Spring cleaning (and inspecting and fixing)

Time for spring cleaning at your shelter is also time for a careful inspection. Finding problems and correcting them early can save you the money you'd spend on major repairs later.

Here is a checklist suggested by HSUS Gulf States Regional Director Bill Meade, who is a shelter architect--check these areas in the spring and in the fall:

Heating and cooling systems--Have a qualified person inspect and make any necessary repairs, including cleaning coils, filters and grills, checking freon levels, checking thermostats, and
looking for gas leaks. A firm in your area might be willing to donate this service to you.

Radiant floor heat--If you have this, make sure the system is turned off in the spring and turned on in the fall; make sure the unit in each kennel is operating properly.

Roof--Clean out gutters and check for rotting wood trim. If possible, go up right onto the shelter roof and check the condition of the roofing, vents and fans.

Fencing--Check all kennel fencing, gates and sliding doors and make any necessary repairs. Do this repair work correctly--patch jobs done with wire and other scraps look like patch jobs, and they don't last.

Lighting--Inspect and clean all lighting fixtures. Wash plexiglass covers and replace dark or burned out fluorescent tubes. Keep your building bright and attractive for your own safety and for the safety and comfort of the public.

Windows and doors--Replace cracked or missing glass and damaged screens. Replace worn weatherstripping; re-caulk where necessary (for both comfort and energy savings). Repair or replace loose, broken or missing door knobs, latches, closers and floor stops.

Ceilings--Replace any broken or missing ceiling tiles.

Drain lines--These should be cleaned out with a plumber's snake or a heavy-duty, commercial liquid drain cleaner.

Outdoors--Look for holes or broken areas in the driveways and parking areas. This is for the public's safety and your own.

Paint--Look for peeling or chipping paint, not only to repair it but also to look for its cause (water leakage or other problems).

You should prepare a written checklist for shelter inspection and make the inspection part of your schedule each spring and fall. Employees should be encouraged to report maintenance problems any time of year so they can be handled promptly.

Maintaining your shelter properly makes it a safer and more pleasant place for you to work in as well as making it more attractive to the public. Next time, we'll talk about long-range maintenance programs that should be included in your budget.

SHELTER SENSE is published by The National Humane Education Center, a division of The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037, (202) 482-1100.

Subscription rates: ten issues—$5.00 (US currency) additional subscriptions to the same address—$4.00 each (US)

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Celebrity

Lawrence Welk

Oh, Newron-Jot

Benjamin

Dr. Michael Fox

Bolleegee

Lindat. Nln

Loretta Swit

Auction

Sheraton Westgate

Entry fee: $2

Joanne

John Denver

Don Knotts

Betty Foor

Ed McMahon

Materials

As we mentioned last time, April has been named National Pets Are Wonderful Month by the Pets Are Wonderful Council. Comedian/actor Bill Cosby will chair National PAW Month, which culminates in Be Kind to Animals Week, May 2-8.

The PAW Council has sent a kit of materials to 2600 shelters; if you have not received your kit, contact the PAW Council at 500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60611. HSUS has reviewed the PAW kit; it has ideas and materials for many activities—best of all, it's free! We suggest you look through the materials and select the activities best suited to your community.

National Volunteer Week is April 18-24, and the National Center for Citizen Involvement will help you celebrate with a Volunteer Recognition Kit. Including posters, signs, decals, certificates, bookmarks and other items, the kit will help you recognize the special contributions of your shelter's volunteer staff. For complete information, contact The Center at PO Box 1807, Boulder, CO 80306.

"How to Raise a Happy Healthy Pup" by D.C. Askey, DVM, is a 27-page paperback, which covers health care and training for puppies. It includes instructions for building a sleeping box with a toilet "annex" to simplify housebreaking. The booklet explains how important the sense of smell is to dogs. It also offers suggestions for "socializing" puppies. Order from Fairview Publications, 3525 Fairview St., Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7N 2R4. A single copy is $1.25; for orders of 50 or more, the cost per pamphlet is $1. If you care to order more than 100 copies, ask about the quantity discount.

"It's All in a Day's Work" appeared in Wisconsin Humane Society's New View. It's a log of a typical day for a WHS driver in the field. You can follow the format to write an article for your own publication on how much your drivers accomplish in a day's work. Send your request to Lori Otto, Manager, Education and Publicity, WHS, 4121 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

"How About a Giraffe for Your Yard?" appeared in Animaldom, published by the Pennsylvania SPCA. The article discusses the widespread interest in owning exotic pets and explains some of the difficulties and dangers of exotic pet ownership. People don't think about until after they buy. Send your request for a copy of this article to Elaine Newton, Pennsylvania SPCA, 350 E. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19154.

Last spring, the Humane Society of Huron Valley held a Dog Walkathon, that earned the group $11,000. Executive Director Susan Schurman says the advantage of this event is that printing and publicity are the only overhead costs.

The group will send you a copy of the Dog Walkathon brochure, which gives quite a bit of information about how the event was organized. Send $1 with your request to Humane Society of Huron Valley, 2100 Cherryhill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

The ASPCA in New York City has issued the 1982 edition of its publication, Traveling With Your Pet. The booklet includes pet travel tips, information on regulations affecting pet travel, and health requirements for pets entering 50 states and 177 foreign countries. The booklet is available from ASPCA Education Department, 441 East 92nd St., New York, NY 10028.

WANTED - HSUS-accredited humane society seeks experienced shelter workers. Send resumes to Lyn Devantier, Operations Manager, Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherryhill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

WANTED - The South Lake Tahoe Humane Society has a position open for a Road Supervisor. Requires Animal Control, Law Enforcement and Supervisory experience. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Sharon Sawyer, Director, South Lake Tahoe Humane Society, Box 520, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731, telephone (916) 577-1766.

POSITION WANTED - Certified Animal Health Technician graduate with BS in Education and Laboratory Animal Technician certification seeks position in a shelter in Midwest US. Request resume from Nancy Watson 407 S. State, #7, Champaign, IL 61820, or telephone (217) 359-8978.

POSITION WANTED - Seeking position with humane organization. Experienced in unrelated field (business, sales, management, etc.) but can offer sincere desire, dedication and interest. Prefer Northeast. Cliff Friedman, 93 Mountwood Rd., Burlington, MA 01803, telephone (617) 428-3846.
Dutchess County SPCA (PO Box 1616, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) operates a pet tag program that helps identify lost pets and also serves as a fund-raiser.

The group purchased a supply of red aluminum ID tags. Pet adopters are urged to purchase a tag for $1; the tag is engraved with the message, "I AM LOST," Call SPCA (914) 452-1640," and attached to the pet's collar. The message on the tag also includes a code number which corresponds to the animal's card in the SPCA's file. The card gives a description of the animal, the owner's name and phone number and an emergency number to call in case the owner cannot be reached.

The SPCA has also sent tags to people on their mailing list and requested donations—they report that a donation of $5 covers the cost of 20 tags.

A number of pets have been reunited with their owners through this tag system, although it should not be regarded as a replacement for regular licensing. The key advantage of this kind of program is that it helps identify which owners or adopters are continually allowing their animals to run loose and get lost. This give the shelter the opportunity to educate these owners about pet control or, if necessary, to enforce the animal control laws with citations.

A Fort Lauderdale (FL) police officer helped rescue a kitten that had crawled up under a car and had gotten its head pinned between a spring and the left rear tire. The car owner had driven 30 miles and had parked the car when he heard meowing and found the kitten hanging by its head.

Police Officer Richard Schmitt happened to be nearby and was able to release the kitten by using his night stick to widen the space where it was stuck. He was so taken with what he described as the kitten's spunk that he decided to adopt it. He was quoted in an area newspaper as saying, "I feel this is a turning point in my life. I don't even like cats."

Police officerRichard Schmitt saved the kitten's life in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Dr. Charles Owens, University of Alabama psychology professor associated with HSUS's Animal Control Academy, was featured in a United Press International story on the stress of animal euthanasia.

Carried to newspapers throughout the US, the story covered Owens' studies of animal control officers at the Academy, including the effects animal euthanasia and other difficult assignments have on their health and personal lives.

In the story, Dr. Owens was quoted as explaining that euthanizing animals is the most stressful task "because in some cases, the animal control officer must kill animals whose only fault may be that no one wants them."

Dr. Owens will participate in the Academy sessions taking place this month: The 100-hour (two-week) Animal Control Certification Program will be held March 29-April 9, and the 25-hour (three- day) Euthanasia Technician Program will be held April 19- April 21. The euthanasia program teaches students techniques for euthanasia but also offers them guidelines on how to cope with the emotional burdens of the job.

For complete information, write Animal Control Academy, 4831 Springhill Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35405, telephone (205) 553-8665.

Special note—the Academy Animal Control Certification program will be held May 10-21 in Ann Arbor, MI. The Euthanasia Technician program will be held May 24-26.

For complete information on these Academy sessions, contact the HSUS Great Lakes Regional Office, 725 Haskins St., Bowling Green, OH 43402, telephone (419) 352-5141.

Hartford (CT) police officers are responsible for handling animal complaints and problems when the dog wardens are not on duty. K-9 Control Officer Larry Gagnon trains police recruits for this purpose, and he provides them a package of material including copies of animal-related laws, information about the shelter, and instructions for handling various kinds of problems.

The instruction sheet tells the recruits to get complete information on dog bite cases and to turn the properly-completed forms over to the dog wardens. The recruits are warned that dog bite cases often end up as civil suits and that the police officer's initial report on the bite will be very important.

The recruits are advised that they can ticket the owner of a free-roaming dog, and they are informed about the limited circumstances under which they have the authority to kill a dog. Officer Gagnon instructs the recruits in dog handling, but they are advised to get help from the dog wardens when they are approaching an apparently dangerous animal.

Gagnon reports that the special training for police officers has increased the cooperation between regular police and dog wardens. He says, "I believe that at one time or another, every police officer will come upon a problem dealing with dogs. If he or she does not know the techniques of dog handling, it could prove to be a costly experience." (City of Hartford Police Department, 50 Jennings Rd., Hartford, CT 06120)

The 1st Annual Knoxville Animal Control Officers Seminar held by the Tennessee Animal Control Workers Association, the Knoxville Animal Control Board, Knoxville Police Department and the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine will be held March 16, 17, and 18, 1982 on the Agricultural Campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

The program will cover animal disease control, investigation techniques, humane education, pet owner psychology and stress management. For complete information, contact Sgt. John Rogers, Knoxville Police Department, 800 Church St., Knoxville, TN 37901.

The First North American Symposium on the Chemical Immobilization of Wildlife will be held April 4-6 in Milwaukee, WI. The program is designed for animal control officers, veterinarians, wildlife biologists and other professionals and include 25 presentations by nationally-recognized specialists.

For complete information, write Lori Otto, Symposium Coordinator, Wisconsin Humane Society, 4151 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212. Please note that registration is limited to 200 persons.
Each dog owner gets vaccinations and keep pet papers.

**Vaccination clinics held**

United Humanitarians of Orange County (PO Box 477, Garden Grove, CA 92642) is serving the public and raising funds by holding clinics for low-cost dog vaccinations. The group located a veterinarian who is willing to provide not only rabies shots but also vaccinations against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and parvovirus (DHLP) at reduced prices.

UH volunteer Hazel Mortensen says the group begins by getting permission to hold clinics in city parks and school parking lots. She advises getting this permission in writing, reporting that the veterinarians who don't participate in the clinics have sometimes pressured city officials to cancel the clinics.

The group publicizes each clinic by sending about 30 public service announcements to radio and television stations and to newspapers. They also invest about $50 in paid newspaper advertisements. Volunteers distribute fliers throughout the community.

The clinics are held Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm--however, the veterinarian often stays until late afternoon to serve all the pet owners who come. While the owners wait in line, UH volunteers advise them on what shots are needed. The volunteers fill out a form for each dog, and the owner presents this form to the veterinarian and then to the cashier. UH buys disposable dishes to provide each dog with water in a clean dish.

Mortensen says about 20 volunteers are needed to run each clinic. The most shots given in a single clinic was 1187. UH receives $2.43 from each $3 vaccination, and the clinics are "cash only."

A number of humane agencies have "Pet of the Week" or similar features in local newspapers. Humane Society of Huron Valley got a good public response from an ad they ran reporting that a previous "Pet of the Week"--Justine, the cat--had been placed in a good home. The ad went on to encourage the community to support the society so that more animals could be placed. Reporting this success story brought in 47 new members for the society. (Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105) 

**Focus on cruelty investigation**

The Chief Cruelty Officer for the Chester County SPCA (1212 Phoenixville Pike, West Chester, PA 19380) has organized a network of volunteer cruelty investigators. Charles Butcher, a retired businessman who joined the SPCA in June 1980, placed an ad in the local newspaper asking for volunteers and heard from 100 applicants.

The eight applicants who became investigators were chosen based on their animal-related backgrounds, their desire to help animals and their ability to handle difficult situations. All but a few of the original investigators are still with the program.

The volunteers prepared for their jobs by studying state and local cruelty laws and meeting with other cruelty investigators in neighboring counties. Butcher says their most helpful meetings were those with an Assistant Chester County District Attorney, James McElwee, III, and the Director of the Pennsylvania SPCA, Eric Hendricks.

Under Pennsylvania law, authorized agents with local SPCAs can enforce animal laws. Butcher's volunteers take an oath of office in a local court and are then granted police powers to enforce animal laws.

When citizens report a cruelty case, SPCA office staffers record the information on a form and turn the completed form over to Butcher. He then refers the case to the volunteer agent who

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**Clinic opens**

The City of Charlotte (NC) has opened a pet sterilization clinic on the grounds of the animal shelter (2700 Toomey Ave., Charlotte, NC 28203). The Humane Society of Charlotte will administer the clinic under contract, while the city is responsible for a total program of animal control, including law enforcement, public education and pet adoptions.

The opening of the clinic is the result of a year of campaigning by the Animal Control Division and the Humane Society, in the face of opposition from area veterinarians. The clinic costs for the clinic are: construction - $50,000; equipment and initial supplies - $16,250; first year maintenance - $250; public information - $500; total - $73,550.

All animals adopted from the shelter must be neutered, and failure to comply is a violation which means the animal can be seized. The clinic fees are $24.50 for any dog or puppy, $11.50 for a male cat or kitten and $17.50 for a female cat or kitten.

Beginning this summer, the license fee for a fertile female animal will be $25, the fee for a sterilized animal $5. The fine for failure to license a pet animal will be $15. The differential and the fine will increase again in 1983 and 1984.

The city's Art Department is working on pamphlets and posters for public education, and the Animal Control Division is planning to begin an education program in the schools for children at all age levels.

Division Superintendent Diane Quisenberry wrote SHELTER SENSE, "It is a sad commentary on American life that we have to legislate animal owner responsibility, but that is what we have done and will continue to do until people learn to treat all animals with care and dignity." 

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lives nearest the location. The agent checks out the case by phone or visit, as necessary. The SPCA handles about 30 complaints per month, more when the weather is extremely hot or cold.

Most of the cases are resolved by educating the animal owners about proper pet care or by persuading them to give up the animals. However, the agents do make clear that they have enforcement powers. Cruelty convictions carry a maximum fine of $300 and 10 days in jail.

Butcher reports that, contrary to his expectations, local police are always available when his volunteer investigators need help with preparing citations or warrants or making arrests. He says local judges are also helpful, especially when the agents act as prosecuting attorney, which they must do before District Justices.

Canyon County Pet Haven (PO Box 481, Nampa, ID 83651) printed the Idaho cruelty statutes in an issue of their newsletter now they report that their members are using the information to show careless pet owners in the community that animal neglect and abuse are against the law.

An Ohio woman has been convicted of cruelty for allowing her Great Dane to starve to death, reports Cleveland Heights Chief Animal Warden Harry C. Dodge (2953 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118). A concerned neighbor notified the animal wardens about the dog being neglected; however, the animal was already dead when the wardens found it chained to the backyard fence.

A veterinarian under contract to the city performed an autopsy on the dog. The woman was found guilty and was given a sentence of a $750 fine and ten days in jail; this was reduced to $500 and eight days in jail. Dodge also mentioned an ironic note to the case: the police lost the photos of the dog that were used as evidence, and now the animal control wardens have been authorized to acquire a camera.

The Houston Chronicle carried a feature story on Lt. Guy Clark, who heads the animal cruelty division for the police precinct serving northeast Harris County (TX). Clark has nine volunteer reserve deputies, although he is attempting to get paid staff.

One of Clark's assistants is George T. Huebner, Chief Humane Investigator for Houston's Animal Rescue League. Because Huebner also works for the Chronicle, he has been instrumental in bringing Houston's cruelty cases to the attention of the public.

Clark has been praised by Houston humanitarians for arresting dog fighters and cock fighters and for investigating other cases of animal cruelty. Some residents have criticized Clark for spending so much time on animal cruelty when crime against people is so widespread; Clark was quoted as responding, "My argument has always been that the people who abuse animals are often the same ones who abuse people. Cruelty to animals is just one step away from cruelty to humans."

The article also said that more animal cruelty cases have been reported to Clark's office since area humanitarians began to praise his efforts publicly. "I think it's finally hit home," Clark said.

Cruelty convictions carry a maximum fine of $300 and 10 days in jail.
Several items in this issue of SHELTER SENSE deal with animal cruelty investigations. The item from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, tells about a dog that might have been saved had the concerned neighbor who called authorities acted just a few days sooner.

Record-breaking bad weather increased calls to animal agencies this past winter. Soon, we'll be getting calls about animals suffering in the summer heat. The Humane Society of Greater Akron reported that cruelty calls increased sharply after publicity was generated by the group's recent fund drive.

None of us is short of work to do, but we've all been involved in cases where an animal would have been saved—or at least euthanized to spare it further suffering—if only the caller had acted sooner. This month's Reproducible should help you make concerned people more aware of the importance of acting immediately when they see animal cruelty.

When people do call, you have to be prepared to respond to the problems. Some of the calls you get will be aggravating, some just plain silly—but these people care about animals and deserve a prompt and courteous response.

If the complaint is not valid and the caller simply is not well informed about animals, politely educate him or her. If the call may be valid, check it out thoroughly. Be sure to let the caller know what happened. I guarantee you'll make a friend for your agency if you take the time to let a caller know that you've acted on the complaint.

Some police officials are reluctant to get involved in animal cruelty cases because there appear to be so many more pressing crime problems. If this is the case in your town, make sure these officials know how many animal cruelty calls you're getting; make sure they know how much public demand there is for animal cruelty investigation.

We can't stop cruelty to animals if we don't know about it. Try to get your community involved in reporting cruelty when it appears—and be ready to act on the calls when you get them.