For the people who care about community animal control

OCTOBER 1992

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Personal PERSPECTIVES

PHYLLIS LED, SHARED, AND INSPIRED

PHYLLIS WRIGHT DIED OCTOBER 3 after a long and valiant struggle against cancer.

For more than two decades, Phyllis was our ambassador to the animal sheltering and control community. She began her work with HSUS at the right time and was unquestionably the right person for the job. Through the years, Phyllis shared her wit and wisdom with thousands of dedicated men and women striving to improve the lives of animals in their communities. She was a leader who provided answers as well as direction, values as well as strategies.

In 1978, she founded the Animal Control Academy to offer comprehensive, basic training for shelter workers and animal control officers. Today, many of the Academy’s graduates are themselves leaders in the field. Phyllis also created Shelter Sense to help spread good ideas from one city or county to hundreds of others across America. Indeed, Phyllis was not only a leader but a facilitator, a professional who believed that The HSUS’s vision of community animal protection could best be achieved through training, networking, and sharing of information between organizations.

We live in a cynical time. More often than not our heroes fall from their pedestals when we begin to see them as they really are—striped of their carefully crafted images and clever sound bites. Phyllis was different. She was never above us or apart from us, but always among us. She had experiences not unlike those we all share, and she led more by example and consensus than by edict. We loved her most because she wasn’t perfect; she was real. We playfully delighted in the knowledge that Wright could be wrong (though infrequently so). And in those moments, Phyllis could laugh at herself.

She is gone from us now, but in a larger sense she still remains. We are much better people, many of us, for having fallen under her influence. Such a thing cannot be said for many we have known. And, in each of us who continue her work, our work, the memory of Phyllis will linger and her legacy will grow.

WRIGHT LEGACY IS TO ENCOURAGE US TO GROW

By Susan Bury Stauffer, First Editor of Shelter Sense

After a long bout with cancer, Phyllis Wright died October 3 at age 65. Shelter Sense readers will remember her as the creator of this publication and as HSUS’s chief animal sheltering and control specialist for two decades.

But many readers will remember Phyllis in much more personal ways. If she testified before your city council about animal issues, you will think of her no-nonsense attitude and dedication to the welfare of animals. If you attended one of Phyllis’ training sessions, you will remember how important it was to her that you got the training you needed to be a professional.

Hypo called Phyllis in frustration because your proposed ordinance failed to pass. She asked you simply could not euthanize one more animal, she was the comforting voice on the end of the telephone— the person who accepted your pain and inspired you to keep going. She was a mentor to hundreds of people, but she made each of us feel as though we were her special friend.

In Phyllis’ early career, she trained military dogs and then owned a boarding kennel. She managed the Washington (D.C.) Animal Rescue League and served as a board member of the nonprofit D.C. Tail Waggers Animal Clinic. In Maryland, Phyllis served as Prince George’s County Animal Control Commissioner for seven years and helped found the Montgomery County Humane Society. Joining HSUS in 1969, Phyllis became the organization’s chief liaison with animal shelters in 1975. In 1983, she was named vice president for companion animals.

Once Phyllis arrived on the national scene, she never stopped moving. She traveled throughout the country, sometimes making three to four trips in a month, to testify before state and local legislatures, speak at professional meetings, inspect animal shelters, or train shelter staff.

Phyllis was confronted with a broad spectrum of performance in animal sheltering and control, from programs that were national models to rural “pounds” that could only be called “pits.” Phyllis was equipped to step in at every level, from the most sophisticated legislative program to the basics of sanitation. Officials who dragged their heels were in for sharp rebukes—but they often ended up among her admirers.

Phyllis was instrumental in the nationwide trend to improve euthanasia methods, while working diligently on spay/neuter programs to stop the need for euthanasia. She had long wanted to start a professional newsletter—to encourage and inform the hard-working people she cared so much about—and called the 1978 launch of Shelter Sense “dream come true.” She founded HSUS’s Animal Control Academy and in countless other ways increased the professionalism of our field.

Many of us feel a profound loss at Phyllis’ passing. However, there is something we can do for her—and that is to keep working for animals and to all our profession to develop in new, productive directions. Above all, Phyllis wanted us to grow.

Donations from individuals and organizations in memory of Phyllis Wright can be made to The HSUS Animal Control Academy Scholarship Fund, established in Phyllis’ honor upon her retirement in 1991. The Fund helps continue Phyllis’ work in preparing and training professional personnel to protect and care for animals. Please make check payable to The HSUS Animal Control Academy Scholarship Fund, and send to The Animal Control Academy, 5126-A McFarland Blvd., East, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405.

On The Cover: During the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, a man hugs his dog in the back of an Army truck while awaiting emergency veterinary care. The dog was injured in a dog attack. See article, page 4.
By Laura Bevan, Director, HSUS Southeast Regional Office

When Hurricane Andrew smashed through Dade County, Florida, in the early morning hours of August 24, it altered forever the lives of every creature in its path, human and animal alike. The devastation was unbelievable and the losses incalculable. The HSUS quickly joined local groups and citizens in providing hands-on assistance to animals in distress. But the need for comprehensive pre-disaster plans was evident throughout the ordeal.

The day before the disaster, South Carolina mobilized for Andrew’s anticipated arrival. People flung closed highways with their pets. Some arrived at evacuation shelters only to be told the sad truth that animals, no matter how small or how cherished, were not allowed inside. Others chose to ride out the storm in their homes. No one, however, was prepared for the extent of Andy’s fury.

The number of animals killed in the chaos is immemorial. As buildings were torn to shreds by gusts of wind up to 225 miles per hour, homes bolted from stables, dogs and cats flung in terror from their homes, and thousands of exotic animals—such as primates, boa constrictors, and birds—escaped from zoos, import stations, and private collector facilities. Miami Metro Zoo was practically destroyed; over two thousand primates were running at large from numerous facilities. Thousands of dogs and cats roamed neighborhoods lost, injured, and hungry. Hundreds of dead and injured horses could be seen scattered across the rural countryside near the City of Homestead, the hardest-hit area.

Joe Torregrossa of the South Florida SPCA, the first to contact the HSUS Southeast Regional Office, said Sue McLauchlin of South Carolina, who spent over a month helping animals in the disaster area.

“People would bring one lost animal to the compound and then file out a lost-pet report on their own dog or cat.” Around-the-clock emergency veterinary care was provided to another estimated 1,000 dogs and cats, whose injuries were primarily the result of car accidents or attacks by loose dogs, since fences had become almost nonexistent.

Numerous reports came in from pet owners who contributed to disaster relief efforts for pets after Andrew would be impossible. Many exceptional individuals gave up the comfort of their homes to devote 15 hours a day in South Florida’s heat and humidity, living in tents and trailers, eating food provided by the Army, and dreaming of showers and toilets that worked. Agencies and individuals across the nation must also be commended for organizing donation drives and contributing their time and money to help the needy animals. These volunteers are the unsung heroes of the post-and even afterward.

The happy reunions and sad tales of the animal victims of Hurricane Andrew abound. Here are lessons for each of us. Before the next disaster strikes, detailed plans must be made on national, state, and local levels. Every individual animal shelter should think about and plan exactly what they will do in their area or a neighboring one in the event of an emergency. State humane and animal agencies should assist communities work with humane emergency preparedness organizations to become part of their network. Animal care and control agencies should take advantage of the 20-20 hindsight of Hurricane Andrew to ensure that, if and when a disaster strikes, the chaotic aftermath of Andrew will not be repeated.

In light of the house wreathed by Hurricane Andrew, The HSUS has added another Pre-Expo seminar to Animal Care Expo ’93. The seminar, on disaster plan- ning, will be conducted the day of March 17. See page 14 for details.

SHELTERS AND SENIORS: MAKING THE PERFECT MATCH

By Jill Shepherd

Scientists and psychologists are finally proving what pet owners have known for ages—pets enhance the quality of life. Not only is research on the way to showing the psychological benefits of the human-animal relationship, but also studies have shown that petting a companion animal actually lowers blood pressure, reduces the heart rate, and may increase length of life! (See sidebar on pages 6-7.)

“A pet can provide a boundless measure of love, adoration, and unqualified approval,” says well-known clinical psychologist Boris Levinson. “Many elderly and lonely individuals have discovered that pets satisfy their needs and enable them to hold on to the world of reality, of care, of human touch and sacrifice, and of intense emotional relationships. Their self-concept as worthwhile individuals is restored and even enhanced when they find that the pet they have been caring for loves them in return. Companion animals satisfy the needs of the lonely, the depressed, and the ill. Pets can restore order to life and provide a sense of well-being and a firm grasp of reality. The potential for benefits from companion animals seems greatest, then, for senior citizens, for whom the bond with animal companions can have the strongest and most profound effects.

The Ideal Adopter

Not only are pets good for seniors, seniors are good for pets—out for shelters. Senior citizens, as a whole, embody the characteristics and attitudes the adoption counselor looks for in every potential adopter.

With the retirement years comes a more flexible lifestyle, more time, and often more financial stability, all of which are prime advantages for companion animal ownership. Senior citizens who are retired and settled down and ready to relax and enjoy leisure time, and also those who are homebound because of their health, are often in the perfect position to adopt a comforting cat or a devoted dog.

In addition, senior citizens, who have a lifetime of experience and the wisdom of the years, are as a class extremely receptive to the humane ethic. If, during their lifetime, they have owned pets, they already understand the needs of companion animals and are less likely to give an animal up because of unforeseen difficulties.

Finally, at a practical level, seniors can be financially beneficial to the shelter. Encouraging seniors to adopt and support the shelter’s efforts will increase the likelihood of their remembering the shelter in their wills and bequests.

Cultivating the support of the senior members of the community—through pleasant adoption experiences and other avenues—can translate into long-term organizational stability and success.

Fulfilling a Need

Seniors are also prime candidates for adopting older animals. Because the personalities of older animals are easier to assess, adoption counselors can make a match that will ensure a life-long friendship. Puppies or kittens, for obvious reasons, are less likely to be compatible with seniors who are less energetic or physically handicapped.

Seniors who qualify for adoption are the precious and wondrous folk for whom an older pet is often the perfect mate. Marc Paolusi, vice president of companion animals for The HSUS, explains, “Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets. They tend to be attentive and unhurried and can lavish their affections on those animals who need it most.”

That’s why animal shelters should seek...
“Senior citizens, more than any other segment of our population, understand the needs of older pets,” says Marc Paulhus. “They can lavish their affections on those animals who need it most.”

Promoting Adoptions to Seniors

The best way to reach seniors, as with everyone, is to think about what they like to do and where they like to gather. Following are some suggestions for where to start.

- Senior citizen’s centers. Almost every town has a special organization for senior citizens. Shelters can advertise in their community newsletters, post notices on their bulletin boards, and find out how to schedule a pet care class in their program.
- Retirement communities. Privately owned residential areas for seniors who are not bedridden are a great place to promote shelter services, and even hold pet-care classes and similar events. And, because of the close-knit community nature of many of these facilities, one senior adopter or volunteer can culture many others.
- Apartment complexes. Once several seniors have become friends of the shelter, they can be used as a network to find other potential senior adopters or volunteers. Notices can be placed in lobbies and on bulletin boards at residential areas that house seniors about classes and events the shelter has scheduled. Informational flyers about volunteer opportunities can also be posted.
- Church groups. Every local church is a likely place to find senior citizen clubs and activity groups. Check with the organizers to arrange pet care workshops and services and tack a list of volunteer opportunities on their activity bulletin boards.

The Ralston Purina Company is helping many shelters encourage adoptions of pets over six months of age who are not bedridden are a great place to promote shelter services, and even hold pet-care classes and similar events. And, because of the close-knit community nature of many of these facilities, one senior adopter or volunteer can culture many others.

The Head Proves What The Heart Knows: Animals Are Good For People

Pet owners have known for ages that pets improve the quality of life and make life more enjoyable. As often happens these days, though, scientists are beginning to prove what we, as pet owners and companion animal caretakers, have always known. Studies and clinical experiments are showing that pets can provide both physical and emotional support to human beings.

Researchers in Australia, for instance, have found that pet owners have stronger heartbeats and lower blood pressure—both in humans and in animals. And, furthermore, according to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, “pet companionship has the capacity to reduce the frequency of serious disease and prolong life.”

Besides the physical benefits of owning a pet, psychologists and gerontologists are finding that, whether it can be explained scientifically or not, pets have a significant effect on the mental and psychological well-being of the owners.

Among the plethora of enrichments a pet can provide the human psyche are the following:

- A focus of measurable daily activity—a reason to get up in the morning and go to bed at night.
- Companion animals, because they are so schedule-oriented, serve as “clocks” to provide a sense of order and responsibility.
- Being needed and wanted. Someone to touch and be touched. Proven countless times scientifically and psychologically, the sense of touch is a profound effect on mental and emotional well-being.
- A reason to look outward, instead of inward. As anyone who spends time with animals knows, the entertainment value of watching and playing with companion animals cannot be understated. For the elderly who are isolated and somewhat introverted, animals help take the focus off the self for a while, which produces a sense of relaxation and happiness. Animals also help restore the sense of humor.
- Encouragement to communicate

The shelter can promote adoptions to seniors by providing

• Responsibility and a sense of control. A companion animal, who is totally dependent on his or her owner for survival, gives the owner a sense of control over his or her environment.
• Someone to touch and be touched. Proven countless times scientifically and psychologically, the sense of touch is a profound effect on mental and emotional well-being.
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• Encouragement to communicate

These benefits are the perfect prescription for the ailing, the isolated, the lonely—people who feel the world has left them behind. Obviously, elderly persons who live on their own and are responsible and willing to care for a pet could benefit most profoundly from the companionship, responsibility, activity, exercise, health, and touching relationship that companion animals provide and promote.
The lifestyle of many retirees is well suited to companion animal ownership. Shelter staff should coach seniors on how to find the right pet for their goals and situation.

Barbara Roland, Office Manager of the Paladusky County Humane Society (14600 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock, AR 72101), another participant in the PPP program, says, “It’s a very helpful program, and the return on these adoptions has been minimal. After that initial hesitation is over, the adopters have found how valuable, their new relationship has become.”

Ralsdon Purina, unfortunately, is not accepting applications from shelters at this time. But, the company has loaned Purina Company, Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 60164, to encourage funding for this important program.

A Grant Program for Companion Animal Outreach

For shelters that would like financial assistance to expand their senior citizen outreach, a potential source of funds for shelters is Jeff’s Companion Animal Shelter (1128 Main Road, Westport, MA 02790), founded in 1990. Founders Betsey Douglas McDonald and Bill Connolly opened their “prototype” shelter with the goal of promoting knowledge about senior citizens and pets and set up an adoption service specifically for senior citizens.

Besides education, the objective of Jeff’s Companion Animal Shelter, funded entirely by private donations, is to seek out senior individuals or couples living in the community and provide them with a companion animal. The shelter houses a small number of animals who are carefully selected from other local shelters and rescue groups, inoculated, screened for health and behavior problems, and housebroken by Macdonald and Connolly. “They live like pets already,” said Macdonald, “with free roam of the shelter and lots of affection from us.”

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corporation, the developer of several drugs for treating Alzheimer’s, donated $100,000 to Jeff’s Shelter, to be used as a “grant-in-aid” to help other shelters that wish to emulate Jeff’s Companion Animal Shelter’s outreach program. Sandoz sponsors over 35,000 medical education programs per year to increase knowledge of the positive aspects of aging. They created a film, “There Were Times, Dear,” which highlighted the companionship of a dog and raised enough funds to commission Macdonald to create a coloring book, “Helping Grandma.”

Over a two-year period of time, Macdonald traveled with Connolly and his dog Jeff to classrooms, nursing homes, and day care centers to promote the book and educate about the needs of seniors.

To apply for a $100 to $1,000 grant from Jeff’s Companion Animal Shelter, shelters can call (508) 636-2929 to request an application. The application asks shelters to provide information on their plans, including objectives, methodologies, follow-up, and evaluations to be utilized to demonstrate the positive effects of placement with senior citizens.

The Adoption Process: Special Considerations

Choosing the right pet for a senior citizen is just as crucial as it is for younger adults. Senior citizens, especially those who have recently retired, may relish the opportunity to travel, which means not committing to pet ownership. But others who are active but wish to stay at home are more suited to adopting an animal.

“Shelters should help seniors project, just as anyone considering adoption, what they want to achieve in their lives and whether or not a pet will fit in to this scheme,” says Paulhus. “If their goals seem incompatible with, say, dog ownership, they may opt for a cat, who does not require outdoor exercise. If they are uncertain about moving or long-term commitment, they may want to find some other way to satisfy their longing for companion animal interaction, such as volunteering for the shelter.”

The adoption counselor who is evaluating a potential 75-year-old adopter should consider two factors: the age-related needs and lifespan of the pet. “For a person this advanced in years to adopt a boisterous young pup,” says Paulhus, “they must consider not only the amount of energy and time they will need to expend on training and exercise, but also the number of years they will need to commit to the animal. When they are 85 years old, are they still going to be able and willing to care for and walk the dog? They also must consider, as unpleasant as it may be, who will care for the pet when they no longer can.”

(See sidebar on pages 11-12.)

The pets that seniors adopt should also reflect as well as physical and psychological realities. “Stress that a dog typically involves greater lifestyle expenses than a cat, a cat more than a hamster, a hamster more than a fish,” explains Paulhus. “A pet can potentially cost an extraordinary amount of money, and seniors especially should take note of this fact.” Shelter managers must be careful to point out that if one or two pets are good, ten is not better.

The Appeal of Part-Time Companion-ship

Senior citizens who have evaluated their lifestyle and decided they want to maintain a flexible schedule but would still like to share some time with animals can have it both ways by volunteering. “The options are: availability for seniors to provide humane education; adoption counseling; composing newsletters for seniors or for all members; organizing fundraisers; running thrift and supply shops; or simply spending time with the animals, petting cats, and walking shelter dogs.”

Dog walking alone provides the interaction, exercise, and mutual satisfaction that pet ownership provides—without the commitment.

Volunteering will not only benefit the volunteers by giving them purposeful projects and companion animal contact, it also will open doors for the shelter. Caring for a pet inspires other seniors to volunteer. For seniors who simply want to have companion animals probably don’t need to be convinced, like too many young pet owners today, that pet ownership is a rewarding sacrifice—many forsake their own meals to buy pet food. They merely need a little boost to maintain a balance between fulfilling their needs and their pet’s needs.

Progressive shelters across the nation have developed programs to make it possible for these special people to experience the benefits, but not all of the worries, of having a pet.

“SHAREing the Load”

“Jeff was a five-year-old Boxer, down on his luck. He’d been found in an abandoned house and returned to the shelter, where he seemed to have lost a chair. He had no food or water and was emaciated. Humane officers had rescued him and he had spent the next two months living in a cage at the animal shelter and various foster homes. His exceedingly calm and trusting nature belied a past of abuse and uncertainty; he seemed to need more than anything to want to be loved and to please.

“He was an 85-year-old widow, homebound and living on a fixed income. She had no family to speak of. Her most recent loss—her 12-year-old Boxer—left her completely alone. “Alice had owned Boxers all her life and felt a deep connection with her dogs; they gave her strength and companionship throughout her many years. But she felt she was getting too old to start over again. What would life be like without one?”

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This story was told in a newsletter for the volunteers of the Marin Humane Society. Fortunately, thanks to their award-winning SHARE (Special Human-Animal RElations) program, this story had a happy ending, and the shelter was able to make two half lives whole again.

SHARE—a Special Human-Animal RElations—was founded in 1989. SHARE—under the umbrella of SHARE and the International Model Program Award from the Delta Society (P. O. Box 1080, Renton, WA 98057-1080), an organization that provides workshops and training on the subject of the human-animal bond. The program, begun in 1988 and funded by a group called Eric's Friends, named in honor of an eight-year-old killed in an accident, raised $20,000 in its first year. Under the umbrella of SHARE, several different services are provided by volunteers to help encourage senior citizens enjoy companionship with animals.

Adoption for people over 65 is simplified by a waived adoption fee; free show, spay/neuter, and follow-up care; free starter kit of basic pet supplies and information; free membership for one year to the humane society; a 10% discount at the humane society pet supply store; and a free reduced dog license fee.

"The Meals on Wheels service is one of the parts of the program that can take care of itself most of the time, as far as finances," says Darlene Mosiman, chair coordinator. The society leaves boxes in participating supermarkets for donations of pet food, and volunteers deliver the food to each participant.

"The Side by Side program" flyer explains, "with the rising cost of pet food, veterinary care, and the always necessary flea powder, it is often difficult for an older person to maintain beloved cats and dogs. For the elderly or disabled it is a double bind, since the animal that is so expensive to keep and so difficult to care for is one of the things that makes life worthwhile."

"Side by Side" is now helping 115 seniors and disabled people in Marin County keep their pets. "Many times," says Mosiman, "when people bring in their animals to be euthanized as the shelter’s it just because they physically can't provide the care the animal needs.

"We’ve saved a lot of animals, and maintained a lot of companionships, by being able to help out.

"I hear almost every day how much the program has helped. Seniors call and write to say that if it wasn’t for the SHARE program, they wouldn’t have this friendship that means so much to them, and that’s the greatest reward of all our work.

"Wheels of Fortune The Pioneers for Animal Welfare Society (P.A.W.S., Box 861 Hicksville, NY 11802) sponsors an outreach program of their own to help senior citizens keep their pets. Their Meals on Wheels for Pets program, in conjunction with the Visiting Nurse Association’s Meals on Wheels program, delivers pet food supplied by P.A.W.S. to those clients who have dogs or cats.

"Pet owners should not rely on legalistic solutions to handle the care of their companion animals after their own death. Instead, they should make more responsible arrangements—preferably by relying on friends or relatives whom they can trust to make a lifelong commitment to care for the animal."

"HELP SENIOR ADOPTERS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE"

Caring for and meeting the needs of our companion animals requires a great deal of individual attention, which ranges from daily feeding to walking our dogs or playing with our cats. Our animals need human companionship. Pets certainly do not do well over the long term in isolation or in institutionalized settings such as commercial kennels or “no-kill” animal shelters.

Therefore, each of us who has pets and is concerned about what will happen to them when we die must service the fact that we have a very predictable problem that must be addressed during our lifetime, if it is to be handled and resolved in any meaningful and satisfactory manner. It is simply not enough to say to ourselves that we will let someone else, such as our executor, solve the problem or that if we leave enough money to go toward the care of our pet, it will be done satisfactorily.

Bank trust departments never, and lawyer/executors rarely can take almost invariably have a tragic ending, that have arisen solely because the person involved did not attend to this very critical matter during his or her lifetime. These cases included a situation where a wealthy person’s will contained a clause requiring a pet dog running relatively freely and happily together on a twenty-acre ranch, which upon her death were fenced and caged by bank trustees who narrowly followed their traditional responsibility of “preserving and conserving the assets.” These actions led to many years of tragic isolation and distress for these animals until their natural deaths.

There have also been cases in which a person, knowing full well that the pet was very old and unadoptable and that no one could properly attend to his special needs and infirmities, simply stated in the will that the animal should be humanely euthanized. However, because there were no specific and clear instructions and arrangements...
made in advance for someone to perform this function immediately—so as soon as the person dies or is no longer able to care properly for the animal. A pet owner usually best knows his or her own pet’s individual needs and is best able to judge with whom, and in what circumstances, the pet would be most likely to be happy.

In spite of all these considerations, people all too frequently place too much reliance upon legalistic solutions to take care of their pets after they die—making conditional gifts in their will to care for their animal or setting up trusts with the animal as the beneficiary. These solutions tend to be of limited use for a number of reasons, including the fact that only a minority of states recognize or enforce trusts having animals as beneficiaries, or outright gifts to animals, or conditional gifts to another human being for the benefit of the animal. Attempting to use such legalistic solutions, particularly when large sums of money or property are diverted to the care of an animal, sometimes invites legal attack by relatives through a challenge to the will in court.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offers the following recommendations to those who are concerned about the care of their companion animals after their death or disability:

1. While you are still healthy and well, line up a friend or relative whose personality and circumstances are compatible with your pet and who is willing to make a commitment to take care of the pet for the rest of the animal’s natural life. If such a person does not readily come to mind, for the sake of your pet, make a special effort to locate and develop a relationship with such a person.

2. Do not resort to trusts, conditional gifts, or other more sophisticated legalistic devices without consulting with a local attorney who can advise you on whether your state’s law will recognize and enforce such devices when an animal is the beneficiary. Unless the courts of your state have clearly recognized and enforced such trusts or other similar arrangements in favor of animals, it is best to seek another solution. In any event, even if a trust or some similar legal vehicle is to be used, try to choose a caring and knowledgeable person either as trustee or to oversee the trustee in matters concerning the care of your beloved animals.

3. Use your will and testament, at most, to confirm the transfer of the animal to the person who has made a commitment to providing alternative care and to bequeath an outright gift of money to that individual which, by a prior understanding between the two of you, will be used to take care of the animal. In this event, you must make it clear that the legal custody of the animal has already been transferred by an understanding which you have with the person so that under no circumstances does the matter of transferring the animal to that person become just one more item that needs to go through court proceedings. (Obviously, this solution requires a high degree of trust between you and the person who will take care of your animal.)

4. Do not leave your animals in the care of an organization or institution unless you have carefully investigated that organization and the organization is committed to and has demonstrated an ability to find a non-institutionalized home for your animal within a very short time after your death and can guarantee alternative care immediately after your death, so that not even a day will pass before the animal will have the kind of individualized attention he or she needs. Check with your local humane society or animal shelter and ask them if they can fulfill this role and what their provisions and requirements are.

5. If the animal is extremely old or in poor health, euthanasia may be the most humane alternative. In such a clear case, forcing an animal to adjust to a new person or circumstances can compound hit or her suffering, particularly when the animal has just lost hit or her own cherished human companion. Advance personal arrangements with a friend or neighbor and a reliable veterinarian or local animal shelter, to be confirmed by clear directions in your will, are also called for here.\[32]\n
\[31\]The Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) first undertook a similar survey for the state of Washington in 1991. PAWS’s survey reported that nearly 187,000 cats and dogs were handled by Washington animal shelters in 1990. A follow-up study found that just under 180,000 animals were handled by those same facilities in 1991, a decrease of 3%. Most of that decrease was attributed to a major educational effort undertaken by PAWS in the Seattle area to promote a local spay/neuter ordinance; according to PAWS, animal shelters outside of the Seattle area experienced a 9% increase in incoming animals.

The HSUS encourages organizations from other states to sponsor similar studies in an effort to track trends in animal overpopulation. Survey data can be used to educate the media, the public, and the legislature.
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Shelter SHOP

ANOTHER PRE-EXPO SEMINAR PLANNED

For animal care and control professionals planning to attend the Animal Care Expo ’93 (March 17-20, 1993, in Orlando, Florida), a new pre-Expo seminar—Disaster Planning and Preparedness—has been added. This seminar, which costs $50, and the other two seminar/workshops to be offered—Pet First Aid and CPR ($99), and Euthanasia: The Human Factor ($50)—will be held the day of March 17th.

The seminar for disaster planning and preparedness was designed in the wake of Hurricane Andrew to help animal care and control shelters know what to do before disasters—such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, forest fires, oil spills, and chemical or nuclear contamination—occur. The focus will be on local shelter preparation and coordination with other local organizations such as the Red Cross, the Army, the National Guard, veterinarians, groomers, boarding kennels, wildlife rehabilitators, zoos, and other local shelters. Emphasis will be placed on preparing the shelter even before the threat of a disaster.

If animal care and control professionals have suggestions for topics to be covered by the seminar, they may call Nicholas Gilman, HSUS Field Representative, at (202) 452-1100.

To register for this or one of the other two seminars, call 800-248-EXPO (national) or 714-338-1192 (international). The registration deadline for the seminars, and for the early registration ($18) to Expo ’93, is January 15, 1993.

PROVIDE ADOPTERS WITH INSTANT I.D. TAGS

Help dog and cat adopters become responsible pet owners the minute they leave the shelter by providing their new companions with instant, write-on identification tags.

Produced by the Merion Station Mail Order Company, Write-On® tags provide immediate identification—and safety—for the pet just leaving the shelter. Pet information is written on the tag before the tag is folded and “locked” closed, keeping the information clean inside. Made of a tough plastic resin, the temporary tags will last until the pet owner obtains permanent, engraved tags.

Write-On tags are also ideal for traveling. They make it easy to provide a local and/or emergency address and phone number on the pet.

Humane agencies can order Write-On tags for $2.50 per 100 with a minimum order of 100, postage paid. Just mention this Shelter Sense article to receive that price. For shelters that order 5,000 or more tags, Merion Station will privately label the tags with the agency name on one side at a cost of $15 per hundred. Other bulk rates are available.

For more information or to order, contact Merion Station Mail Order Company, P.O. Box 100, Merion Station, PA 19066, (800) 333-TAGS or (215) 642-1000. For a free sample, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to that address.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEXT MAY HELP HUMANE EDUCATORS

Humane societies are looking for a well-rounded, all-encompassing textbook to use in their secondary humane education programs may have found their resources limited. However, a new book entitled Animals in Society, by Zoe Well, can make things much easier. This is one of the first school texts that covers the complex issues of animal use in contemporary society.

From companion animals to wild animals, from animals raised for food production to those used in entertainment and experimentation, Animals in Society offers a thorough and thought-provoking introduction to humankind’s treatment of and relationship with animals.

Each chapter of the 126-page paperback includes challenging questions and imaginative projects, and the book’s appendices provide resources for further research and exploration. It encourages students to explore our culture’s unresolved questions about animals and to develop their own opinions through examination of the various perspectives outlined in the book.

Animals in Society is available to shelters and humane organizations at the following rates: 1-4 copies, $5.95 each including postage; 5-12, $3.95 each plus $3.25 postage; 13-24, $3.50 each plus $4.25 postage; 25-50, $2.95 each plus $5.25 postage; over 50, $2.95 each plus $7.25 postage. Contact Animalists/AAVS, 801 Old York Rd., Ste. 204, Jenkintown, PA 19046-1685 to order books or for more information.

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This message can be clipped out and reproduced in quantity by your local printer for distribution at many community locations, or it can be run in local newspapers or your organization’s newsletter.

Here’s the part of a fur coat most people never see.

Not a pretty sight, is it? This ad makes you want to turn your head. There’s nothing pretty about the kind of agony that any animal caught in a steel-jaw trap experiences.

Try to imagine the pain these animals feel when, out of the blue, steel jaws clamp so tightly around them that they go beyond the skin and muscle, to the bone. The pain and terror sometimes drive animals to gnaw off their own limbs to escape. Others wait, sometimes days, for the end to misery that comes with the death the trapper brings. Traps show no pity and no judgment—they catch whatever walks into them, even family pets.

But if you ever thought a fur coat or fur trim was pretty, think of the animals who died to make that coat, and think of their pain. Then a fur coat will just look pretty ugly.

The Humane Society of the United States is working to end the use of steel-jaw traps in this country. We’re convincing people that, when they choose to wear fur, animals suffer and die, needlessly. We need your help. Don’t buy a fur. And, the next time someone says fur is pretty, show that person this ad.

For more information on how you can save for animals and our pets from cruel traps, write: The Humane Society of the United States 2010 1 Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.
ANNOUNCING . . .
The Year of the Cat

The nation's four largest animal protection organizations have united to proclaim 1993 "The Year of the Cat" in an effort to educate people nationwide about the rewards and responsibilities of owning domestic cats.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the ASPCA, the Massachusetts SPCA, and the American Humane Association (AHA) are inviting local humane societies, animal shelters, and veterinarians to join in promoting this effort. The goal is to present the facts and dispel the myths about cats, who are often perceived as mysterious and frightening creatures who do not require much care or attention. By proclaiming 1993 as The Year of the Cat, the four organizations hope to curb abuse and neglect of domestic cats and to further encourage responsible pet ownership.

Staff of local humane agencies should watch the mail for a special campaign packet that explains the campaign and includes useful materials. The packet will include a cover letter, a sample proclamation, logo slicks, a list of suggested activities, a myths and facts brochure, and an order form for additional materials. The campaign poster and brochure will feature whimsical drawings by Suzy Becker, author and illustrator of All I Need To Know I Learned from My Cat.

Look for more details in an upcoming issue of Shelter Sense, or write to Year of the Cat, The HSUS, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.