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Be Wary of Lyme Disease

By Guy R. Hodge, HSUS Director of Data and Information Services, and Tony Povilitis, HSUS Senior Scientist for Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Lyme disease has surpassed Rocky Mountain spotted fever as the most prevalent tick-borne illness in the United States and is a growing source of anxiety to the American public. Reported cases of Lyme disease have increased 10-fold since 1983, according to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control. The unconfirmed tally for 1989 is 7,400 cases nationwide. Eight states account for a majority of cases—California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete (a one-celled, corkscrew-shaped bacterium) called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, an organism similar to that which causes syphilis. In the eastern U.S., the disease is
transmitted to humans primarily by the tick *Ixodes dammini*. In the West, the species *Ixodes pacificus* is known to be the vector species. The *Ixodes* ticks, much smaller than familiar dog ticks, are about the size of sesame seeds.

**Life Cycle of the Tick**

The adult female *Ixodes* tick lays an average of 2,500 eggs, which hatch in the spring. The newly emerged larva is a minute, six-legged creature that takes one blood meal, often from a white-footed mouse. After remaining dormant through the winter, the larva reappears as a nymph and again attaches to an animal for a second blood meal. If the larva has fed on an animal infected with the spirochete, it acquires the infection and carries the spirochete into the nymphal stage and will infect its new host. In fall, the nymph molts into the adult stage. The adult female cannot lay eggs without a blood meal.

While the tick can transmit the disease to humans during any stage of its life cycle, nymphs may develop a clear relationship between the abundance of deer and *I. dammini*. Studies indicate, moreover, that deer do not transmit the bacteria to ticks. In essence, the animals are dead-end hosts for the spirochetes.

Human land-use patterns appear to be the primary culprit in the rising incidence of Lyme disease cases. A substantial number of Americans now live in suburban subdivisions whose landscapes, a mix of lawns and woodlots, are prime habitat for the wild animals associated with *Ixodes* ticks. In fact, half the Lyme disease cases originate in people's backyards.

Although many mammals and birds are infected by the spirochete, wild animals rarely show symptoms of the disease. But domestic animals, such as dogs, cats, horses, and even cows, suffer from this malady. In dogs, the lameness resulting from the arthritis may shift from joint to joint. Affected dogs, the lameness resulting from the arthritis may shift from joint to joint. Affected dogs may appear swollen and hot to the touch. A veterinarian should be consulted if an animal limps or favors one leg, and within days, favors another.

**Prevention and Control**

Researchers are exploring ways to break the cycle of infection by assailing one of the stages in the tick life cycle with pesticides. But the broadcast of insecticides to the habitats where ticks are prevalent is a controversial tactic for controlling ticks. Chemical sprays kill not just ticks but all insects and spiders. To clear an area of ticks and prevent reinfestation, a pesticide would need to be applied in a volume that could cause serious environmental damage.

Despite fanfare over the issuance of a patent for a vaccine against Lyme disease, prospects appear poor that such a drug will be marketed during the next few years. For the present, the best method of preventing infection is to minimize the risk of exposure to ticks.

Humane society personnel, ACOs, and wildlife rehabilitators should use caution when outdoors or handling animals. The best safeguard is protective clothing: a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and a hat. Light-colored outdoor clothing is preferable since the dark ticks are more easily seen against a light background. Ticks can be deterred from crawling under clothing by spraying insect repellent around socks, cuffs, belt, and collar. When a person is walking in high grass or underbrush, pant legs should be tucked inside socks. Protective clothing does not provide an impenetrable shield against tick bites. A person who has been in a tick-infested area should carefully inspect his or her body for ticks upon returning to the animal shelter or home. Special attention should be paid to the hair, ears, underarms, around the eyes, and behind knees. Since *Ixodes* ticks are hard to see, the individual should shower. The clothing worn in the field should immediately be washed or sealed in a plastic bag until laundered.

The best way to remove a tick intact is gently grip it with tweezers. The tip of the tweezers should be placed as close as possible to the tick's base and may develop a clear center, giving it the appearance of a bull's eye or doughnut.

**On the Cover:** A veterinarian examines a dog exhibiting signs of Lyme disease. Lameness from arthritis is one symptom of Lyme disease in pets, especially if it goes from one joint to another.

**Symptoms of Lyme Disease**

Clinical signs of Lyme disease vary considerably. The classic symptom of Lyme disease is a ring or bull's eye rash that appears anywhere from three days to one month after the bite of an infected tick. A substantial number of Americans now live in suburban subdivisions whose landscapes, a mix of lawns and woodlots, are prime habitat for the wild animals associated with *Ixodes* ticks. In fact, half the Lyme disease cases originate in people's backyards.

Although many mammals and birds are infected by the spirochete, wild animals rarely show symptoms of the disease. But domestic animals, such as dogs, cats, horses, and even cows, suffer from this malady. In dogs, the lameness resulting from the arthritis may shift from joint to joint. Affected dogs may appear swollen and hot to the touch. A veterinarian should be consulted if an animal limps or favors one leg, and within days, favors another.

Examples of symptoms include fatigue, headache, pain and stiffness in muscles and joints, low-grade fever, chills, malaise, sore throat, nausea, swollen glands, and shortness of breath. Such symptoms can be mild or may even be absent in some cases. If any of these symptoms appear, see your doctor. Undiagnosed and untreated Lyme disease can lead to serious complications. Fortunately, early treatment usually leads to a complete recovery.

**Horses can contract Lyme disease, too, and may suffer eye problems as a result.**
Enter the Shelter Sense Photo Contest

Use off the lens cap and get ready to send us your entries in the Shelter Sense Photo Contest. We are looking for your best photographic efforts in four categories. Deadline for entries is August 31, 1990. Winners will receive cash awards and will be featured in the November 1990 issue of Shelter Sense.

All entries must be black and white prints. You may enter photos in four categories:

I. Goings-on at the Shelter—adoptions; surrenders; humane education; vets/technicians at work; euthanasia; shelter activities/programs;

II. Community Work—families with pets; drivers on the job; Animal Control Officers/staff members helping animals; people training pets.

III. Cruelty Investigations—Animal Control Officers/investigators working on a case; before and after shots.

IV. Seasonal—animals during holidays; animals outside in different seasons; hot and cold weather shots of shelter, animals, staff at work; litters.

Cash prizes of $150 will be awarded in each category. In addition, there will be three honorable mentions in each category.

Contest Rules:

1. All entries must be postmarked by August 31, 1990. You may submit as many entries as you like, but no more than one prize will be awarded to any entrant.

2. All entries must be glossy, black and white unretouched work.

3. The name and address of the photographer must be written on a label and attached to the back of each entry. Do not write directly on the photo.

4. Entries must be accompanied by a completely filled out contest entry form, found on page 15. A separate form must accompany each entry.

5. Each entry must be accompanied by a signed release form from any person who appears in the photo. A release form is provided on the contest entry form. Make copies as needed.

6. Entries cannot have been printed in any publication with a circulation larger than 10,000 or have been mass reproduced for sale, such as on posters.

7. All entries must be the contestant’s original, unretouched work.

8. All entries must be the property of the contestant.

9. All entries become the property of The HSUS and will not be returned. The HSUS may use the photographs in its publications and materials, or assign permission to others to use them. The photographer will be credited when the photo is used.

28 Ways To FAIL at Fundraising

1. "We never did it that way before.

2. Be too busy to prepare a long-range plan.

3. Be too busy to meet with each of your board members to find out what he or she wants to do.

4. Decide that you can’t afford an audit.

5. Decide that you can’t afford training.

6. Be too busy to meet with your current donors for money more frequently than once each year because you think it’s not polite.

7. Never ask your board members for money because they already give their time.

8. Never ask your family or friends for money contact. If possible, use an out-of-date directory.

9. Berate the foundations that turn you down. Say they’re insensitive.

10. Be too busy to write thank-you notes to acknowledge gifts.

11. Be too busy to prepare a long-range plan.

12. Be too busy to meet with each of your board members to find out what he or she wants to do.

13. Be too busy to evaluate last year’s fund-raising efforts.

14. Decide that you can’t afford an audit.

15. Decide that you can’t afford training.

16. Decide that you can’t afford to take any chances.

17. Never ask your current donors for money more frequently than once each year because you think it’s not polite.

18. Never ask your board members for money because they already give their time.

19. Never ask your family or friends for money.
SHELTERS CAN BENEFIT FROM AIR PURIFIERS

by Geoffrey L. Handy and Bill Brothers
President, Animal Care Equipment & Services

A
fter an extremely harsh winter several years ago, the Humane Society of Bexar County in San Antonio, Texas, had an epidemic of feline rhinovirus. With this epidemic, and the subsequent spread of the disease, the shelter took several steps: They thoroughly sanitized the cat ward twice each day, increased animal health checks, and vaccinated cats against rhinotracheitis before placing them in the cat ward.

The shelter even euthanized the entire cat ward twice in an attempt to fight the epidemic. Despite all these precautions, diseased cats began to outnumber healthy ones.

Recognizing that the shelter had poor ventilation in the occupied Executive Director Kathleen Walthall purchased an air purification system that had proven to be effective against a variety of harmful disease bacteria and other pollutants. According to Walthall, “We observed a remarkable and sudden decrease in the number of sick cats as soon as the purification system was installed in the shelter.”

A case as extreme as this one doesn’t happen that often; air purifiers are not a cure-all in an animal shelter’s battle against disease. No air purifier can ever substitute for thorough sanitation procedures, regular animal health checks, and a shelter ventilation system that provides for a proper amount of outside air intake.

But the case illustrates what the Humane Society of Bexar County and many other animal shelters have known for some time: Air purifiers can be a valuable supplement in the fight against disease and odor. A properly selected air purifier can remove over 98 percent of airborne contaminants that pass through the machine: disease bacteria and viruses, odors, fumes, smoke, pet dander and dust, etc.

For the majority of shelters, this makes it an investment well worth the cost, especially for fully enclosed shelters that may lack the proper amount of fresh outside air exchanges. Even for shelters that do have enough fresh-air ventilation, air purifiers can help reduce utility bills and save energy by reducing the need for outside air exchange. On extremely hot or cold days, for instance, a shelter can prevent outside-air intake and switch on the air purifier. Thus, instead of using fresh air to dilute disease- and odor-carrying microbes, the shelter uses the air purifier to actually remove those microbes. (Shelters should be aware, however, that they’ll always need a certain amount of fresh air from the outside.)

Areas that will most benefit from air purifiers include (in order of effect) the cat room, the front lobby area, the dog kennels, the quarantine area, and the euthanasia room.

There are three basic methods of air purification: media (where various absorbing media filter out particles and odor); electrostatic (where particles in the air are charged and adhere to a metal grid); and ozone generator (where ozone is pumped into the air to oxidize and neutralize odors and certain biologicals).

Each method has advantages and limitations; it’s important that the method selected be able to handle the problems particular to an animal shelter. For instance, many handle cigarette smoke well but are useless on viruses or smaller molecular substances such as bacteria and viruses. But they aren’t as effective at combating odors as media-type filters are.

Ozone generators are the latest in air purification technology. Ozone actually breaks down odor-causing molecules and other biological substances through oxidation. It is especially effective on funguses and mildew. (The clean, fresh-air feeling so common after the smell of the ozone produced by electrical discharges.)

A properly selected air purification system will have adequate air volume capacity and achieve 10-12 air exchanges per hour. This means that all of the air inside the shelter (or in the individual room where the machine is installed) will pass through the purifier 10-12 times each hour. (This is about the ideal fresh-air exchange rate recommended by The HSUS. A system with four exchanges per hour will have decreased benefits.)

One with a 16-per-hour exchange will lack energy efficiency. (One with a 16-per-hour exchange will lack energy efficiency.)

In general, shelters are better off “zoning” air purifiers rather than installing one large, central system. One reason is cost—big systems can be prohibitively expensive. But the larger advantage of zoning is that you can better target your shelter’s particular needs in a given area. For instance, the air purification needs of a cat room will usually differ from those of the reception area or kennels.

Placement of the purifiers is also important, must be replaced every few months as they get “filled up.” Replacements might cost $50 to $150, depending upon type and size.

Both electrostatic and ozone generator air purifiers, on the other hand, don’t use filters, so they cost little to maintain. Electrostatic air purifiers are twice the most cost-efficient of the three. They are the best choice to remove larger particles such as pet dander and dust, and do an adequate job on bacteria and viruses. But they aren’t as effective at combating odors as media-type filters are.

Whether it’s mounted on the wall or ceiling, or set on a bank of cages, an air purifier must create a convection pattern in the room.
In larger areas, a second unit may be needed to ensure that all the air in a room gets cleaned. Because you must cycle all air in a room through the unit or you'll have “dead,” uncleaned air lingering in some corners. This is easily accomplished by orienting the inflow and outflow parts of the machines so that they are able to create a convection pattern in the room. Commercial machines run from about $400 to over $1,500 each. One unit per area is usually sufficient, although multiple machines may be necessary for very large areas. The smaller consumer models will not be adequate for the task.

Shelters that want to benefit from air purifiers can contact local dealers or Animal Care Equipment & Services (ACES) for more information. ACES serves the entire country with air purification equipment, and can be reached at P.O. Box 3275, Crestline, CA 92325; (1-800) 338-ACES (in California call (714) 338-1791).

ACES carries all three types of air purifiers, and will recommend which type is most appropriate for a particular application. Shelters are designed for distribution to prospective adopters to help them prepare for their very important decision.

**Help Adopters Choose a Pet for Life**

One of the most important things a responsible humane organization does is place animals into loving, forever homes. The objective is not to place as many animals as possible, but to place the animals into quality homes that will last a lifetime. To do this, adoption counselors and shelter personnel must follow guidelines established to benefit the animals being placed.

Shelter personnel, however, can do a thorough job of screening adopters and still have failures. That's because the shelter's responsibility is only half of the adoption process.

The rest lies with the adopters. The following guidelines on selecting a pet were published by the now-defunct Pets Are Wonderful Council, and are designed for distribution to prospective adopters to help them prepare for their very important decision.

**The Importance of Choosing the Right Pet**

Choosing your pet is a major decision. While you may walk into the shelter, lock eyes with one special dog or cat, and decide that this is the one for you, a lot of thought and advance planning should go into your decision to ensure that you choose a pet that will best suit your lifestyle.

Dogs and cats are living, feeling creatures. They are not pieces of merchandise that can be returned for replacement. By choosing a pet thoughtfully and correctly, you can minimize the problems that may result while raising your new family member. Careful planning will help you determine the kind of dog or cat that will best suit your lifestyle. There are several considerations that can guide you in selecting the best possible pet for you.

**Lifestyle Considerations**

- **Where do you live?** In a house? In an apartment? In a condominium or townhome? On a farm? In an urban, suburban, or rural area? Obviously, certain dogs are better equipped for life in a large suburban home than in an apartment, which would only be suitable for small dogs or cats. Evaluate where you live and the size, activity level, and personality of the pet that you need.

- How large is your family? The number of children you have and their ages are key determinants to the kind of pet your family should have. Medium- to large-sized dogs and well-socialized, adult cats are generally best with young children. A small dog can be fine, too, if you carefully supervise children. In addition, certain breeds of dogs are more active and outgoing with children and make better playmates.

- How large will the pet be? Puppies are adorable, but how big will they be when they grow up? Ask shelter employees for assistance in judging the adult size of dogs.

- How much time do you have? When are you home? Do you want a puppy or kitten or an adult pet? A trained or untrained dog? A long- or short-haired pet? A puppy needs lots of attention, time, and training during its first year. Kittens don’t need as much training, but they must be socialized so they will be affectionate and trusting of people. If you work full-time or part-time, are you going to need the assistance of a friend, relative, neighbor, or professional “pet sitter” to help you housebreak your puppy. An older, already housebroken dog or a cat might be a better choice if the family is gone most of the day. Similarly, you wouldn’t want a long-haired dog or cat that needs daily grooming if you know you don’t have time to brush a pet’s hair every day.

- What kind of people are you? If you consider yourself to be highly assertive and enjoy being very active, you will probably be happiest with an assertive, outgoing, vivacious dog. You may not be as happy with a shy or submissive dog or cat. Many people, however, enjoy shy, quieter, or more submissive pets—most cats or the runt of a litter of puppies.

- Finally, is everyone in your family able to participate in choosing the pet? What a husband might choose for his wife and kids might be completely different from what the wife and kids would pick.

**Minimizing the Risks of Your Decision**

Here are a set of exercises designed to help you examine a pet's personality.

1. Is the dog happy, lively, active, and barking, or is it shaking and withdrawn, fearful, and slightly or very aggressive? Is the cat friendly or withdrawn? Remember two points: during naptime, few dogs are going to be bouncy, and immediately before feeding time, they are going to be especially active. In addition, remember that a shelter is a stressful place for an animal. Dogs and cats can smell fear and may not react well to being with so many other animals. A former family pet may be shivering and shaking in the corner of its cage because it is completely unused to being anywhere but in its own home with its “family.”

- Be sure to look at a pet’s history sheet. Find out
all there is to know about its past. As a rule, an outgoing, happy, barking dog with a wagging tail is a good family dog.

2. How does the pet react to noise? A dog who doesn't react well to a child's shouts or the drop out of a large set of keys probably would not be best with children or in a bustling, noisy, urban area. Cats generally don't like sudden noises of any kind, so this test is not ideal for them.

3. What is the animal's body posture saying? If a dog's tail is consistently between its legs or if it crouches to the ground, the dog is probably fearful of people (in many cases, its past owners did not treat it well). A cat that crouches down and spits or hisses is also fearful. A family with children might be wise to pass over these pets. But a "shy" animal can be the most loyal and devoted of all pets.

4. How does the pet's eyes look? If a dog returns your glance with a hard, glazed stare, it indicates aggression and distrust. Avoid this dog unless you have extensive experience with animals and are willing to seek a professional trainer for your pet. Cat's eyes should be clear and bright. Any type of discharge may indicate a respiratory problem.

5. Don't necessarily disregard a handicapped cat. A cat with an "extra toe," two-colored or multi-colored eyes, and signs of earlier battle wounds can be a perfectly lovable house pet. A deaf cat (almost always white, with light blue eyes) also is a wonderfully responsive and lovable cat, in spite of the fact that it must live indoors all of its life and can't survive outdoors with moving cars and other life-threatening dangers.

6. Does the pet react to play? Does the dog or cat like to play with you? Does it like to be held? Does the cat purr? Is the animal responsive to everyone in the family? An early bad experience in life may make a pet more fearful of all males, females, or children, for instance.

7. What is the animal's overall condition. Is the pet's coat shiny and healthy? Are the teeth white and gums pink and firm? Is the weight right? Rely on the shelter staff's feedback and intuition. Spend at least 30 minutes with your favorite pet at the shelter. Ask shelter employees if you can go to a quiet place with the animal so you can see how it reacts outside the stressful shelter environment.

If a puppy whimpers and struggles when you hold it, it is probably never going to enjoy being held. Hold the puppy out at arm's length. It is also a good sign when the puppy doesn't appear fearful or attempt to struggle.

5. Check skin sensitivity. Some dogs are more sensitive to the pulls and tugs of children than others. When holding a puppy, play and feel gently between its toes. If a puppy tolerates this, it probably will be good with children.

6. Take the puppy to an empty room or quiet area. Put the puppy at one end of the room, then walk away. Clap your hands, and call to the puppy cheerfully. A happy, emotionally balanced, and outgoing pet will respond and come toward you.

Matching personalities between people and pets can't always be done by the book. Cats and dogs have personalities as varied as humans, and it takes time to get to know a pet. The previous tests are meant to be helpful to you in selecting a pet—not determinants of what you must have. With time and careful consideration, you can select the perfect lifelong companion.

Special Considerations for Choosing a Puppy

Many of the considerations are the same in choosing a puppy as in selecting an adult dog. One major difference is that a puppy generally hasn't formed any bad habits or had harmful experiences. It is critical that puppies and kittens be exposed early in life to human touch, warmth, and affection.

1. First, consult with shelter staff on the characteristics of various breeds. Some breeds are better suited to care with children than others, some are more protective than others, etc. A breed guide book can be a big help in determining which breeds or combinations of breeds would be best for you.

2. Locate the most active and dominant puppies in the litter as well as the submissive ones and the "runts." The smallest, meekest one would probably not be a good dog for families with children—but fine for a single or elderly person or a family with grown children.

3. Test assertiveness. Puppies who mouth and chew your hands are more assertive, as are male puppies.

4. Cradle and hold the puppy. Hold it on its back.

Know what size a puppy will be when it grows up or you may be in for a big surprise.

Pets "Chauffeured" to Surgery

Not every shelter has the luxury of having surgical facilities and a staff veterinarian to perform spaying and neutering procedures on adopted pets. The Baltimore City Health Department's Municipal Animal Shelter (301 Stockholm St., Baltimore, MD 21230) is one such agency; however, they have developed a sure-fire way to ensure that every adult and young adult pet is spayed or neutered before it reaches its new home.

After a new pet owner pays an adoption fee (which includes the cost of the surgery) and signs an adoption agreement, an appointment is made for the pet at a veterinary office of the pet owner's choice. At the beginning of the next day's morning shift (in most cases), an animal warden delivers the pet, along with a spay/neuter certificate, to the animal hospital and continues on his or her daily patrol. The happy new pet owner picks up the pet at the animal hospital—usually the same day. Spay/neuter certificates cost $15 plus $26 for a female cat or male dog, and $40 for a female dog.

The arrangement works out well for the pet owner and the pet because a client/veterinarian relationship is established right from the start. The shelter staff benefits because follow-up investigations, phone calls, and paperwork are limited only to enforcing spay/neuter agreements with those who adopt pets too young to spay or neuter. The Baltimore shelter adopts out between 350–400 animals each year. They say that a majority of these adoptions include the spay/neuter service they provide. The animal wardens are able to accommodate this number of animals without taking much time away from their regular duties.
Dog’s Actions Get Owner Convicted

Berkeley, California, man pleaded guilty to charges of assault with a deadly weapon last January for the actions of his dog.

On December 2, 1989, T.A. Johnson’s pit bull and another dog attacked one of his neighbors, causing minor injuries to her forearm. Johnson originally maintained that he intended to sic the animals on a nearby cat (which is a lesser offense), but that they went after the woman when she began to run.

He later admitted his guilt as the result of a plea bargain. Johnson had a prior criminal record and had already been issued several fines for the actions of the dog. The offense carries a minimum sentence of one year in prison, though Johnson was sentenced to a longer term due to an unrelated parole violation.

According to Kathie Flood, director of Berkeley’s Animal Care Services (the agency that handled the case along with the district attorney’s office), Johnson’s pit bull was euthanized in March after his lawyer, a public defender, convinced Johnson to sign over the animal. Flood’s agency had asked the district attorney for the case, a man was convicted of third-degree murder (involuntary manslaughter) when his chained pit bull mauled a two-year-old child to death.

New HSUS Regional Office Opens

The South Central Regional Office of The HSUS is now open and serving the states of Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Director Phillip Snyder and Secretary Angela McMillan are ready to assist the residents of these states with animal protection questions and problems.

Like the other eight regional offices, the South Central Office can provide information on legislation, education, and cruelty investigations and can provide support specific to the states listed above. If you live in one of these four states, this office should be your first contact with The HSUS.

The HSUS South Central Office may be reached at 109 Northshore Dr., Ste. 400, Knoxville, TN 37919, (615) 588-1845.

City Law Forbids Animal Shows

A landmark city ordinance passed last January in Hollywood, Florida, prohibits all animal shows and exhibitions—from roadside zoos to pet shows to pony rides—from being held on public property.

The rule states that “no vertebrate animals shall be displayed for public entertainment or amusement on property owned by the city or on city-owned property under lease, including but not limited to the exhibition of such animals in zoos, on farms, or during competitive races in arenas.”

Passed unanimously by the City Commission, the ordinance makes an exception for animals “displayed on public property for educational purposes,” provided they are cared for properly.

Passed March, the Hollywood City Commission passed another noteworthy piece of legislation. According to local animal advocate Jack Tanis, it was a resolution that “strongly encourages all practicing veterinarians and pet stores in the City of Hollywood to impel their clients or customers to have their cats and dogs sterilized.” Copies of the resolution were distributed to every veterinarian and pet store in the city.

Tanis, who was the architect of both the animal shows ordinance and the spay/neuter resolution, will send a copy of both pieces of legislation to those who request them. He’ll also include a primer on the do’s and don’ts of working for animal laws at the local level. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to him at 925 N. Northlake Dr., Hollywood, FL 33019-1112.

Roadside zoos like this one are no longer allowed on public land in Hollywood, Florida.

Model State Bill Protects Wild Birds

Billions of wild birds—many of which are endangered or threatened species—suffer injuries and death due to the cruel and inhumane methods of capture and transport involved in the international pet trade. To help eliminate this suffering, The HSUS has prepared model state legislation called the Wild Bird Protection Bill.

This comprehensive model state law promotes the conservation and welfare of wild birds by prohibiting their sale and/or importation. It also sets rules for the licensing of breeders and includes provisions for enforcement and civil actions against violators.

The bill does not apply to game birds or domestic fowl, and exempts certain captive-raised species. To improve chances of being passed into law, it also provides for a three-year importation grace period to allow licensed bird breeders to establish captive stocks.

The six-page document prepared by The HSUS features the text of the bill, a section-by-section summary of it, and comments on adapting parts of the bill to fit your state’s particular needs and politics.

If you or the organization you work for is involved in the state legislative arena and would like a copy of the model law, please send $1.50 to HSUS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Signs Protect Pets in Hot Weather

The Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies has durable metal signs available that warn drivers not to leave pets in parked cars. These 18" x 24" signs are perfect to post or for businesses to display in their windows. Humane groups could seek merchants to sponsor signs for display.

Signs are available for $15 each, which includes postage and handling, and may be ordered from Sally Krause, P.O. Box 508, Delavan, WI 53115.

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies. Allow four weeks for delivery.

Roadside zoos like this one are no longer allowed on public land in Hollywood, Florida.
In the Oakland SPCA’s TV spot, Toby reveals himself to be the father of the neighbor’s puppies.

land, CA 94621) is now available to humane societies and animal control agencies nationwide.

Created for the SPCA on a pro bono basis by award-winning San Francisco ad agency Goodby, Berlin & Silverstein, the attention-grabbing PSA focuses on the cultural bias against the neutering of male dogs. In the 30-second spot, called “Toby,” a couple discover that their male dog has gotten a neighbor’s dog pregnant. With drama and humor, the PSA urges viewers to “get their dogs fixed.”

Since December 1989, the popular “commercial” has received major exposure on television stations in the Bay Area, often in prime time slots.

The spot was directed by Jeff Goodby, a principal of the ad agency, and took approximately eight hours to film and three days to assemble. Six staffers from Goodby, Berlin & Silverstein wrote and coordinated the project over a two-month period. A crew of 19 advertising and film production professionals donated their services. For organizations that order a set of tapes to distribute to their local stations (at least three), tapes cost $12.75 each for 1” format and $20.25 each for 3/4” or 1/2” (for VHS) format.

Arrangements can also be made to have Goodby, Berlin & Silverstein “personalize” the spot for your group by adding a tag line to the PSA (such as the name of your group).

For more information or to order the tapes, write Carol Finkle, the SPCA’s director of special projects, at the address above or call (415) 569-2591.

In the Oakland SPCA’s TV spot, Toby reveals himself to be the father of the neighbor’s puppies.

1990 Shelter Sense Photo Contest Entry Form

See complete contest information and rules on page 4.

Please completely fill out a separate entry form for each photo entered.

Categories:
I. Going on in the Shelter
II. Working in the Community
III. Cruelty Investigations
IV. Seasonal

Category of Entry (I, II, III, or IV) ____________________________

Name of Photographer ____________________________

Organization ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Telephone number ____________________________

Date photo was taken ____________________________

Relevant information or comments about the photo: ____________________________

Remember to write the name and address of the photographer on a label and attach it to the back of each entry. Do not write directly on the photo.

Send all entries to:
Shelter Sense Photo Contest
5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100
Bethesda, MD 20814

All entries must be postmarked by August 31, 1990.

Photograph Release for Persons Appearing in Photos (Each person appearing in a photo must sign.)

I authorize The Humane Society of the United States to use and publish the photograph in which I appear.

I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product.

I am/am not over eighteen years of age and have read the above authorization and am fully familiar with its contents.

Dated ________________, 1990 ____________________________

Signature ____________________________

Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age ____________________________
Make Adoptions Last a Lifetime

By Phyllis Wright, HSUS Vice President, Companion Animals

I have stories involving surrenders of pets for frivolous reasons. One that sticks out in my mind was the lady who turned in her two cats because they no longer matched the furniture. But I heard a story of a surrender recently that makes an important point.

A few months ago, a purebred Samoyed was turned in to the Stray Haven Humane Society (P.O. Box 326, Waverly, NY 14892-0326). The dog had been purchased a year and a half before from a pet store, and when the owners relinquished the animal, they also turned over his purchase papers. The couple paid over $600 for the puppy, toys, and various care items. The owners also maintained a complete health record for the dog, showing up-to-date inoculations. Here was an animal belonging to owners who were willing to spend a lot of money to keep a pet and who obviously cared well for it. Yet when a baby was born into the family, the pet no longer worked out and was surrendered.

The point of this story is that monetary commitment is not enough to make a good pet owner. Besides being financially able and willing to care for an animal, adopters must be willing to make a lifetime commitment to him or her as well. Your agency’s adoption counselors can help adopters see two, five, and fifteen or more years down the road. Are changes in lifestyle or other circumstances going to affect their ability to keep a pet? If changes do come along, are they willing to work with the animal to adjust? With solid adoption policies in place and staff members who will help adopters foresee themselves as pet owners years into the future, more pets can be placed in forever homes.

To help your agency establish responsible adoption policies, we have available our recently revised “HSUS Guidelines for Responsible Pet Adoptions.” Write to The HSUS at 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037, and request a copy.