort.

The federal government, through the District Civilian Defense Department, organized an Animal Rescue Service “to provide care for dogs, cats, horses or cattle during possible enemy attack.” The program was planned in conjunction with the local pound, humane organizations, animal hospitals and veterinarians. Its stated goals deserve to be copied in their entirety: “To protect human beings from panic-stricken or gas-contaminated animals during or after air raids; To prevent and alleviate suffering of animals resulting from air raids; To relieve air-raid wardens and other protective services of additional duties and responsibilities; To conserve the economic value of living or injured animals; and To give information and advice to animal owners on procedure during and after air raids.”

The Service claimed ten animal ambulances, two pound wagons, 17 animal hospitals and 27 veterinarians at its call, and was headquartered at the WARL shelter. As fear of enemy attack subsided these well-laid plans became unnecessary and the project made inactive in December 1943.

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\(^6\) It will be remembered that WHS had expressed its concern for horses sent from the U.S. for use in the Boer War and the World War.

\(^7\) A plaque placed on the east wall of the old State, War and Navy Building (now the Eisenhower Office Building) in 1921 states that 243,135 horses and mules served the American armed forces in the war, of which 68,682 died in battle (Evening Star, 14 Oct 1921, p. 17).
The final such effort uncovered survives in a series of 1950-51 memos in the WHS archives, in which an impressive collection of Washington-area humane organizations (WHS, WARL, APA, plus Arlington, Alexandria, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties’ groups) met under the leadership of the AHA to plan protection of animals in the event of a nuclear attack. The resulting organization, “The Animal Relief in Atomic Emergency for the Metropolitan Area of Washington”, mercifully was never needed.

(WW 1) Evening Star, 25 Mar 1917, p. 13; 10 June 1917, p. 15 (a substantial account); (WW 2) 11 Jan 1942, p. 57; 10 June 1943, p. 33; 13 June 1943, p. 22; 11 Dec 1943, p. 4; (Atomic) Memo, organizing comm., 31 Jan 1951 et al. (in WHS archives). This last was modeled on a Massachusetts SPCA project. The ML King Library, Washingtoniana Division’s vertical file “Animals” holds a brochure “The Handling of Animals Under Wartime Conditions” published by the American Red Star Animal Relief in 1942.
D14: Sources for Further Research

For those wishing to pursue research on animal-related topics in DC not covered in this study I give here my occasional notes made while going through the study material.

Archival Material

- **Extermination of rats and insects:** This was the responsibility of the Health Department. Note that the Board of Health considered the nuisance of flies at its August 1872 meeting and again in 1922, including distribution of a film “The Fearful Fly” (*Daily Critic*, 14 Aug 1872, p. 3; *Wash. Times*, 2 Aug 1921, p. 15) and rats in 1909 and 1922 (*Evening Star*, 12 July 1909, p. 2; 14 Apr 1922, p. 1).

- **Police dogs:** See CFA approval of a new facility at Blue Plains, May 1980 at CFA (thanks to Mr. Tony Simon for pointing this out to me).

- **Hunting with dogs:** See Congressional Acts of 3 Mar 1899, and 30 June 1906; and a memo in DC General Files 1-106 “Dogs” at NARA

- **DC Government animals:** See the Veterinarian’s Ann Rpt; each department also generally reported on the animals under its control, usually under the heading “Horses”.

- **Dairies:** Reported annually in the Health Officer Ann Rpt.

- **Inspection of animals intended for slaughter:** Also reported in the Health Officer Ann Rpt.

- **Slaughterhouses, rendering plants:** The annual MPDC reports of the Sanitary Company, in its earliest years, discuss rendering plants and slaughterhouses in the District in some detail; after that the Sanitary Inspector of the Health Department oversaw these activities. The 1881 Sanitary Inspection found 17 in Washington (and none in Georgetown). “Slaughtering has practically ceased in all places in the District of Columbia save at the Benning abattoir . . . A few calves and sheep are killed at small houses in the city and suburbs” (*HO Ann Rpt*, 1904).

- **Efforts to protect birds, game animals and (less frequently) fish in parks:** Many Congressional proposals regarding this issue appear in the Congressional Record in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; see also “Game” in Webb.

- **“Dog and Pony Shows”:** Also appears with some regularity in the Congressional Register.

- **Dog fights** were a standard item in the MPDC Annual Reports into the 20th century.

Many of these issues are conveniently addressed in Webb.

Further reading

This list of selected sources was compiled by Dr. Bernard Unti of the Humane Society of the United States.

Animal Abuse and Cruelty


**Animal Research and Experimentation**


Unti, Bernard, “‘The doctors are so sure that they only are right’: The Rockefeller Institute and the Defeat of Vivisection Reform in New York, 1908-1914”, in Darwin H. Stapleton, ed., *Creating a Tradition of Biomedical Research*. New York, 2004, 175-89.


**Animals in American Society**


The Humane Movement


Individuals and Organizations


**Legislation and Court Rulings**


Michigan State University, Animal Legal and Historical Center: https://www.animallaw.info


United States Congress, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, *Hearings Before the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry of the Senate of the United States on S. 5566, Amending an Act to Prevent*


**Presidential Pets and Other Mascots**


**Veterinary History**


