Traveling Animal Shows Harm Animals
by Nancy Blaney

Like daffodils and tulips, traveling animal exhibits, confined to a few states during the winter, burst with the warm weather in full force upon the landscape. Unlike the other perennials of spring, however, these itinerant shows are a source of problems rather than of pleasure.

During the coming months, your community may host a circus or traveling menagerie (perhaps one offering photo sessions with a lion cub or a bear). A carnival with pony rides and a petting zoo, or a performing animal act such as diving mules, may appear with a state or county fair. No doubt your organization will find it necessary to inspect such an exhibit.

All of these operations share characteristics that may foster mistreatment — if not blatant abuse — of animals. One of the most harmful characteristics is the very nature of traveling life. The unfortunate animals are transported back and forth

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across the country in weather extremes and are brought into totally alien environments every couple of days or every few weeks. This causes them great physical and psychological stress.

As if this weren't enough, no consideration is given to the animals' physical, behavioral, or psychological needs. Their handling is designed solely to facilitate moving from place to place. Sadly, the cramped, sterile cages, boxcars, and tractor-trailers in which the animals travel usually serve as their permanent quarters; they live in such barren enclosures whether "on the road" or at home base. (Some of the major circuses provide only slightly better accommodations at "winter quarters." )

Despite The Humane Society of the United States' (HSUS) efforts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) stubbornly has refused to acknowledge these conditions and continues to hold exhibitors to standards established strictly for traveling circuses. These standards unfortunately are less demanding than those for permanent enclosures. Consequently, show owners are under no pressure to provide their animals with enriched environments.

One example illustrates the serious shortcomings in housing. During an April inspection trip in Texas, HSUS investigators discovered one circus that includes a hippo and a group of rhinoceroses in its entourage. Within its dark, dirty cage, the hippo had a pool of water about two feet deep -- barely sufficient to allow it to submerge. Hippos spend a great deal of time in the water, and submerging is a crucial "cooling off" technique. Rhinos, despite their appearance, have very sensitive skins and require water or mud to keep the skin moisturized. This circus rhino had neither.

Even if living conditions were improved, there are many other problems with traveling animal exhibits:

* Living conditions for animals are generally inhumane with respect to space, availability of food and water, ambient temperature control, rest periods, veterinary care, sanitation, and more. Deficiencies in these areas may be violations of local cruelty laws.

* There are public safety problems, which likely are to arise whenever the public comes into contact with wild animals. The possibility of trouble increases dramatically in certain

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time. At the very least, Butts advised, these people should be placed on a mailing list;

- staff any special event sponsored by the humane society, such as a rabies clinic, shopping mall display, pet show, car wash, bake sale, or shelter "open house," with membership recruiters;
- include membership information in all press releases;
- periodically publish a membership form in the local newspaper, even if the society has to pay for the advertising space;
- include membership information in radio and television public service announcements or during other media appearances;
- separate annual dues into categories in order to keep membership affordable for all: Seniors, youths, family memberships are a good idea, but affluent supporters can be named as life, patron, or corporate members;
- send personal, handwritten notes to thank those who send annual dues. "It works wonders," said Butts. "It guarantees continued interest," and I've seen additional donations from many people who have just joined and who have received a short personal note. Notes should be written and signed by any member of the staff or the board of directors.

"I believe the ideas listed here can be used by any size group that wishes to see membership grow," said Butts. She warned local groups to treat their members with respect and never to allow them to feel unimportant. "Members are the foundation of your organization. Without their continued support, you would find it difficult to exist. Recognize them individually whenever possible." Butts suggested that annual membership meetings include more than business by incorporating a dinner, dance, party, or costume ball. Such affairs are better attended and raise more funds, too, she said.

In many communities, membership in the local humane society or SPCA is a status symbol. That does not happen by accident, said Butts. Without their continued support, you would find it difficult to exist. Recognize them individually whenever possible."

The first segment of the series describes the AHA and its activities. The second discusses the tragic overpopulation of cats and dogs and the importance of spay/neuter surgeries. The third covers the points that should be considered when adopting a pet. "Public attitude changes are not achieved overnight, particularly concerning spay/neuter surgeries," said Darby. Local cultural and economic factors discourage animal sterilization, she said, but staff members have heard exclamations of surprise and horror from people watching the series when they learn how many animals must be euthanized as a result of unaltered pets' litters. "Perhaps, by nulling over these catastrophic figures, a dent can be made in these hardened attitudes," Darby said.

A local sound studio provided recording and editing services and background music at cost for the first segment. In addition, several people donated their time and talents: Naomi Burns, an AHA volunteer with a former radio career, narrated one segment; Darby, who has a B.A. degree in advertising from the University of New Mexico and has done vocals and visuals for television commercials, selected the audio/visual equipment, wrote the script, narrated one segment, selected and cued music to the script, oversaw the recording process, oversaw photographic production, and cued the visual to the audio track; Tracy Green, an AHA supporter and professional photographer, took the slides; and Phil Meade, a local actor known for his pleasant speaking voice, narrated one segment.

Darby advised other organizations that plan to produce a similar slide/sound project to do the following:

1. Use a good-quality, continuous-playing audio/visual unit. This will free staff members from periodically having to rewind tapes and reset slides. The AHA purchased the Caramate 3300 Front and Rear Screen Sound/Slide Projector by Singer. The unit can be used as an ordinary tape player and slide projector for individual showings.

2. Deal with professionals because anything less than top quality work may not provide satisfactory results. As outlined above, several local people donated their time and their talents gained from past experience in various fields.

The series took five months to produce because Darby and others had other responsibilities. If another local organization plans a similar project but cannot gather the necessary resources to produce it on their own, Darby will discuss the possibility of modifying portions of the AHA program for that group's use. For further information, contact Melanie Darby at the Animal Humane Association of New Mexico Inc., 615 Virginia St. S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87108.

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Shelter manager for humane society - Responsible for shelter operations, personnel, cruelty investigations, public relations, fund raising, and education. Salary dependent on experience. Send resume, references to P.O. Box 1435, Front Royal, VA 22630.
A California woman is warning cat owners about the potential danger of one type of cat furniture as a result of her own cat's death.

Kathy Carey of Huntington Beach, Calif., bought a carpeted mailbox-type furniture/scratching post as a Christmas present for her four cats. One cat, a Maine coon cat named J.J., enjoyed sleeping in the open box. Carey and her husband came home last April and discovered that the mailbox portion of the furniture had been knocked forward, slamming the door to the sleeping compartment and cutting off the oxygen supply. J.J. had suffocated inside, unable to right the heavy box or open the door. Carey guessed that one of her other cats had knocked the box over during play.

The Careys spoke with the local distributor of this particular merchandise and he agreed to remove existing units from the market. The Careys also spoke to the manufacturer, who agreed to modify all returned units and all future units built. Carey suggested that anyone who has this type of cat furniture (pictured left) can modify it at home by drilling several air holes through the back carpeted panel. This will not detract from the appearance of the unit and could save a cat's life. Otherwise, she warned cat owners to discard the furniture.

"This advice will not bring our J.J. back, but maybe his death will not be in vain," Carey said. For further information about the manufacturer of the Carey's cat furniture, write Kathy Carey, 16392 Fairway Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92649.

Everett, Wash., pet owners who are cited for leash law violations can choose to take an alternative animal information class and void their citations.

The monthly "Animal Information Class" was started last year and features a movie, "Who Cares Anyway," which discusses the problems caused when animals are not cared for responsibly. Attendees are warned that some movie scenes are graphic in case they consider bringing their children, but they also are reminded that children often see reality such as animals hit by cars or those that are hungry and homeless. A class discussion follows the movie, and participants have been asking lots of questions and leaving with praise for the class, according to Jackie Hughes, manager of the City of Everett Animal Control Department (2930-36th St., Everett, WA 98201), which conducts the program.

According to Animal-Control Officer Gary Wilkes, when an officer sees a leash law violation, he or she fills out a citation. Before asking the person to sign it, the officer explains the optional class. If the person chooses to take the class, that person signs a completed form on the back of the citation and is given a copy.

Citations are voided when people attend the class; those who are late or do not attend know that their citation will be filed and processed through the court in the usual manner. A copy of their signed agreement with "no show" written across it will be attached to the citation.

Wilkes said the class has positively affected chronic leash law violators. Out of 70 class attendees, only two people have received subsequent citations. "We try not to treat these people like they are criminals," he said. "We want them to feel good about the information." The real offenders don't show up for the class, he said, while responsible people take an interest in the class.

Nominations are being accepted for the 1986 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Humane Award to recognize humane efforts on behalf of animals by a non-veterinarian or non-veterinary organization.

Nominations can include AVMA members, constituent associations, and, for the first time, those from the humane field. They are due no later than Sept. 3, 1985.

The AVMA Council on Public Relations will review all nominations and submit the names of three finalists to the AVMA executive board for final selection. Presented at the Inaugural and Awards Luncheon of the AVMA's annual meeting (or at another appropriate occasion), the award will include $500 cash to the recipient or to a charitable organization of his or her choice, and a plaque. The AVMA will pay the recipient's travel expenses (or a representative's).

For further information and a nominating form, write Michael Walters, Public Information Director, AVMA, 930 N. Meacham Road, Schaumburg, IL 60196-1074.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

HOWARD HUGE

"It's the city pound again...one of their dogcatchers is missing."

© 1983 reprinted courtesy of Bill Hoest and Parade magazine.
A regular column about setting up and using a computer system

When the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society in Washington decided to automate its manual animal-license system and to increase fund raising through improved membership management, staff and board members surveyed their computer needs and organized a plan of action. Today, the Licensed Animal Management System (LAMS), a product of Syntax, a professional computing service in Washington, is improving the organization's record keeping.

The humane society (located at 2608 Center St., Tacoma, WA 98409) handles records for approximately 55,000 licensed animals and 10,000 members. According to Executive Director Jean Warner, all records previously were handled manually. "You can imagine how busy we were as a result," she said. When the society first considered purchasing a computer, Warner developed a "wish list" of staff members' wants and needs which could streamline their work. The list was reduced to the most practical considerations, based on what tasks take the most time and what activities bring in the most revenue. (The humane society contracts with the city and county governments to enforce all animal-control ordinances. Each function is assigned "units of work" which enable the organization to present a more accurate budget report to the government each year.)

The board of directors of the humane society formed a computer committee, which Warner recommends to other groups that plan to computerize. After meetings and discussions with national computer representatives, the organization decided to purchase the LAMS from Syntax.

According to Nick Fowler, product manager for Syntax, LAMS currently is being enhanced significantly and may be ready for use over the next several months. Basically the system is composed of three modules, which may be used individually or in combination. The Membership Management module costs $1,500 and provides comprehensive information about the population of licensed animals. The second module covers the source and the disposition of animals handled and costs $1,500. The third module provides the source and the disposition of animals handled and costs $1,500.

Included in the LAMS investment are two days training by Syntax personnel on the use and operation of the system. Such training is conducted at the Syntax facility in Kent, Wash., or at the client's office for an additional fee.

Although currently there is no toll-free telephone service for customer consultation, there is continual professional telephone support as needed, which is included in the initial investment. During the first year, all enhancements or updates to the software are provided without additional charge. After that time there is an annual maintenance fee of 10 percent of the original software investment.

"Our products can be adapted to individual operation circumstances," said Fowler. When two or more work stations are needed, the company establishes networks to allow several work stations to perform at maximum efficiency while sharing information, programs, and equipment. The Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society has a Corona PC and two IBM PCs, which are networked and can be used simultaneously. Syntax recommends that organizations use industry standard components such as IBM computers to protect their investments from product changes.

A LAMS demonstration disk will be available for purchase from Syntax once the system expansion is completed. The disk may be reviewed by local organizations, using an IBM PC or a compatible computer with at least 256 bytes of memory, two disk drives, and a printer. For further information, contact Nick Fowler, Product Manager, Syntax, 6642 S. 193rd Place, Suite N107, Kent, WA 98032.

An overabundance of abandoned puppies prompted a local humane society to devise an easy-to-assemble puppy pen for use indoors and outside.

Ursula West, a member of the board of directors of the Humane Society of Seminole County (P.O. Box 784, Sanford, FL 32772-0784), said the safe, washable enclosure can be used as a puppy playpen or a display or holding cage. When inverted, the unit can be used as a cat corral. It costs approximately $15 to construct the pen, with minimum labor.

The pen is made from a round child's wading pool, approximately 36 inches by 40 inches in diameter and approximately 7 inches high. A fiberglass pool will not crack as easily as that made of hard plastic. Galvanized, plastic-coated fencing (12 to 14 gauge is recommended), with 2-inch x 4-inch openings, should be long enough to fit snugly around the outside of the wading pool and still leave approximately a 5-inch lap end. If the fencing overlaps more, the pen will be more sturdy.

With a strong pair of wire cutters, fencing material should be cut to a height of 26 inches. This will allow workers to bend over the cage easily, yet it will keep the puppies from escaping. Closing the fencing material together snugly around the pool, the cut wire ends can be secured to each other from the inside out, using pliers. The pool floor should be covered with shredded newspapers or a similar material. Water and food bowls can be hung on the side of the enclosure.

Since the pen easily can be disassembled and stored and can be scrubbed and disinfected, it is useful for a variety of circumstances.

Two local animal organizations are using special songs, written and sung by local talent, to increase publicity and funds. One has offered its songs to local animal organizations nationwide as a fund-raiser.

The Animal Rescue League of Martin County Inc. (2675 S.E. Dixie Highway, Stuart, FL 33494), inspired by "We Are the World," the song by USA for Africa, arranged with a local singer and songwriter, Pete Harris, to write and record a 45-rpm single called "There's Got to be a Better Way." The flip side contains another original Harris composition, "Calico Lady (The Cat..."
Medicus said the concept will work best if the record is marketed to the States to market its record for themselves. With the help of a professional record promoter, the organization devised a five-part marketing plan that discusses steps such as designing a press release to announce the record, placing the record in local stores, and using publicity, promotion, and radio airplay to sell the records and raise funds.

Medicus said the concept will work best if the record simultaneously is released throughout the nation, so she suggested that local groups respond quickly to the marketing offer. The record will be sold to them in lots of 200. Each organization will pay $1.25 per record and $10 for the marketing plan, plus shipping costs. The records should retail for $2.50 to $3.00 — a 100-percent markup.

In addition, Medicus said a video of the song is being made and will be available for a small fee to all organizations that participate in the marketing project. For further information, contact Medicus at (305) 287-5753 or Rick Ayres at (305) 482-0700.

The Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (1319 Japonica St., New Orleans, LA 70117) recently received a song in appreciation for the SPCA staff's pleasant, professional treatment of the songwriter's wife.

Local songwriter, Ed Haslam, and well-known musician, Allen Toussaint, who owns Sea-Saint Studios in New Orleans, produced the song and sold the SPCA the rights to it for two years for only $1, according to Marie Gould, SPCA education director. Haslam's wife had praised the SPCA after she had her cat spayed there last fall and was treated courteously. Staff members did not know who Mrs. Haslam was at the time. She suggested the song idea to her husband, who wrote the words, and Toussaint wrote the music, sang the song, and played all the instruments — even creating a dog's bark with special effects.

"This is one example of what can happen when organizations treat people well," said Gould. "We did nothing to solicit this donation, and we had no idea the woman who brought in her cat to be spayed was in a position to do anything special for us. She was just another client."

Since the song is specifically about The Louisiana SPCA and was a special gift from the artists, it cannot be shared with other organizations. It has been developed into a 30-second and a 60-second television public service announcement (PSA) and a 57-second radio PSA. In addition, the organization hopes to use the song in a fund-raising campaign this summer. People who contribute $10 or more to the SPCA will receive a sound card (a greeting card that contains a record) of the song.

"As you can imagine, we were thrilled with this surprise!" said Gould. "It has increased name recognition for the SPCA."

Continued on next page

Cat lovers may enjoy a set of greeting cards that feature Chinese ink paintings of cats by Susan Keane, and local organizations can buy sets to resell as fund-raisers.

According to Dorothy Cormier of Portal Publications, each set of cards contains 12 titles which retail for 95 cents per title. Local organizations can order a minimum of 1,000 of each title (a set of 12,000) for 38 cents per card. Three thousand of each title cost 30 cents per card, and 5,000 of each cost 24 cents per card. Local groups must pay for UPS delivery. The cards can be resold for whatever cost the organization chooses.

For further information, contact Portal Publications, 1 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera, CA 94925.
marvelous in his support and concern for my efforts," said Daly. "Chief Shipley even changed the wording of the ordinance I sent to him for approval by adding a fine for owners of dogs left in vehicles without proper ventilation and by changing my suggested maximum fine of $100 to $500. (The county imposes a maximum $100 fine for violators.)

In May, six other towns within the county were to consider adoption of the same or a similar ordinance. Meanwhile, Daly and others have been placing on truck windshields large, handmade, red paper hearts that say "Have a Heart! It has always been DANGEROUS for dogs to ride loose in open pickup trucks -- It is now against the law. Call the Humane Society for information, 442-1782." in their continuing effort to discourage dog injuries and deaths from falling, jumping, or being thrown from the backs of trucks.

Have a Heart!
It has always been DANGEROUS for dogs to ride loose in open pickups -- It is now against the law call the Humane Society for information 442-1782

*s Situation: For example, lion cubs, often used in photo sessions, can inflict serious injuries, especially when stressed from constant traveling and handling. Wrestling bears, regardless of their having been declawed, defanged, and muzzled, have broken bones and bitten off fingers; some cases resulted in lawsuits. The USDA used to regard such performing acts as illegal; however, for some reason, the agency completely reversed itself and will not intervene unless an animal injures someone.

- Solicitation of funds often are made under false pretenses.
- There may be nonpayment of funds to sponsors.
- There may be no federal license or state and local permit.
- Inadequate provisions for waste disposal often result in possible violations of local health codes.

Performing animals must endure the additional abuse of training. This need not involve outright cruelty, such as beating; however, more subtle tactics may be used, such as food deprivation, by which the trainer asserts his or her dominance. These also may be harmful to an animal's physical or psychological welfare.

The HSUS recognizes that some animals can benefit from the stimulation and challenge offered by training regimens, since these help alleviate the boredom of confinement. More often, however, such regimens merely are another source of stress, and too often are painful.

It is difficult to charge that the methods used by a particular trainer involve cruelty, because it takes place "behind closed doors." An animal may bear signs of abuse -- dried blood, sores, abscesses, cuts, etc. -- but one is not likely to find an
eyewitness to confirm these suspicions. If your organization can make a behind-the-scenes inspection, it may be able to observe some of these conditions.

Furthermore, many of the stunts may endanger an animal. The potential for injury is always present, as is a very real sense of anxiety for the animal. These animal acts do a grave disservice to animals in addition to jeopardizing their health and welfare. They present animals in artificial surroundings. Not only do they inhibit the animals' natural tendencies, but they force them to behave in ways that are foreign to their natures. Besides the strain on the animals, such performances create a distorted image of animals for spectators.

Circus acts particularly are guilty of this. Some focus on the courage of the trainer while portraying an animal as a bloodthirsty, vicious being, totally divorced from its true nature. Others demean animals by reducing them to slapstick fops trying to imitate humans.

All traveling shows, regardless of whether or not the animals actually perform, deliver the same message: Animals have value only insofar as they can amuse people or be of use to them. Far from educating the public about wildlife, these commercial operations convey misinformation, foster misconceptions, and lead people away from, rather than towards, an appreciation of wildlife and a commitment to their conservation. All in all, they are nothing more than thinly veiled attempts to make money at the expense of animals.

The best way to deal with animal problems inherent in these exhibits is to prevent them from occurring in your community.

Nancy Blaney is assistant to the director of Captive Wildlife Protection at The Humane Society of the United States. For further information about monitoring traveling exhibits, write Captive Wildlife, The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

Many People Want a Pet!
Some Want One for the Wrong Reason....

We urge you to spay or neuter your cat or dog to prevent unwanted litters. If you hope to find homes for new kittens or puppies, beware! Some people pretend that they want a pet when really they want animals to sell to research laboratories or to use for various inhumane purposes.

Don't give a pet to just anyone. Screen potential owners. Ask questions about their past pet ownership and their present living circumstances. Ask for the name of their veterinarian, and call to find out whether or not that person is a caring, responsible pet owner.

If your pet is lost or believed stolen, contact your local animal shelter immediately. Check area research facilities in hospitals, universities, and pharmaceutical companies.

Not everyone who wants animals loves animals! You are the only one who can protect your pet.

Provided by The Humane Society of the United States
As you know, brutality and neglect are no strangers to animals that travel on the "road to research." Hundreds of dealers, licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), procure animals from shelters and other sources and resell them for research purposes. Dealers have made the merchandising of animals a lucrative business. Animals are not considered creatures with the need for care and companionship, and your organization must work to end these abuses.

Researchers prefer healthy, well-behaved dogs and cats and are willing to pay to get them. Animal dealers increasingly strive to find a supply of such animals. Pet giveaway columns in newspapers, and shopping-mall or neighborhood pet giveaways, provide dealers with many of the pets they need.

One HSUS investigator noted that many auctions include dogs and cats that are confined outside in all temperatures, without sufficient food, water, or shelter. Many animals are in deplorable condition. Those not sold likely are transported to yet another auction. Licensed dealers and university animal buyers and others purchase them in groups for a small charge, for use in research laboratories.

If your organization learns of a local animal auction, you should monitor it for abuses. You may have to do this undercover, since these people are not happy to see humane officials. The USDA, charged with inspecting dealers' facilities and research laboratories, has not always filed charges against violators.

The HSUS is working to stop pet exploitation nationwide. HSUS investigators will continue to document abuses and to take legal action against dealers and research centers when necessary. With local organizations' help in monitoring animal auctions, we can turn the road to research into a "dead end."

For more information write Animal Slave Trade, The HSUS, 2100 L St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037.