Animal shelters can take steps to prevent canine heartworm, advises the Gaines Dog Research Center.

Since more than 60 species of mosquitoes are known to be carriers of heartworm, shelters should prevent accumulation of stagnant water to control mosquito breeding. Empty rain water buckets and sweep away puddles immediately after a rain.

Nearby wooded areas should be checked for standing water, and discarded cans that are collecting water should be picked up. Ground should be leveled and drainage ditches dug where possible.

Shelters can also consider setting up bird "apartment houses." Purple martins (black swallows that capture insects in the air) are especially helpful, but all birds will help control insect overpopulation.

The ASPCA Bulletin reports that heartworm is found in every state with heavier infestation in the eastern half of the country (from material prepared by E.R. Squibb & Sons, Inc.). Shelters should test all animals before release, to avoid letting infected animals into the community, as they can be carriers.

Animals should always be tested for heartworms before being treated. Treatment can be very hard on the animal and can cause death if not administered properly and under the direction of a veterinarian.

An assortment of materials under the title "Pethood or Parenthood" is available at cost from the American Veterinary Medical Association. The materials discuss the disadvantages of leaving pets fertile and the advantages of sterilization, including better pet health and behavior.

The materials include:

6-panel color pamphlet ..... 3¢ each
5-minute 16 mm film, color and sound ..... free loan or purchase ($36)
7-minute slide presentation with sound cassette ..... $21 (slide presentation also available as a filmstrip with cassette or 33 1/3 rpm record; audio track can be used with self-operating or standard projectors)
30-second public service television announcement ..... free to any group that will request local air time.

AVMA offers inexpensive pamphlets on canine distemper, heartworm, parasites and rabies, and tips on traveling with pets. A list of institutions that offer animal technology programs is also available.

For complete information, contact AVMA at 930 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, Ill. 60196 -- (312) 885-8070.

"Dogs and Cats Need Responsible Owners" is an 8-panel pamphlet produced by the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service. The pamphlet discusses the problems associated with pet overpopulation such as animal bites, disposal of waste and noise problems.

Common pet owner attitudes -- "I know my dog won't bite," "It is healthy for female dogs and cats to give birth..." -- are discussed.

The pamphlet is available at 5¢ per copy from Cooperative Extension Service, 123 Mannford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61801. It is part of a state-sponsored program for humane education.
HSUS has produced two television spots for local humane organizations. One is an appeal for funds featuring actress Amanda Blake -- the other discusses pet overpopulation and encourages pet sterilization. Your local group need only have the television station add a "trailer" with your name and address.

The spots are $35 each, and can be ordered from HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

The texts of the two spots are as follows:

Overpopulation
You call it putting an animal to sleep.
We call it euthanasia.
And we don’t like it anymore than you do.
According to The Humane Society of the United States, more than 13 million unwanted animals are being put to death each year. And the problem's getting worse.
Killing animals is not the answer.
More shelters are not the answer.
You’ve got to be a more responsible pet owner.
Worried? Help us understand the animals?
Have your pet spayed or neutered.
Keep it at home where it belongs.
Help us stop this needless waste of life.
We really don’t want to do this anymore.

AMANDA BLAKE
Hello, I am Amanda Blake. Today, I’m not playing the role of Miss Kitty. Today, I’m speaking to you as a Director of The Humane Society of the United States. This is my dog Sato. He’s been a member of my family for some time. Lots of dogs and cats aren’t so lucky. Animal welfare groups all across this country have become the foster families for unwanted, homeless, and mistreated animals. They’re housing, feeding, and caring for unwanted animals. They’re finding families for homeless animals. And, they’re investigating and preventing cruelty to animals. When kindness becomes a way of life, they can close their doors. They’d really like to go out of business. Until then, you can help by supporting their efforts.
Help your animal welfare group go out of business. For us and for the animals.

Your Dog Should be a School Dropout!

As teachers and parents are encouraging young people to stay in school and have regular attendance, there is another participant in the school program that is being encouraged to stay out of school — this is your dog!

Dogs like to go to school. Some parents and children think it is funny that the dog likes to go and they do not discourage it. However, there are many instances when it ceases to be amusing, and instead there is tragedy.

- Dogs become involved in school play . . . somebody gets hurt.
- Dogs steal lunches . . . somebody goes hungry.
- Dogs knock children from bicycles . . . somebody else gets hurt . . .
- Dogs get involved in traffic on the way to or from school . . . somebody else gets hurt . . . sometimes somebody gets killed . . . sometimes it is the dog . . .
- Dogs get lost . . . somebody gets worried.
- Dogs get injured . . . somebody pays a veterinary bill.
- Some people dislike dogs and the mess they make . . . dogs get poisoned . . . some get shot . . . many get stoned.
- Dogs bite . . . someone is treated for the bite wounds . . . somebody takes injections because of the fear of rabies.

SCHOOL IS BAD FOR DOGS — DOGS ARE BAD FOR SCHOOLS
DOGS AT LARGE CREATE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS FOR YOUR DOG AND HUMANS
KEEP YOUR DOG AT HOME—ALIVE AND SAFE

This space
for your organization's
name and address

ANIMAL CARE AND EDUCATION CENTER Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.