“KILL” VS NO-KILL
WILD HORSES
SKUNKS!
Personal PERSPECTIVES

FOND MEMORIES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

A

s my official duties as vice president for companion animals star

n fading down, I want to thank each of you for giving me the

most rewarding job anyone could have had. My 22 and a half years with HSUS have

brought more joy than sorrow, more success than loss, and the best people anyone could

ever hope to work for and with. You are a special breed, and I will always hold you in

my heart with love and concern.

Thanks.

It is also my pleasure to announce that you will be in “good hands” under the leadership of Marc S. Paulhus as the new HSUS vice president for companion animals.

Marc is no stranger to you or the problems you face in the field. He started in a local shelter in Florida and has been part of The HSUS since 1977. From 1977-83, he worked in our investigations department and in that capacity conducted hundreds of investigations concerning such activities as pari-mutuel racing, dogfighting and cockfighting, wildlife smuggling, performing animal acts, and ritual animal sacrifice. His field work resulted in the prosecution of numerous individuals on charges of animal cruelty. His testimony presented before legislative bodies led to the passage of many new state and federal laws protecting animals.

Since 1983, Marc has been the director of The HSUS’s Southeast Regional Office in Tallahassee, Florida. There, he and his staff have helped local animal shelters improve their community programs, and have provided numerous seminars and workshops to train humane agents and animal control officers.

For more than 17 years, Marc has explored a particular interest in the activities and beliefs of religious cults that engage in ritual animal sacrifice. He served as an expert witness in the first federal case to examine whether ritual sacrifice is protected under the U.S. Constitution. In Ernesto Pichardo versus The City of Hialeah, Florida, the U.S. District Court ruled, in September 1989, that animal sacrifice is not a protected religious freedom and government interests are free to enact laws prohibiting the activity.

Please join me in welcoming Marc to his new responsibilities. I look forward to seeing you in February at Animal Care Expo ’92.

Phyllis Wright, HSUS Vice President for Companion Animals

THE NO-KILL CONTROVERSY

By Rhonda Lucas Donald

You’ll find a good home for him, won’t you?

How many times does the shelter worker hear this in a day? A month? This question lies at the heart of struggles over animal overpopulation, adoptions, and euthanasia.

The person surrendering his or her pet to an animal shelter does not want to face the reality that the animal may be—in fact, most likely will be—euthanized. The task of the shelter that euthanizes animals is to educate this person on why euthanasia is a reality and a necessity. Problems arise not only when the public doesn’t want to know about the need for euthanasia, much less shoulder the blame, but when shelters that don’t euthanize stake their claim.

The conflict between “kill” and “no-kill” philosophies really boils down to who accepts the responsibility for having to destroy animals.

The No-Kill Philosophy

Some of the 60 or so no-kill facilities in the country are well run places. Many go to great lengths to provide comforts to the animals who live there and many promote spay/neuter to help solve the surplus animal problem. The Humane Society of Charlotte (PO. Box 221028, Charlotte, NC 28222), for example, operates the only low-cost spay/neuter facility in North Carolina.

Many no-kill shelters uphold strict adoption standards, carefully screen applicants and often requiring a waiting period before an animal can be picked up. However there are notable exceptions to this. Some very large no-kill facilities have extremely lax standards and will basically adopt an animal to anyone who pays the fee. But most of the arguments against no-kill shelters do not deal with the operations of the shelter. Rather, they deal with the philosophy behind the policy of not euthanizing animals and how that philosophy is perceived by the public.

Anna C. Briggs, who founded the National Humane Education Society and runs Peace Plantation, a no-kill shelter in Walton, New York, that houses 650 animals, expresses an all-too-familiar sentiment in her book, For the Love of Animals. “When I was told about this dog, I knew I had to hurry to save her, because the animal warden in Washington (DC) at that time, a Mr. King, would undoubtedly be on the scene. ‘If Mr. King got her first, she and her puppies would go to the pound. Then, within a few days, they would all almost certainly meet their death. It is this moral play of ‘they kill and we never do’ that galls most people who work in shelters that are forced to euthanize. Ken Childress, director of the Memphis Animal Shelter (3456 Tchulahoma Rd., Memphis, TN 38118), says no-kill shelters are just shelters that euthanize at risk.” He believes that no-kills compete with other shelters for funds, the pull of no-kill killing animals swaying many people. Additionally, he believes that their tactics undermine educational efforts. “We go into schools and talk about being responsible pet owners,” he says. “But all the kids can see is that we kill animals. The public doesn’t want to accept the reality, so the no-kill shelters become the good guys.”

Patti Lewis, president and founder of the Humane Society of Charlotte, a no-kill shelter, echoes Childress. “People don’t want animals killed. It’s hard to convince them why it has to be done.” She goes on to say that people “won’t support you if you do [euthanize].” With our group, “it’s what the community expects; it’s what our members want.” (However, hundreds of humane societies do have excellent support and understanding in their communities.)

But Lewis is quick to point out that they “would have no choice [but to euthanize] if it weren’t for the public shelter. I live in the real world,” she says. “The city shelter does it because it’s necessary.”

What About the Animals?

The other major point of contention between no-kill and kill shelters is what a no-kill policy means for
The animals. No-kill shelters are limited in the number of animals they can accept due to cage space, which all too often means they can’t accept all animals that come to them. Thus, many no-kills will only accept animals who are adoptable. As a report from the Michigan Animal Reptile and League points out, “The problem is not the lack of love, kindness, or caring for the animals. The problem is not the lack of a commitment by the animal owners to provide the animals with proper care and attention. The problem is the lack of a commitment by the animal owners to provide the animals with proper care and attention.”

The Humane Society of Charlotte, by charter, can’t accept strays, only owner-relinquished animals. Strays must go to the city shelter or continue their life on their own. Even shelters that do not give preferential treatment to adoptable or in-demand animals are forced to limit their services.

Phyllis Wright, HSUS vice president for companion animals, finds fault with this, saying that no-kill facilities are “being selectively humane. They’re helping 400 animals while 4,000 are left to roam around on their own.” By now, it is clear that animals “on their own” face inclement weather, hostile people or other animals, traffic accidents, sickness, or death.

The Humane Society of Charlotte, by charter, can’t accept strays, only owner-relinquished animals. Strays must go to the city shelter or continue their life on their own. Even limiting the pool of animals to surrendered pets leaves the society with long waiting lists of animals in need of new homes. The agency’s computer-adoption program can place many pets without their ever entering the shelter, but sometimes the wait for a spot at the shelter can last up to six months. But Lewis says people are willing to wait for that spot.

It’s the ones who aren’t willing to wait that concern Wright. “When people have to move or are just plain tired of their animals they will dump the pets if no one will take them,” she says.

Ken Childress found this to be true as well. He explains that when he ran the Kitsap Humane Society, which was not run with municipal funds, he decided to be very up-front with people surrendering animals and put the onus for euthanasia back on the pet owner.

“If our cages were full, we’d tell the owner we couldn’t accept the animal for adoption. They’d inevitably say, ‘So you’re going to destroy it?’ To which we’d answer, ‘No. We can’t accept the animal for adoption, but we aren’t going to kill it.’ We would then say that we would euthanize the animal for the owner if he or she paid for it, thus putting the responsibility squarely back on their shoulders. With few exceptions, the owner would pay the fee for us to euthanize the animal rather than wait or work out the problem.”

Childress believes that no-kill shelters provide an “out for the public to dump animals. No-kills say, ‘bring ‘em here, we won’t kill ‘em.’ It’s a dumping ground.”

Quality of Life

What happens to an animal down the road is the real issue for those who recognize the need for euthanasia. Phyllis Wright recalls a visit to a no-kill facility: “This place had 800 animals, and it was spotless. The cats lived in trailers with two rows of bunk beds lining the walls. They had air conditioning, climbing trees, toys, and good food. But when you walked in, they were all over you. I had cats attached to my legs and arms, on my shoulders and my head. I had scratch marks for a week after that but not from aggression. These cats were starved for human contact. That’s what breaks my heart about these places.”

Patti Lewis admits that she doesn’t like to see animals left at the shelter for a long time. Even though the society has numerous volunteers who give dogs to three walks a day and socialize with the cats, some animals languish.

“We had one dog stay here three years,” she says. “The society vets refer to animals who stay a long time as having ‘kennelosis.’ They don’t come up to people anymore. They become anti-social.”

“Shelters aren’t intended to meet the behavioral requirements of companion animals,” says Dr. Randall Lockwood, animal behaviorist and HSUS vice president for field services. “People will walk down the kennel aisles and say, ‘The animals all seem happy—they’re not nipping or waving away.’ The thing to remember is that happiness is not just the absence of pathology. An overwhelming need of dogs is social interaction,” he continues. “They need true companionship, not just a walk around the shelter. They need to be part of a family. Common sense and new research also show that cats are far more socialable than we’ve given them credit for.”

Lockwood explains what happens to an animal who is caged for a long time. “Sometimes animals are forced to the extremes of coping with such a low level of stimulation. Some get fat and habituated. They can’t do much to affect their world—they can’t investigate, can’t eat when they want. This has a numbing influence. They develop an attitude of ‘Why bother?’ Other animals grow overly fearful. Anything out of the ordinary is novel and scary to them. Other animals overreact when they do get stimulation by spinning or jumping uncontrollably in their cages or runs.”

It is the fact that animals need more than food, water, and shelter that makes euthanasia necessary in the current situation of pet overpopulation. “I don’t worry about one or two rodents who were put to sleep,” says Phyllis Wright. “I worry a great deal about dogs and cats who have to spend their lives shut in small cages or runs or left chained to the back porch day-in and day-out without affection or companionship. Being half-alive is more cruel than being dead.”

The Solution

Until there are no more unwanted, homeless animals, euthanasia will remain a necessity for most shelters, and the conflicts between those who kill and those who don’t will continue. Until that time, euthanasia doesn’t have to be a source of discord with the public. The key to getting people

Anyone who has seen cats in a

better knows they need, and

often actively seek out, human

companionship.
to understand the need for euthanasia is education combined with a strong spay/neuter program. If the public can see that your shelter is working as hard as possible to stop the killing by stopping animal births, it will support your programs.

Bob Hodges, president of the Greater Huntsville Humane Society (GHHS, 2812 Johnson Rd., Huntsville, AL 35805), relates his experience: "This organization used to hide euthanasia from the public. We did it, but we didn't talk about it. I wanted this to change, so we began addressing euthanasia, but we tied it in with our spay/neuter program. Once the public understood why we were euthanizing, they had more confidence in us."

"Our business has almost doubled. We've become the principal animal-care provider in this area, and I think it's because we've been open and provided good programs and information. People can handle euthanasia if you give them information they can understand." When dealing with the public, Kate Rindy, HSUS companion animals associate, has this advice: "One of the most difficult problems we face in this issue is that we end up trying to sell death over life. Convincing people that it is in the best interest of their animal to kill it is next to impossible in a society that condemns killing. Do we really expect people to accept that their animal is better off dead than alive? When they hear that we may, and, in fact, probably will, euthanize their animal, nothing else we say matters at that moment. It is very hard for a person to hear, much less understand, that by the time they don't want their pet anymore, no one else wants it, either."

"The best hope we have for solving pet overpopulation lies in reaching people before there is a problem—before they turn their animal in, before they have difficulties with their pet, and in many cases, before they actually get a pet in the first place. Once an animal comes into the shelter, it is our problem and our responsibility."

Whether a shelter euthanizes animals or not, its first priority should be to guarantee that every animal leaving its doors is sterilized and goes to a responsible home. If a shelter is not doing everything in its power to end pet overpopulation, it is contributing to the problem and fanning the flames of the no-kill controversy.

Until no more unwanted animals are born, euthanasia will remain a necessity.
WHAT TO DO

When A Skunk Comes Calling

By Gary R. Hodge, HSUS Director, Data and Information Services

I often receive questions from homeowners about ridding their outbuildings or homes of skunks. And I'm sure many of you in animal protection get similar calls. I've found several methods of deterring skunks that have proven successful and that can help you satisfy the homeowners and leave the skunks unharmed.

Often, people find evidence of skunks in their chicken coops and fear that skunks will harm these animals. Although skunks are omnivorous, it is uncommon for them to eat adult chickens. Their predatory activity is usually directed at preventing damage rather than destroying the animals.

The only lasting solution against a skunk's periodic raids on the chicken coop is to seal him or her out. A skunk is a poor climber and usually enters a coop through an opening at or near ground level. Blocking any possible entrances to the coop should keep skunks out. A sturdy fence, constructed of welded wire and maintained in good repair, is essential to skunk proofing.

If a skunk enters a coop despite fencing, he or she may be sneaking through a gap around the coop door. Rehanging the door or placing a wood block beneath it should solve this problem. A skunk can also gain access to a coop by tunneling under the fence. To prevent this, sink the fence about 12 inches into the ground. The bottom of the fence should be angled outward in an L shape. If the skunk attempts to tunnel, the animal will discover a barrier beneath his or her feet as well as in front.

Urge homeowners to control skunks by discouraging them from setting up housekeeping near the home. Skunks will den in abandoned woodchuck holes, and prefer denning on sunny slopes. A den usually will have several well-concealed openings. Around homes, a skunk will create a burrow by enlarging existing holes in crawl space beneath buildings and under wood piles, stone walls, sheds, concrete slabs, or porches.

Given the range of a skunk, the den should be located no more than a quarter to one-half mile away from the home. Because skunks are nocturnal, advise the homeowner to watch the animal's movements around the house at night to find clues to the den's whereabouts. Once the animal leaves the den in the evening, homeowners can block the site with boards or screening.

In sealing a skunk out of a den, urge people not to separate a nursing skunk from her infants. In most regions of the United States, litters are born around mid-August. The young skunks are helpless and will die if separated from their mother. For this reason, evictions should not take place between early May and mid-August.

If someone is adamant about evicting a skunk during the summer, he or she can attempt to harass the animal into abandoning her den by repeatedly covering the denning hole with loose dirt. A skunk will easily dig her way out of the hole at night. But if the hole is refilled each day, the skunk should soon tire of the hassle and depart. A nursing skunk will carry her young to another den site. Since skunks prefer dark, quiet sites for dens, portable radios and flashlights can also be used to create an inhospitable environment.

Despite the fact that skunks seem unaffected by the smell of their pungent spray, there are odors they do find offensive. Many feed stores...
and garden centers stock commercial animal repellents that are safe for skunk control. The homeowner should purchase only a repellent specifically labeled for use against skunks. In addition, a good homemade repellent consists of unwashed socks stuffed into the skunk’s den. The human scent will cause the skunk to seek a safer den.

If a homeowner is adamant about removing a skunk, but all other methods fail, you can capture a skunk unharmed in a cage trap and transport the animal to another site for release. A skunk is placid by nature, and, if handled properly, is unlikely to spray its captor. Since skunks are classified as game animals in many states, check with a wildlife agency before performing the drive to the release site.

The tricky part comes once the skunk has been captured. If no one is at home to tend the trap, the trap should be checked early in the morning. Close the door of an empty trap during the day or whenever it is exposed to view. Set the trap on the ground in an area near their homes or outbuildings. This way, people and skunks can safely coexist.

The same can be true for other animals often considered “nuisances.” For more information on controlling skunks and many other wild animals, order a copy of The HSUS’s Pocket Guide to the Human Control of Wildlife in Cities and Towns. The guide is available for $4.00 per single copy, $3.25 each for 50-99 copies, and $2.25 each for 100 or more. Order from The HSUS, 2100 F St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS GALORE AT ANIMAL CARE EXPO ’92

The time for The HSUS’s Animal Care Expo ’92 (February 2-5, 1992, in Las Vegas, NV) is drawing closer. And as the date approaches, the agenda for the numerous educational workshops is firming up, promising to bring the most up-to-date and useful information to conference-goers. The Expo can truly be a learning vacation for animal care professionals, with the many amenities Las Vegas has to offer and the many workshops and exhibits planned to meet your needs.

Workshops will be offered under eight broad headings—animal health/veterinary care, animal handling, shelter design, shelter operations, personnel services, community service, pet overpopulation, and miscellaneous concerns. Here’s just a sampling of some of the approximately 40 workshops that will be offered:

- Vaccines—Old and New
- Diagnostic Tests for Shelter Use
- Animal Identification—High Tech and Low
- Temperament Testing in the Shelter: Is it Worth It?
- Overview of Humane and Efficient Shelter Design
- Specific Declawers Can (and Can’t) Do for You
- “Greening” Your Shelter
- Dealing with Stress and Burnout
- Humane Education: What’s Out There For You?
- Animal QuACKers: Pet Products that Don’t Work
- The Kill/No-kill Controversy
- Legislating Responsible Pet Ownership
- Dealing with Feral Cats

When you’re not attending a workshop, you’ll find plenty to do and do with over 75 exhibitors in attendance. So remember to sign up early (before December 15, 1991) to save $7 off the registration fee. For more information about Animal Care Expo ’92, write P.O. Box 3304, Crestline, CA 92325, or call (800) 248-EXPO (national) or (714) 358-1192 (international).

A LITTLE “COSHOPERATION” GOES A LONG WAY

The Licking County Humane Society (P.O. Box 933, Newark, OH 43058-0933) is one of several humane groups in parts of Ohio and West Virginia that know the value of “COSHoperation.” That’s the name of a unique fundraising program run through participating Kroger supermarkets—a program that, since 1986, has provided several hundred thousand dollars to participating schools, churches, and nonprofits.

Through the Coshoperation program, nonprofit groups are given three consecutive days on which members of their community can shop at designated Kroger stores to raise money for the organization. All the nonprofit has to do is distribute CoShopper I.D. cards to people before the designated shopping days and ask them to shop on those days. When making purchases, the shoppers simply turn in their I.D. cards to the cashier. At the end of the three-day period, Kroger tabulates the total sales from those purchases and donates two to five percent of the sales to the group.

Coshoperation is open to groups of all sizes and is available only through 94 Kroger stores in the Columbus, Toledo, and Wheeling/Steubenville areas. For more information, call Kroger Gift Services at (614) 294-7767 or (800) 837-4483.

KIDS SPEAK OUT FOR ANIMALS ON RADIO

Never leave your pet in a car or truck—it could fry its brain.”

That’s what elementary student Thomas Teal said when asked to...
**GUIDE FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS AVAILABLE**

**Do you sometimes wish you had more humane education materials for older children, but don't have the time to develop them yourself?** The National Association for Human and Environmental Education (NAHEE), the HSUS's youth education division, can help.

NAHEE has published the HSUS Student Action Guide, an eight-page, newspaper-style manual for students in grades seven through twelve. The guide is designed to assist young people who want to form an Earth/animal protection club in their school or community. It contains step-by-step instructions for forming a club, holding meetings, targeting issues, and planning activities. The guide also provides numerous ideas and resources for club projects, and suggests activities such as helping a local animal shelter clean its facility or promote a spay/neuter or adoption campaign.

Perfect for handing out to students who visit your shelter or participate in your classroom programs, *be HSUS Student Action Guide* can also be used to help students form a junior chapter of your own organization.

Copies of the guide are available at no charge from The HSUS, Youth Education Division, 67 Salem Rd., East Haddam, CT 06423.

**NEW BOOK EXAMINES RELIGION AND ANIMALS**

God gave man dominion over animals, so I'll do what I please with mine... How many times have you heard that comment or something similar from a pet owner or farmer? Wouldn't it be nice to be able to show people that “dominion” doesn't mean subjugation and exploitation, but stewardship? That the Bible and, in fact, the teachings of all the major religions, advocate, and indeed require, kindness to animals and reverence for the Earth? *Replenish the Earth*, written by Lewis G. Regenstein, director of the Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature (ICPAN), an affiliate of The HSUS, examines the teachings of the world’s major religions on the treatment of animals and the environment. The conclusion the reader draws after reading the carefully documented words of the Bible, other holy texts, and religious leaders is that in nearly every case, the messages of care and kindness to animals and conservation of the Earth have fallen by the wayside of religious practice. The good news is that many of the world’s religions are now coming back to these basic principles, and renewing efforts to emphasize the role of people as protectors and caretakers of Creation.

*Replenish the Earth* is a book that you will refer to many times. A wonderful way to reach out to the clergy and religious leaders in your area would be to give a copy of the book to them with a request that they consider addressing the issue and/or doing a sermon on the topic for their congregations. You can offer your agency as a resource for parishioners who may want to help or find out more information.

Copies of *Replenish the Earth* are available to Shelter Sense readers for $10.1/3 off the retail price of $14.95. Please send $10 plus $3 postage and handling per copy to ICPAN, 4290 Raintree Lane, NW, Atlanta, GA 30327. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

**MUSIC FOR THE ANIMALS**

Singer/songwriter Tish Munton has written and recorded two songs about animals and nature that would make nice additions to humane and environmental education programs. The songs are in a light folk/new age style and are appropriate for children as well as adults. One song, *Help Save the Animals*, tells listeners that “People
and creatures, no matter how small, need kindness wherever they roam." The other song, You Can Listen If You Want To, implores listeners to respect nature, saying, "This land is not just ours, it belongs to everything."

Copies of both songs are available on one cassette for only $3.00. Included with the cassette is a lyric sheet so listeners can follow along with the words. Order cassettes from Tish Munton, Box 508, New Castle, NH 03854.

NEW BOOK FROM CAT EXPERTS

Gathering the expertise of veterinarians at the Cornell Feline Health Center, The Cornell Book of Cats contains the latest medical thinking on cat care. Edited by pet expert Mordael Siegel, the book is fully illustrated and covers feline behavior, nutrition, anatomy, geriatrics, sickness, and medical emergencies. Particularly helpful are the sections covering cats' body systems and disorders that can occur. A lengthy glossary familiarizes the reader with many of the terms mentioned in the book. As the full title states, The Cornell Book of Cats is a "comprehensive medical reference for every cat and kitten" (and their owners, too).

Copies of this 608-page book cost $30.00 and are available from the Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY 14853.

CLOTHING FOR SHELTER STAFF

Veterinary Apparel Company (VAC) offers a full line of clothing and accessories for veterinary practices and animal shelters. Available through a 40-page mail-order catalog, the items include a wide variety of smocks, lab coats, jackets, shirts, and pants.

Of particular interest to shelters are shirts available with a choice of five embroidered designs suitable for shelter staff. VAC can also custom embroider society logos and lettering on most garments.

For a copy of the catalog, write VAC at PO Box 1444, Battle Creek, MI 49016, or call (616) 963-7810 (in MI) or (800) 922-1456 (outside MI).

PRE-PACKAGED CHRISTMAS CARDS CAN BRING IN EXTRA FUNDS

A small Florida company can provide humane societies with an easy fundraiser this Christmas season.

The company, Creative Art Services, will provide humane groups with gift-packaged holiday greeting cards for sale to the public. The cards feature puppy and kitten designs, and the back of each one says, "Produced exclusively for your local humane society."

For price information and other details, contact Joe Reese at Creative Art Services, 1725 C. R. 951, Suite 103, Naples, FL 33990; (813) 535-3008.

When School Starts, Who Will Protect Your Pet?

School days are here, and your pet is going to miss the way you played together during the summer. He or she might even try to follow you to school. If your cat or dog tries to follow you and becomes lost, will your local animal control officer know how to reach you?

Do your best to make sure your pet doesn’t follow you to school. But if your pet does somehow get away, make sure he or she has on a collar, identification tag (name, address, telephone number), and a license tag. Make sure a parent or responsible friend takes your dog for a walk on a leash. Don’t let your pet run loose without supervision. Without these safeguards, you may lose your pet forever.

If you find a stray animal, check for an ID tag, or call your local animal shelter or humane society.

Your animal control officer cares about your pet. Show that you care, too, by protecting your pet from getting lost. That way, your cat or dog will be waiting for you at home when the school bell rings.

(This space for your organization’s name and phone number.)

Provided by The Humane Society of the United States.
What's in the picture?

Go ahead. Test yourself. What's in the picture?

A) a proven fund-raiser
B) a great public relations tool
C) an education program that goes into the home
D) all of the above

If you answered "D," then you've got the picture! You know that KIND News, with its focus on kids and kindness, appeals to business and civic funding sources that might not otherwise contribute to shelter projects. You know that the Adopt-A-Teacher program, which puts KIND News into classrooms, makes people feel good about your organization. It goes to work for you, improving your image—and your funding base. And you know that KIND News has kid appeal, which means it goes home with students to tell young and old alike about responsible treatment of animals. You can put KIND News in the picture for your organization. Send for information on how to make the Adopt-A-Teacher program work for you at no cost to your organization! Write Adopt-A-Teacher, HSUS Youth Education Division, 67 Salem Road, East Haddam, CT 06423. Get the picture?