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### (No. 38) – Spay-Neuter Programs Needed for Pet Animal Control

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# REPORT TO HUMANITARIANS

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A NON-PROFIT NATIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY  
FOR THE PREVENTION OF ANIMAL SUFFERING

Dues and Contributions Tax Deductible

Spay-neuter clinics or their equivalents are needed as part of a complete pet animal control program. Each part of this program facilitates operation of the other. Humane Information Services has been and continues to be in favor of low-cost spay-neuter clinics and other programs having the same objectives.

## TYPES OF PROGRAMS

(1) Subsidies for individual owners. All spay programs involve a subsidy of some kind, by either individual pet owners, humane societies, cities and counties, or veterinarians.

One form of subsidy of individual owners who have their animals spayed or neutered is the differential license fee, establishing a lower annual fee for sterilized animals. This, in effect, amortizes the cost of spaying or neutering over a period of years, with the accumulated differential over the life of the animal offsetting, more or less, the initial cost of the operation. For example, if the differential is six dollars, and the animal lives ten years, it would pay sixty dollars toward the cost of spaying by a private veterinarian. Although not generally recognized as such, this really is a subsidy by the city or county. The Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation says that for that City this subsidy amounts to \$500,000.00 per year. However, if the license fee for unaltered animals is raised at the same time that the differential is established, so that the average fee is not changed, there is no government subsidy. In that case, the subsidy is by the owners of unsterilized pets who pay the higher fee. If ever a subsidy were justified, this one is! For it is these owners who cause the problem in the first place.

Veterinarians who oppose public low-cost spay and neuter clinics may have overlooked the fact that by aggressively supporting higher license fees with a substantial differential, they would in effect be gaining a public subsidy of spaying and neutering by private veterinarians.

Other subsidies similar in principle comprise arrangements of various kinds under which part or all of the cost of spaying or neutering by private veterinarians is paid directly by a humane society. Usually, arrangements are made with a few veterinarians who agree to take the referrals at a reduced rate. This lowers the cost to both the pet owner and the humane organization providing the subsidy. One national society has conducted such a program for many years, with participation fluctuating as funds available and the current charges for spaying change. Various local humane societies, usually the women's auxiliaries, have raised funds set aside for this particular purpose, usually designated as the "spay fund." Usually the subsidy is given only to pet owners who cannot afford to pay the fees charged by private veterinarians or humane society clinics.

Humane Information Services takes a rather dim view of this type of program, because it is too limited in effects and too much of the financial burden is borne by humane organizations that have other important needs for the funds. Obviously, it has made no appreciable dent in the surplus. It does not fit well into a complete animal control program. Now, you humanitarians who have worked so hard to raise funds for these efforts, please do not take offense. It was fine, and needed, before other ways of dealing with the problem came along.

(2) The so-called San Diego plan. Because San Diego was the first large city

name of that City. However, the same kind of arrangements have been in effect elsewhere, although on a smaller scale, for some time.

The San Diego plan was described in some detail in our *Report to Humanitarians No. 23*. Under it, the major subsidy is by the participating veterinarians, with the program being directed and referrals made by a city, county or humane society. Generally, the fees charged are higher than

## Spay-Neuter Programs Needed for Pet Animal Control

those under the low-cost spay-clinic plan.

This method meets with fewer objections from veterinarians than municipal or humane society-operated plans, and for various reasons seems to have the best chance for widespread acceptance. However, the arrangement is subject to change or cancellation at any time by the participating veterinarians, and less reliance can be placed on it as a cog in the wheel of complete pet animal control.

(3) Humane society clinics. Many humane societies, mostly those with animal shelters, have set up spay clinics as a part of their regular operations. Some were already employing veterinarians to treat injured animals, to inspect incoming animals for disease, to give inoculations to adopted animals, and to administer sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia. It was then a single step further to use them for spaying, and sometimes neutering, animals adopted out by the shelter. From this, it is but one more step to performing spay and neuter operations at lower than prevailing costs for indigents, and even for the general public.

These clinics can be a source of additional revenue for the shelters, frequently hard-pressed for income to meet rapidly accelerating costs. Even charging fees substantially under those of private vets in the community, it can be profitable for the society, especially since part of the overhead costs may be legitimately allocated to other veterinary needs of the shelter. Some societies, notably the Angell Memorial Hospital of the Massachusetts SPCA, conduct full-fledged veterinary clinics treating injuries and diseases as well as doing spaying and neutering. In such event, the fees charged usually are the same as those of private veterinary clinics, although some concessions may be made to indigents or other hardship cases.

Naturally, veterinarians in private practice generally object strongly to clinics operated by humane societies, as they do to ones maintained by cities or counties. In some cases they have made it difficult for societies to obtain veterinarians. Several lawsuits have resulted, and some courts have taken a dim view of such monopolistic practices. However, vets can put many obstacles in the path of any humane society taking this road to low-cost spaying and neutering.

(4) Municipal and county low-cost clinics. These clinics may be established in already-existing buildings used for animal control, or in separate buildings.

The clinic may be staffed by a minimum of one veterinarian, one veterinarian's assistant, and one receptionist who also handles the office work. One veterinarian can perform comfortably about 2,600 spay and neuter operations per year, provided the ratio approximates 70 percent spays and 30 percent neuters. Even with very moderate fees for spaying and neutering, a clinic can expect to be entirely or nearly

more years.

This self-sustaining basis can be even more confidently predicted if volume is sufficient to require two or more veterinarians, or if the neutering of male animals is done by well-trained veterinary assistants. In *Report to Humanitarians No. 24* (June, 1973) we quoted from a letter received from an indignant student of veterinary medicine protesting that spaying is not the simple job some humanitarians have considered it to be, that it is a major surgical operation conducted under aseptic conditions, comparable to a human ovariectomy. But a paramedic well trained under the veterinari-

an and who becomes very experienced doing this one type of operation is quite capable of satisfactorily performing it under general supervision. The vets react angrily to such statements, because they want no encroachment on their means of livelihood by paramedics, even though frequently they use the latter for various kinds of veterinary treatments in their own private clinics. Humane Information Services believes that if a vet is available to handle the occasional complication, the use of paramedics for this task is perfectly feasible. We have observed vet students from Texas A & M doing spay and neuter operations at the Dallas SPCA shelter on a Sunday, gaining excellent experience and contributing to solution of the surplus problem. Dallas area vets have agreed to the use of paramedics for sterilization operations, possibly as a defensive reaction to the prospect of a municipal low-cost clinic.

Obviously, if paramedics can be used for this purpose, the argument that there are not enough licensed vets in the country to perform the operations that would be required to substantially reduce the surplus is knocked into a cocked hat!

On the whole, it may be said with confidence that low-cost spay-neuter clinics can be operated by cities and counties without being any serious financial burden on the community.

Not only can the clinics be operated without substantial cost to the community's taxpayers; as we shall see later, there is a resulting very large saving in the operation of pet animal control facilities and programs. They represent a good device for keeping animal control costs at a minimum.

(See SPAY-NEUTER, page 2, column 1)

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Correspondence

SPAY-NEUTER — FROM PAGE 1

Only because local humane societies in many communities long ago took over many or all of the functions of pet animal control has this not been recognized everywhere to be a normal and legitimate function of local government, like garbage collection and public health programs.

If local governments had not had the burden lifted partially or entirely from them by humane societies, they could more readily see the need for low-cost spay clinics merely as a means of reducing other costs of pet animal control. Humanitarians have based their appeal for establishment of such clinics too much on humanitarian grounds, and not enough on the needs of the community and local government.

NUMBERS OF CLINICS NOW IN OPERATION

The Animal Protection Institute of America (API) recently made a survey intended to determine the number and general character of low-cost spay and neuter clinics operated in the United States. Questionnaires were sent to over 100 organizations. We are afraid that many local humane societies did not consider it worthwhile to return the questionnaire, because the results obviously are very incomplete. For example, each of the four types of spay programs have been in operation in Pinellas County, Florida, headquarters of Humane Information Services, but they are not included in the tabulation sent to us by API. Only two municipally-financed low-cost clinics of type 4 are listed, although there are six in California and one in Arizona. The three Los Angeles clinics and one in Palo Alto are municipally-operated facilities, but clinics in San Mateo, Marin County and Phoenix, Arizona, are operated by humane societies with support from their local governments.

This tabulation gives at least some information about 46 programs, and three are listed by name and address only. Humane Information Services already had information on some of the organizations listed.

Using the combined information available to us, we have attempted to classify each program under one of the four types previously discussed. There are many borderline cases which could fall either under type 1 or type 2, and others that might be either type 3 or type 4. Admittedly, this is a very rough classification, and is presented on that basis for what it may be worth, which is not much.

This classification indicates that

there are 17 programs of type 1, and 15 of type 2, with 13 of type 3. There must be in the United States at least twice that number of types 2 and 3, and considerably more than 50 of type 1. The number of type 4 is unknown, but probably is less than a dozen.

VETS' OPPOSITION TO LOW-COST SPAY AND NEUTER CLINICS

In view of the financially-appealing advantages of low-cost public spay clinics to local governments, why is it that after several years of strenuous effort by dedicated, hard-working humanitarians in many communities throughout the country, only a handful of these clinics have been established? Most of the clinic proponents blame the vets, who have opposed this approach to the problem both openly and clandestinely. This no doubt has been the principal obstacle.

The vets are viewed as authorities on any subject involving animals, and their motives are rarely questioned by city councils or county commissions. The vets are business as well as professional men, and the local governing bodies are composed largely of business and professional people. The latter are inclined to listen sympathetically to another business and professional man who objects to setting up a government agency to compete with him.

There are at least three reasons for the veterinarians' opposition to low-cost public spay and neuter clinics:

(1) *The low-cost clinics offer direct competition to private spaying.* This is the reason most commonly cited by humanitarians for the opposition by vets. But in the opinion of close students of the problem, it is probably the least significant of the three reasons. Many vets claim that spaying is one of the least profitable parts of their business, and some say that they had just as soon not have it. "It is the principle involved," they say.

(2) *Low-cost spaying could lead to low-cost distemper shots and broken leg repairs, and thence to general socialized veterinary medicine.* If you operated or worked for a private veterinary clinic with an investment of \$50,000.00 and annual incomes to the staff of that much or more, you might well have similar fears.

(3) *Mass public spaying could help to greatly reduce the dog and cat populations and hence the number of patients for the vets.* The vets are said to believe that mass pet population control will put many of them out of business, as the human contraceptive "pill" has put some teachers and toy makers out of work.

Vets deny this allegation, claiming that they have many more animals to treat than they are capable of handling. The surplus pets produced by irresponsible owners are not the kind of pets that usually receive veterinary attention, they say.

The vets usually do not come out openly to fight spay clinics by citing the real reasons for their opposition. Their modus operandi has been designed to persuade others to believe the clinics are costly and ineffective, and a violation of American traditions of free enterprise. They have sought and obtained allies among humane societies having somewhat similar basic motivations.

When the prospects for establishment of a public spay and neuter program appear good, it is said, the vets, through their county organizations, are likely to offer some substitute arrangement involving use of private veterinary facilities, such as the San Diego plan, or a cut in rates charged by private clinics, or free spaying for indigents. But, in several cities or counties where such an attempt to draw a red herring across the trail was made, the offers were quickly withdrawn when the local government decided to go ahead anyway. Nevertheless, if a campaign to establish a low-cost public clinic does result in setting up another San Diego plan, that would make the effort worthwhile.

An example of these obstructionist tactics cited by the clinic proponents is the national conferences on dog and cat con-

These elaborate conferences were sponsored by the American Humane Association, American Kennel Club, American Veterinary Medical Association and the Pet Food Institute, at least some of which have a vested interest in maintaining the population of pet animals, and by the Humane Society of the United States, the latter apparently believing that it is better to be on the inside with a chance to influence policy than to be on the outside as an ineffective critic.

The proceedings of the conferences gave ample evidence that regardless of possible good intentions of some of the sponsors, they became a vehicle for mainly defending the status quo, and for perpetuating the conditions which the conferences were ostensibly designed to help correct.

Some participants in the conferences who hoped to spur recommendations for effective action in dealing with the pet animal surplus have referred to the proceedings as a "fiasco," "hypocrisy," a "travesty." This evaluation is quite different from that of the principal sponsors, who have extolled the meetings as milestones on the road to a solution of the pet population explosion.

CONFRONTATION OR CONCILIATION?

There is a growing tendency now among the leading proponents of low-cost spay clinics to come right out in the open to publicly "fight" the vets on all fronts. They point to what they believe to be evidence that the vets are enjoying a partial monopoly in the sale of their services, by keeping down the number of admissions to veterinary schools, by tacit agreements to hold up or increase fees charged for veterinary services including spaying and neutering, and by relentless opposition to any form of potential competition such as the licensing of veterinary paramedics or general veterinary clinics operated by humane societies, and to low-cost public spay and neuter clinics. Some of these accusations may be true, and they apply perhaps just as well to medical doctors treating humans. But the entire medical and veterinary profession has such a hold on the public and governmental bodies that no relatively small group of spay clinic boosters is likely to change the general situation.

The proponents of confrontation with the vets believe that the only way to "persuade" the vets to adopt less selfish policies with respect to low-cost public spay clinics, the use of veterinary paramedics, helping humane society shelters to obtain sodium pentobarbital, puppy mills, hobby breeders, rodeos and a host of other animal welfare problems is to expose these conditions in the public media. An aggressive publicity campaign, using all informational media, is advocated. We should no longer attempt to "cooperate" or compromise with the recalcitrant vets, they say. "The squeaky wheel gets the grease" is their favorite adage. All we receive now from the vets, they maintain, is direct or indirect opposition to most of the programs pursued by humanitarians. So what can the latter lose by a knock-down-and-drag-out battle fought in public?

Humane Information Services has much sympathy for this viewpoint. We have been frustrated on numerous occasions by the attitudes of vets when we have tried to obtain their cooperation. Nevertheless, we advocate conciliation and cooperation, and no open battle with the vets. There are many reasons for this policy. First, it would be impossible to present any united front on this issue. Veterinarians are needed in the operation of humane society shelters. They are found on the boards of directors and serve as officers of many local societies. They carry great weight with the managements and members of many societies, and have a powerful influence in molding public policies on animal welfare problems. The "boat-rockers" or "radicals" who participated in a public fight against the vets would be outnumbered and generally discredited. It is one thing for a small group of spay clinic advocates to say they are willing to take the risks of conducting such a fight, and quite another for a humane society compos-

Humane Information Services will send a receipt for dues or a contribution in the amount of \$5.00 or more, or in a lesser amount if the sender so requests, or if same is received in cash, by money order or from a foreign country. Otherwise your cancelled check will serve as a receipt. All dues and contributions are tax deductible.

Form with fields for name, address, and contribution options. Includes a 'RETURN COUPON' section with checkboxes for becoming a Patron Member, Associate Member, or continuing membership.



# Enforcement of 1976 Amendments of Animal Welfare Act

## USDA Not Yet Enforcing Dog and Cock Fighting Prohibition

Last winter Congress made important changes in the Animal Welfare Act which centered on the transportation of puppies and other warm-blooded animals (excluding farm animals, rats, mice and aquatic mammals), and upon dog and cock fighting.

Administration of these new provisions of the Act is the responsibility of the Animal Care Staff, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, US Department of Agriculture, which now is engaged in planning the rules and regulations which will be the basis for enforcement of the amendments.

### THE BUREAUCRATIC LABYRINTH

That long name of the enforcement unit gives some idea of the complications surrounding bureaucratic "implementation" of animal welfare laws. The "animal care staff" assigned the task of making the law effective is only a small block in the elaborate organization chart of a gigantic labyrinth of administrations, agencies, divisions, sections and units within the Department of Agriculture. Since there must be something for the upper layers of officials to do, they assume the task of establishing inflexible rules of conduct for the working staff at the bottom which is supposed to actually administer the law. Any important actions proposed by the latter must be reviewed and approved by the layers of bureaucrats above. A perfect setup for the buck passer who wants to play it safe and make as few decisions as possible because they might get him into trouble with the top brass.

In the case of the Animal Welfare Act, which contains many excellent provisions if they were enforced as intended by those who wrote the legislation, the person actually in charge turns out to be a "Senior Staff Veterinarian," Dr. Dale F. Schwindaman, a well-intentioned and capable man who knows how to operate within the bureaucratic labyrinth. As explained in our *Report to Humanitarians No. 37*, he has his problems. Much of the funds he is supposed to receive for hiring inspectors and doing the actual work is absorbed by the administrative pyramid. The mess resulting from these conditions was described in that *Report*. It is further illustrated by what is now being done to "implement" the 1976 amendments of the Animal Welfare Act.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) now is engaged in the procedures required for "proposed rule making" to make these amendments come to life in the form of real help for the animals which ostensibly are to be protected.

### STEPS IN RULE MAKING

The first step in this process of rule making is to examine the amendments and put together some ideas on how they might be translated into specific action. This results in some highly tentative possible provisions. The next step is to pass these ideas around at a meeting to which the different groups of people affected are invited, to give them an opportunity to comment, criticize and suggest changes or additions. This is called "obtaining input" from those affected. That will be followed by putting everything together, trying to effect a compromise which will result in the least possible criticism of the Department by the different groups. The final regulations adopted must be published in the *Federal Register* by January 21, 1977.

### THE "INPUT" MEETING

Such "input" sessions are attended by gangs of lawyers, executive directors and public relations counselors for the organizations representing the interests to be regulated. They are knowledgeable, articulate and aggressive, intent on protecting

is intended to eliminate. These sessions also are attended by representatives of some humane societies, for the most part amateurs upon whom rests the responsibility of keeping the professional industry representatives from getting their way. Dr. Schwindaman conducts these sessions with admirable objectivity and non-partisanship.

Such an "input" meeting to assist in implementing the new amendments of the Animal Welfare Act was held in a remote building on the University of Maryland campus in College Park, Maryland, on October 13, 1976. Dr. Thomsen, staying at a Washington hotel, had to leave very early on a bus which meandered through much of the District of Columbia and its Maryland suburbs before disgorging him nearly two miles from the meeting place. No taxi was available, so with only a Florida raincoat for protection against the biting Northern wind, Doc lugged his heavy briefcase over the hills and dales to the meeting room. Was the latter selected to discourage attendance by a "bunch of emotional animal lovers," or because it was provided free by the University? We will never know, but if the former possibility is correct, it worked. The only humane society representatives present were from Humane Information Services, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), American Humane Association, WARDS, American SPCA, Washington Humane Society and Virginia Humane Society. If we missed anyone, please pardon.

### NO FUNDS

#### TO CURB DOG AND COCK FIGHTING

One of the first bits of information passed out to those in attendance was that no action was presently planned to enforce the new provisions of the Act prohibiting interstate activities connected with dog and cock fighting. Reason: no money yet available for enforcement.

### TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS COMPLICATED

The APHIS then passed out some tentative proposals which might eventually be included in the rules and regulations designed to enforce the new provisions of the Act relating to transportation of animals. "Input" was invited from the assembled representatives of the airlines, animal breeders, pet dealers, shippers, humane societies and others present. And the APHIS got that input.

### COMMERCIAL PET ANIMAL TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES WELL REPRESENTED

The shippers and carriers of puppies which move from the mid-Western mills to the pet shops of the larger cities protested just about everything that might conceivably interfere with their convenience or raise their costs. One lawyer representing a pet owners' association was particularly effective, being seemingly familiar with every little detail of airplane construction and operation. He formerly represented an airline.

The relatively few humane society representatives present, although less well informed about these technical matters, nevertheless held their ground. Mrs. Christine Stevens, of AWI, and Dr. Thomsen both emphasized repeatedly that the Act calls for reducing the cruelties connected with transportation of animals, and does not say that this should be done only if and when it does not inconvenience or add to the costs of shippers or carriers. The APHIS was urged by Doc to keep this constantly in mind in preparing the rules and regulations.

### TRANSPORTATION OF PUPPIES BY TRUCK INCREASING RAPIDLY

passed out by APHIS, of transportation of puppies by truck. This practice is growing rapidly, and may eventually replace air transport as the chief means of shipping puppies from the mills to the larger markets. The inhumane conditions encountered in truck shipments are similar to the more widely understood conditions found in air transportation. HIS joined the HSUS in urging APHIS to give this problem more study.

### PASSING A LAW ONLY HALF THE BATTLE

There would be little point in recounting here the many detailed technical points considered at this long session. Our chief reason for including this account of the meeting in *Report to Humanitarians* is to show humanitarians that merely to "pass a law" designed to protect animals is only half the battle. The other half is proper enforcement, often even more difficult to achieve than passage of the legislation. Some humane societies seem to expend their energies in the publicity-creating hoopla of legislative campaigns, and then forget all about getting the law enforced. For example, the humane movement conducted a successful campaign for passage of the federal humane slaughter law of 1958, but has done little or nothing to even question enforcement until Humane Information Services and its sister society, the National Association for Humane Legislation, investigated and showed that it was very unsatisfactory (see *Humane Legislation Digest* of January, 1976). This led to introduction by Congressman Brown of California of a humane slaughter bill that would extend coverage to all inspected commercial slaughter operations (still exempting kosher slaughter) and foreign plants that export meat products to the United States, place responsibility for daily enforcement in the hands of veterinary inspectors who are continuously in the plants, and make the penalties for infractions more realistic. This bill will be reintroduced in January.

For the sake of the animals, humanitarians must become much more concerned about enforcement of existing animal welfare laws, as well as passage of new ones. This phase of humane work is much less inviting than the exciting campaigns against the "cruelty of the month" featured on television and in the press, and involves a great deal of drudgery and unspectacular work which does not lead to many new members and contributions. But it must be done if we are to do more than merely go through the motions of protecting animals. The necessary work will be done only if humanitarians are willing to support those societies that are capable of and willing to do this non-spectacular kind of work, in which Humane Information Services and a few other societies have been engaged.

### HSUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ILLUSTRATES NEED

A further illustration of the great need for this kind of humane work was provided at the HSUS 1976 annual conference in Washington.

Dr. Schwindaman of the APHIS delivered an excellent address at the conference in which he mentioned that he had appeared before the same group exactly five years previously, to explain the Animal Welfare Act and what was to be done to enforce it. Unfortunately, the remainder of Dr. Schwindaman's speech was devoted largely to explaining why they had not been able to accomplish as much as he had hoped for. This explanation was essentially the same as the one quoted in our *Report to Humanitarians No. 37*.

During the audience discussion of this commendably frank talk, Dr. Thomsen point-

**SPAY-NEUTER — FROM PAGE 2**

common bond, a love for animals, to do so.

Secondly, such a fight would be likely to induce equally aggressive tactics by the vets. They have far more money and other resources to throw into the battle than do the spay clinic advocates. The net result might very well be to stop the establishment of more potential clinics than the publicity might promote.

Thirdly, we really have not tried very hard to persuade the vets to come over to our side on many of these problems. Humanitarians frequently have been as obstructive and intransigent as the vets they criticize. Some vets have been willing to cooperate, and more will find it advantageous to listen to reason and bow to public opinion as people and public officials learn the facts.

More important, perhaps, than all of the foregoing reasons is that we need the vets' support for effective animal control programs which can accomplish even more in reducing the surplus than low-cost public spay and neuter programs.

In short, we should not cut off our noses to spite our faces, much as a good fight might serve to relieve the feelings of those whose plans have been upset by the actions and attitudes of vets.

That doesn't mean we should always agree with the vets and others with a vested interest in the pet animal surplus. We should attack publicly and vigorously any wrong actions they may take or principles they may espouse, but not the vets or anybody else personally. We may attack what they sometimes do and say, but not their motives or integrity. Our purpose in discussing so frankly this problem is not to egg on the combatants but to set forth the issues so they may be dealt with more effectively than in the past.

**OTHER REASONS FOR OPPOSITION TO CLINICS**

The vets are by no means the only source of opposition to low-cost spay and neuter clinics. Let us be equally frank in discussing other possible reasons for the opposition, and for the lethargy displayed by communities faced with the pet population problems which one might think would cause them to take quick action.

(1) The professional managers of many of the larger humane society shelters are subject to much the same fears of losing "business" and jobs, and of competition from local government animal control programs including clinics, as are the vets. National humane societies which have close affiliations with these larger local society shelters naturally are inclined to support the latter. The boards of directors and officers of the local societies frequently include business and professional persons who know little or nothing about humane work, and who look on their responsibilities as a civic duty to be performed as expeditiously and painlessly as possible. They abhor a fight among members pro and con on any proposed undertaking, and their principal objective is to keep peace in the family, protect the society against public criticism, and keep the donations coming in. It is not easy to enlist their support of low-cost spay and neuter programs. Clandestine

opposition from some of them is a more logical expectation. Only when the professional managers of the societies are unusually progressive and farsighted can we look for support from them.

(2) In recent years, reflecting the recession, inflation, and the addition of many new social welfare programs, many cities and counties have felt a financial crunch similar to the widely-heralded one of New York City. This makes city councils and county commissions very reluctant to undertake new programs involving substantial start-up costs and annual budget commitments. This seems to be the principal difficulty, for example, in San Francisco. In Connecticut an effort is being made by humanitarians to raise the initial funds required for a State-operated clinic, authorized by a recently-passed law, and according to very recent information from the sponsors, the Society for Animal Rights in Connecticut, are only \$5,000.00 away from their goal. Our congratulations to Margaret Wade, the indefatigable State chairman of this effort.

(3) Many humanitarians expect that within a few years there will be developed and put into use a chemical contraceptive, to be administered either by injection or in animal foods, that will make spay and neuter operations obsolete. "It's been successful for humans, so why not for animals?" The vets have encouraged this belief, although they may actually be almost as much afraid of a successful contraceptive as of public clinics.

Vets are accused of promoting this expectation because they would be the ones to give the injections, or because it constitutes an effective red herring to use in combating the dreaded clinics and "socialized veterinary medicine."

The clinic proponents pooh-pooh the prospect of any effective chemical contraceptive for dogs and cats, claiming that: (a) bitches and queens are uniquely susceptible to the uterotropic effects of progestins and do not shed the endometrium in menstruation, so the toxic effects of birth control "pills" for humans cannot be likened to those for dogs and cats; (b) the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will never permit any dog and cat food additive because canned animal foods are consumed by some low-income people; (c) pet owners would forget to give any "pill" at the proper times; (d) owners would fear bad side effects; (e) it would take years to test any chemical that might be developed, and to obtain federal government approval of its use; (f) if given by injection, this would have to be done by vets, and the cost to the pet owner over a period of time would be as much, or greater,

than the cost of spaying and neutering; (g) after years of talk about such a possible contraceptive drug, nothing has resulted.

Humane Information Services believes that these claims by clinic proponents should be soft-pedaled. We now believe that it is possible or even probable that a successful chemical contraceptive will be available within the foreseeable future. We are not at liberty to give any details at this time, except to state that it is "a method of chemical vasectomy in dogs that appears to be simple, effective and safe."

In any event, clinic proponents are put in a bad light by disparaging the possibilities of a chemical contraceptive. They should rely on the fact that the clinics still would be needed. The same problem of encouraging use of the contraceptive by furnishing low-cost injections would exist. Spay clinics already in operation could merely shift from neutering by operation to neutering by injection. And other reasons for spaying, to make a better pet, would still exist.

**THE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE WITH LOW-COST PUBLIC SPAY AND NEUTER CLINICS**

The only experience with low-cost public spay and neuter clinics for which related data are available for a period of several years has been in California. The famous clinics established by the very progressive Department of Animal Regulation of the City of Los Angeles now are known to every knowledgeable humanitarian. Table 1 contains the available pertinent data.

Let's consider some of the claims based on these figures, or even fewer data for other cities and counties where clinics have been established:

**EFFECT ON PROPORTION OF DOGS ALTERED**

(1) (From Theodore J. Sorich, reference given at bottom of Table 1.) "Availability of three reduced cost spay/neuter clinics coupled with the incentive of a half-price license fee for spayed or neutered dogs, appears largely responsible for the fact that 35.3% (corrected figure by Humane Information Services) of recent license applications (in 1975-76) were for altered dogs. In 1971, only 16% of the City's licensed dogs were altered."

But the increase in the ratio of altered dogs to the total number licensed does not necessarily reflect the results of operation of the clinics. The shift to a substantial license fee differential in

(See SPAY-NEUTER, page 6, column 1)

**TABLE 1. ANIMAL CONTROL DATA FOR LOS ANGELES AND CALIFORNIA**

	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Animals handled by LA City shelters*	100,662	109,216	118,082	133,040	144,530	132,254	127,554	118,964	117,280	114,363
Animals destroyed*	74,087	82,677	87,263	99,440	110,835	104,303	97,818	90,621	88,508	83,199
% of dogs spayed or neutered to total licenses issued*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	16	26	31	33.1	35.3
Spays and neuters performed in clinics*	0	0	0	0	0	4,600	8,290	12,444	13,015	11,982
State of California dogs impounded**	NA	NA	NA	594,288	638,798	703,002	728,446	793,365	808,038	
State of California dogs destroyed**	NA	NA	NA	404,074	435,237	480,107	503,569	547,853	550,043	

\*From reports of the Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation.  
 \*\*Theodore J. Sorich, in *Proceedings of the National Conference on Dog and Cat Control, February 3-5, 1976, Denver, Colorado; p 217.*

**ENFORCEMENT — FROM PAGE 3**

during the next five years, and that if Dr. Schwindaman should return to address the annual conference in 1981 he probably would be unable to report elimination of the puppy mill and animal laboratory conditions being criticized. Doc pointed to the fact that lack of adequate funds was only part of the story. The bureaucratic procedures involved were even more important.

For example, thousands of dealers and puppy mills have been licensed by the APHIS without any inspection to see if they conformed with the regulations. This

tors to handle. When the offending dealer or breeder later is found to be operating inhumanely, the license cannot be revoked without going through a rather complicated procedure of notices, hearings, official findings and administrative or judicial review. Since there are 5,300 licensed dealers, and many more thousands of puppy mills selling to them, it would take an army of hearing officers and administrative judges, much less inspectors to give testimony, etc., in order to make it possible to deprive the offending dealers and puppy mills of their licenses. Meanwhile, perhaps indefinitely, the puppy mill operator may just thumb his nose at the De-

would be relatively slight. In our *Report to Humanitarians No. 37* we suggested to the APHIS a possible way of getting around this big obstacle to effective enforcement of the puppy mill regulations. At the HSUS conference we urged Dr. Schwindaman to give consideration to this suggestion. But the wheels of government grind slowly and clumsily. Some bureaucrat in the administrative pyramid over Dr. Schwindaman's unit might object to our practical suggestion as not in accordance with the administrative procedures act, or something like that. But we will keep plugging away, even though it is not the kind of spectacular humane work



## BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF HORSE PROTECTION ACT IN VIEW

The Horse Protection Act was passed by Congress in 1970, and strengthened by amendments passed in 1976.

This Act was intended to stop the cruel practice of soring gaited horses, particularly Tennessee walking horses, in order to exaggerate a show horse's gait. Many thousands of these horses have been subjected to this very cruel practice during recent years.

### THE REASONS FOR SORING

Originally, the high-stepping gait of the Tennessee walking horse was a result of breeding and training. It consisted of a high reach of the front legs combined with a long, gliding stride behind--a gait which could be maintained by a sound walking horse on long trips. Thus, it is not the gait itself which is cruel, but the means of obtaining it.

After World War II the competitions among Tennessee walking horse owners and trainers developed into prestigious horse shows. The prizes awarded increased greatly, and winners received increasingly high returns from horse sales and stud fees. And the operators of horse shows were under increasing pressures from audiences to show the spectacular high-stepping prize-winning horses.

These large money rewards obtained by owners, trainers and horse show managements from the showing of these horses constituted a strong incentive to shortcut the patient, extensive training required to turn a well-bred colt or filly into a show winner, by soring the horse's front feet. This is done by applying chemical or mechanical irritants (see photographs).

In order to escape the resulting severe pain when the front feet strike the ground, the horse quickly raises its feet. The result is a long rear stride and a high, far reach in front. This gives a remarkably close imitation of the performance of a sound, well-trained gaited horse.

### REPEATED SORING REQUIRED

But the horse will not perform in this manner unless it feels pain, and must be sored for every performance. Thus, it is not a matter of putting the horse through a painful operation one time, with no pain for the remainder of its life. The pain is more or less continuous throughout the period of time in which the horse is shown.

Sometimes the horses bleed when being shown. If not properly cared for after performances, they develop permanent caluses or scars that bleed repeatedly.

### NO EXCUSE FOR SUCH CRUELTY

The only excuse for this cruelty is that it makes money for the owners, trainers and show managements. Many other cruelties to animals are defended as being necessary to the production of food, for fighting disease, or to avoid even worse suffering by the animals themselves, such as abandoned pets. The soring of horses offers no excuse whatever except the greed of those who participate in the process.

### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY ON HORSE SHOW MANagements

It is manifestly impossible to control

the practices of owners and trainers in training their gaited horses. The place to catch the offenders is the horse show. If a sored horse could not be shown, there would be no incentive to sore.

There are held annually in the United States about 600 major horse shows and more than 1,000 smaller ones. About 1,800 horse shows held annually are affiliated with the American Horse Shows Association or the Tennessee Walking Horse Association, or both. When the number of gaited horses shown at one show is multiplied by the number of shows, it is obvious that the number of animals involved is quite large, even allowing for duplication. It is probable that from 30 to 35 thousand Tennessee walking horses are shown each year. Other gaited horses (Arabian, Morgan, quarter, racking) also may be sored, although not to nearly the same extent as walking horses. Probably over 200,000 of these gaited horses are shown. In addition must be counted the number of horses trained by soring which do not turn out to be suitable for showing.

### LAX ENFORCEMENT BY SHOW MANagements

The two leading horse show associations named above have rules that follow requirements under the Horse Protection Act with respect to soring. The associations provide judges, stewards and veterinarians to help enforce these rules. But, for one reason or another, the practice of soring has continued. There are many reasons for this, including the following:

(1) *Basically, although this cannot be proved, the entire industry from breeder to trainer to horse show managers and stewards, and even including many veterinarians, really is not in sympathy with the government's program to eliminate soring, despite protestations to the contrary.* There are too many financial rewards at stake. And many members of the horse fraternity say they do not want the government in the horse business at all. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has told Humane Information Services that only about a third of the shows really cooperate with them in detecting soring.

(2) *It is not always easy to determine positively that the horse has been sored for the show.* Proof is needed if the trainer claims that he has not sored the horse. In disputed cases the presence of inflammation in the horse's front feet, detected by an expensive (\$45,000) machine which uses infrared thermography to make a photograph, can be used in court. Thus, it takes time, money and trained technicians to detect the less obvious cases of soring.

(3) *The show managers claim that it is too expensive to employ a sufficient number of veterinarians, judges and stewards to effectively inspect in advance the many horses to be shown, or even to detect sored horses while the show is in progress, so they can be disqualified.* To do the job right, they say, would cost so much that the show could not operate at a profit. Without shows, the entire walking horse industry would collapse.

(4) *Prosecutors and judges in the courts have been reluctant in some cases to bring successful prosecutions of cruelty cases resulting from soring.*

(5) *The APHIS of the USDA, for reasons indicated in this article, has not been able to adequately enforce the Act.* This does not reflect any lack of good intentions or honest effort by that government agency. Dr. Lois Hinson, the veterinarian in immediate charge of administering the Act, under Dr. Schwindaman's Animal Care Staff in APHIS, appears to be a real humanitarian, dedicated and capable. But inadequate funds for enforcement and the other obstacles briefly enumerated above prevented great success for her past efforts. So in 1976 the Congress passed strengthening amendments of the Act, and funds have been made available to purchase additional thermographs.

### ANOTHER "INPUT" SESSION

An "input session" to further implementation of the 1976 amendments of the Horse Protection Act was held on October 14 in College Park, Maryland, by the APHIS, similar in purpose and conduct to the one held the preceding day and described on page 3 of this Report.

Those attending this meeting represented mainly the industry organizations, including the American Horse Shows Association, the American Walking Horse Association, the Tennessee Walking Horse Association, the Tennessee Walking Horse Trainers Association, the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association, the Walking Horse Commission, and the Professional Horseman's Association. These representatives were well informed, articulate and aggressive.

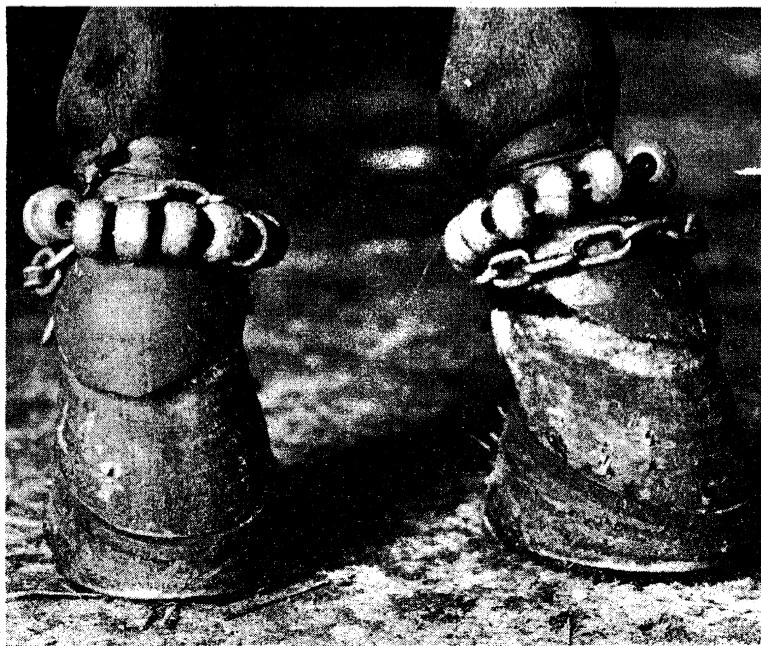
On the other side were only a few representatives of humane associations, specifically Humane Information Services, the Animal Welfare Institute, the Humane Society of the United States and the American Horse Protection Association (if we missed any others, please pardon).

Throughout the very vigorous debate, consisting mostly of objections from the industry spokesmen and answers to questions by APHIS staff, an attempt was made to give the impression that if the tentative suggestions for rule making by APHIS were finally approved, many shows would be put out of business because of the extra costs and inconvenience.

Dr. Thomsen, representing Humane Information Services, summarized his reactions to all this by pointing out that the public is almost solidly against the practice of soring, that the Congress had passed legislation unequivocally backing this public opinion, and that it is up to the APHIS to make and enforce whatever rules and regulations are necessary in order to stop the practice. He pointed out that the regulations and enforcement expenses objected to would never have been necessary if the industry had taken the steps to prevent or stop this cruel practice before it became so solidly established. Horse shows existed before the walking horses were sored, and can survive after the practice is stopped. If it costs money to stop it, either this will have to come out of the profits of the industry, or of the public which pays to view these results of cruelty. Cost or inconvenience, Dr. Thomsen said, is no defense against the imposition of effective regulation. The only valid objections are to regulations which are unnecessary to achieve elimination of the practice.

### SUCCESS IN VIEW

Humane Information Services believes that the APHIS staff is determined to put a stop to this reprehensible treatment of horses, and that if Congress supports the laws it passed by providing necessary annual appropriations, success will be achieved within the next five years. If you want to help in insuring this result, write to: Chief Staff Veterinarian for Horse Protection, Animal Care Staff, Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, 770 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, and to your Congressman, stating that you want



## SPAY-NEUTER — FROM PAGE 4

favor of altered animals occurred in almost the same month that the first clinic started operation. Also, the clinics require all persons bringing their dogs for operations to have the animals licensed. Most of the dogs brought to the clinics were not previously licensed. However, the figures given on the third line of Table 1 do offer some evidence that the LA clinics have contributed to a significant increase in the proportion of dogs that are altered.

EFFECT ON NUMBERS OF DOGS  
IMPOUNDED AND DESTROYED

(2) As shown by the data in Table 1, both the numbers of animals handled and destroyed by the LA Department of Animal Regulation reached a peak in fiscal year 1970-71, and declined rather dramatically each year thereafter. That this decline did take place, as opposed to an increase in the number of animals impounded and destroyed in the State of California as a whole, shown on the bottom two lines of Table 1, is significant. The California data, however, are admittedly imperfect, reflecting changes in reporting agencies.

Similar declines in dogs impounded and destroyed are shown for the very brief periods of time since clinics were established in other California communities.

Based upon these statistics, proponents of low-cost municipal spay clinics have said or implied that the decline in numbers of impounded and destroyed animals in LA is attributable entirely to the operation of that municipality's three clinics. For example:

(From a bulletin of a reputable Los Angeles humane society that has done very effective work in behalf of spaying and neutering.) "There are three LA City Spay Clinics and four LA County Spay Clinics. Since opening the first clinic (1971) 28,739 animals have been altered in just the City clinics alone (the County Clinics have just gone into operation). As a result of these spays and neuters, 27,500 fewer pets were killed by the City pounds in 1975 than in 1971!" (emphasis added).

But a closer look at the figures and conditions prevailing during these years warrants no such conclusion. The LA Department of Animal Regulation itself has said: "The decreases...cited cannot be attributed solely to the...clinic program. Other factors include stricter enforcement of the leash law...the differential in the dog license fee (for altered and unaltered)...and (an aggressive program of) public education. It is noteworthy, however, that the positive reduction trends...have occurred with the inception of the (clinics)." (From a DAR release of September 4, 1974.)

But even this modest appraisal is questioned by some opponents of the clinics.

Reference to Table 1 shows that both the number of animals handled and destroyed by the LA Department of Animal Regulation declined from fiscal year 1970-71 to 1971-72. Yet, the first public spay clinic did not begin operation until December, 1971, and initially was operated at a low rate. Obviously, the clinic could not be legitimately credited with all or much of the big decline in animals handled and destroyed from 1970-71 to 1971-72. Other factors were responsible. Some of those were given in the qualifying statement by the Department of Animal Regulation quoted above.

The table (which contains data for prior years not cited by those who attribute the entire decrease from 1970-71 to 1975-76 to the clinics) shows that the number of animals handled and destroyed increased sharply during each year of the period 1966-67 to 1970-71. This reflected partly the growth of population and other demographic factors. Increases in animals impounded occurred in many other localities in addition to Los Angeles.

This progressive increase in animals handled and destroyed led the LA Department of Animal Regulation, in a report to the chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee dated January 7, 1970, to forecast that in fiscal 1970-71 the number of animals handled would be 150,000, whereas actually it turned out to be

became operative, some of the factors responsible for the preceding years' increases in numbers handled had begun to turn.

In any event, it is obvious that conditions impossible to evaluate quantitatively already had initiated a substantial decline in animals handled before the clinics were in full operation.

It is notable that the decline in animals handled in the years during which the LA clinics were in operation were of lesser amounts than the decline from 1970-71 to 1971-72.

Actually, we do not yet have data for a sufficient number of years, on a sufficient number of the factors involved, to draw any very positive quantitative conclusions about the effects of the operation of municipal low-cost spay-neuter clinics. This applies even more emphatically to the results of clinic operations in other California cities.

## EFFECT ON ANIMAL CONTROL COSTS

(3) Another claim made for low-cost municipal spay-neuter clinics is that they far more than pay for any difference between amounts received as fees for services and actual expenses including amortized start-up costs. This saving results from the reduction in numbers of animals that must be handled by the pet animal control departments or by humane society shelters partially subsidized by the local government.

Given the reduction in the number of animals handled, it is a simple matter of multiplying this figure by the marginal cost per animal for handling. If the reduction in numbers of animals handled attributed to the clinics in Los Angeles is accepted, the total savings to the City in costs of animal control would substantially exceed the subsidized costs of operating the clinics. Humane Information Services believes that in any event a substantial net saving will result. The clinics, we believe, actually reduce rather than add to the total municipal or county budget for animal control.

One leading proponent of low-cost municipal spay clinics, Theodore J. Sorich, of Foster City, California, has attempted to estimate the net savings arising from the spaying of eight young female dogs, whose progeny in the absence of spaying have been projected into the following ten years, on the basis of more realistic assumptions than those usually encountered in such models.\*

\*Proceedings of the National Conference on Dog and Cat Control, February 3-5, 1976, Denver, Colorado; pp 212-214.

The total estimated savings in handling costs to the city by the end of the tenth year is \$516.00, compared with what would have been the net cost of spaying the eight dogs of \$52.72. Consequently, Mr. Sorich figures that each dollar spent for spaying, over and above the part of the cost paid by the dog owners, would have prevented the occurrence of \$9.79 in future animal control costs. Although this simulation may exaggerate the savings to some extent, it probably represents a valid indication of the general effects on animal control costs of the operation of low-cost public spay and neuter clinics.

LOW-COST MUNICIPAL SPAY CLINICS  
NOT THE WHOLE ANSWER  
TO THE PET POPULATION EXPLOSION

Proponents of the clinics are inclined to boost them as an almost complete answer to the surplus pet problem. Humanitarians who read this Report have been exposed to enough of such literature to recognize the validity of that statement without any specific citations.

One of the favorite devices of these enthusiasts is to offer the clinics as the only alternative to what they call the "impound and kill" system operated by local governments and humane society shelters. They say or imply that if only we will set up low-cost clinics, the need for taking in unwanted pet animals and killing them will disappear. That is enough to scare the wits out of pound and shelter managers and personnel, and even many vets, who see their jobs vanishing shortly after the clinic is in operation.

unwanted animals will always be with us so long as we keep pets. This fact of life was adequately explored in our Report to Humanitarians No. 29 and will not be repeated here. For those who may not agree, we recommend reading or rereading that Report. No shelter, pound or animal control officer or employee need fear that he or she will be put out of business by the clinics, and neither should any veterinarian.

The clinics are not the solution of the problem of the surplus, or even the most important part of the solution, for a number of reasons including:

(1) The puppy mills and other undesirable types of "purebred" breeding of dogs, which may later expand to include cats, cannot be stopped by low-cost spay and neuter programs.

(2) A large proportion of the "irresponsible pet owners" we hear so much about will continue to let their animals breed, since even the "low-cost" sterilization fee charged by public clinics is more than they are willing to pay. Many of them will not spend a dime on pet animal health care. If they lose a pet, there are plenty more to be had from the neighbors! When a pet presents the household with a new litter, it is no problem to an irresponsible pet owner, who looks on the progeny as toys for the children or just a result of "what comes naturally." If friends and neighbors will not take the puppies or kittens, he can always take them to the shelter or pound, or drop them at the park.

The low-cost spay-neuter clinics by themselves will never solve the surplus problem. Without other measures necessary to do the job, they can reduce significantly the size of the surplus. But people as a whole will not stop contributing to the surplus unless they are forced to do so.

The really important function of low-cost clinics is to facilitate programs of pet animal control which can put sufficient economic pressure on owners to force them to reduce the production of puppies and kittens. The principal components of such a complete program were described in Report to Humanitarians No. 24 (June, 1973) and No. 29 (September, 1974).

It may be said with some confidence that it will not be possible to take the measures necessary to drastically reduce or eliminate the surplus if we do not have some means of answering those who protest that these measures are too hard on the low-income segment of the population.

We can force people to stop the breeding, either by patronizing private veterinarians or by keeping the animals under restraint during estrus. The pet ownership survey made by Humane Information Services and described in Report to Humanitarians No. 27 shows that many people can and do prevent their unaltered pets from breeding.

City and county governments, however, are very reluctant to use the necessary restrictive measures to cut down the breeding of surplus pet animals, such as a very large differential in license fees for altered and unaltered animals, if the only alternatives for pet owners are utilization of the services of private veterinarians at current rates or going to the trouble of properly caring for their pets.

In any event, we want it to be understood by all that Humane Information Services is definitely in favor of low-cost public spay and neuter clinics, and that we believe it is a proper function of local governments to operate them. But that does not eliminate the need for other measures that has been brought out in these reports, including pet animal control programs described in Report to Humanitarians Nos. 24 and 29, and the reduction of the commercial puppy trade's contribution to the surplus (Report to Humanitarians Nos. 26, 36 and 37).

## WHAT YOU CAN DO!

If you believe in spaying and neutering, as we do, and if you believe that low-cost municipal or county spay-neuter clinics fill a real need in helping to reduce the tremendous surplus production of puppies and kittens, as we do, and if you



**IMPORTANT!**

When you change your address without notifying us, our next *Report* will be returned to us and we will have to pay 25 cents of scarce operating funds. It is amazing how many of our members move in the course of a year.

Your former mailman either stamps the *Report* "Address Unknown" or writes on it your new address, which may or may not be legible or correct. If not, when we eventually receive word from you we will have to make still another stencil, which costs more money. Just one address change may cost us, in materials and labor, as much or more than your annual dues!

So, please cooperate by notifying us in advance of your address correction.

Also, in writing to us about anything, please be sure to use our correct address shown at the top of page one or on the coupon, page two. We still get letters and even contributions addressed to our former office, over a year after we moved. The post office will not forward mail after a year has elapsed, although sometimes our old carrier does so out of friendship. So, please be sure to use our present address in any communication to us.

One other thing. In sending us the names of persons or organizations to whom you would like us to send our *Report*, please give the full name and full address including ZIP code. And don't forget the "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Miss" or "Ms." Some people are insulted if the wrong designation is used.

Thank you.

**SPAY-NEUTER — FROM PAGE 6**

clinic in your city or county, then here are the steps you can take as an individual:

(1) Talk with a member or members of the board of directors, and with the executive director, of your local humane society. Urge them to read this *Report to Humanitarians*. If they operate the pet animal control program of your city or county, point out that they should try to persuade the city or county to give them the authority and start-up funds to operate a

**HUMANE SLAUGHTER NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW**

One of the most important humane problems of the decade is providing humane slaughter for the millions of food animals consumed in the United States. Yet, because animal slaughter is far from the sight and minds of most animal lovers, it continues to occupy a place on the back burner of the humane movement. If the movement had devoted a tenth as much effort to getting the Brown bill passed as it has to numerous other comparatively minor problems, the bill would have been passed long ago and now be in operation, preventing the acute suffering of so many animals. Let's all resolve to really get behind this bill during the 95th Congress.

Congressman Brown of California will reintroduce his bill next January, and is planning to send what is known as a "Dear Colleague" letter to other members of the House of Representatives in December, if possible, offering an opportunity for other members of Congress to co-sponsor the bill when it is introduced after the new Congress convenes. The more co-sponsors the better. But the newly-elected and re-elected members will have many demands for legislation to consider, and some of them are afraid that they will lose the support of Jewish voters if they co-sponsor this bill, although it would not directly affect ritual slaughter in any way. Some Jewish groups do not understand this, or think that the Brown bill is a means of "getting the camel's nose under the tent," and so are opposed to the bill. All other groups that we know of, including livestock producers, meat packers and humane societies, are in favor of the bill.

So, right now a flood of letters to members of Congress, asking them to co-sponsor the humane slaughter bill to be introduced in January by Congressman Brown of California, would be most helpful. You don't need to have a bill number or anything else at this time. So, write now to your own Congressman, United States House of Representatives, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Later, more letters will be needed to members of the new House Committee on Agriculture, requesting hearings and a favorable mark-up of the bill. These things must be taken step by step, and timing is of the essence. So those who want their voice in behalf of animals to be as effective as possible will write now.

low-cost public clinic for the city or county, with the prospect that it will become self-supporting after the first year. If the city or county will not furnish the money for start-up costs, try to find some local organization or firm willing to establish the clinic on a lease basis, or suggest that the society itself establish the clinic with the expectation that it will soon contribute more in revenue than it costs the society to operate it.

(2) Talk with a member or members of the city council or county commission along the same lines. Try to persuade them that within a short time after the clinic is established the budget for animal control work will be less than it otherwise would be, and public complaints about dogs and cats will be reduced.

(3) Talk with reporters on the staffs of your local newspapers and TV and radio

stations about the pet population explosion and how low-cost spay-neuter clinics can help to reduce it.

(4) Talk with the pastors of local churches, officers of the League of Women Voters and other community civic organizations, to enlist their support for a low-cost spay-neuter clinic.

(5) If you can't make personal contacts with any of the above, write letters to them, and get your friends and relatives also to do so.

(6) Write to Humane Information Services telling us what you have done or are doing, and the results. We cannot always answer such letters, but you may be assured they will be carefully read and will be very useful in keeping us informed about what is going on. If you have important questions to ask about spay clinics, we will try to answer them.

**MORE SUCCESS IN ELIMINATING CRUEL METHODS OF EUTHANASIA**

Humane Information Services' aggressive campaign to eliminate cruel methods of euthanasia continues to achieve results.

We still run across shelters and pounds using injections of succinylcholine chloride for destroying dogs and cats. Officials in charge are given those issues of our *Report to Humanitarians* which show that this drug results in probably the cruelest death possible, and we offer to help them find a better substitute method.

In September we received a call from the president of a local humane society who had read our reports and had been trying since February to persuade the local pound to shift from this cruel drug to injections of sodium pentobarbital. He said that a county official had talked with him after reading the reports we had sent him.

Then we received a letter from the county administration dated October 29 stating that "The information attached to your correspondence was among the more reliable information that was provided to the County from various sources." The county pound has shifted to injections of T-61. This is an improvement, but we want them to use sodium pentobarbital, and will continue to work on officials. We give no names or addresses here, because we do not want to embarrass those who are trying.

Recently we received a letter from one of our more active members, Mrs. Harold G. Snyder, of Kansas City, Missouri. She had previously written us, in response to our requests carried in past issues of *Report to Humanitarians*, giving the results of some telephone inquiries she made. These were incomplete, so we wrote asking her to get more details. This she has done, and reports that the Animal Orphanage in Kansas City, Kansas, was motivated by her previous call to stop using succinylcholine chloride, and is now using a solution of sodium pentobarbital. We had previously

City shelter to switch from succinylcholine chloride to a barbiturate solution. So that made two switches in this one community.

Mrs. Snyder also reported that she had explained to the manager of Animal Haven in Merriam, Kansas, the hazards of improper administration of T-61, as explained by Humane Information Services, and sent him our literature, which he promised to read. He said that veterinarians give the injections, so we conclude that they probably are done properly. However, if veterinarians are available for euthanasia, why not use sodium pentobarbital?

She also learned the name of the solution used by the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, which is Repose, a barbiturate solution. This is humane if properly injected.

Mrs. Snyder also said she had heard that the shelter at Gladstone, Missouri, was using succinylcholine chloride. "I forced myself to talk to the director there. I gave him my two copies of HIS papers on this curare-type drug, and he promised to read them. He asked specifically if you would send him *Report to Humanitarians* as it comes out. He said he has no veterinarian to help him, and I gathered that succinylcholine chloride was easier to use, because it can be injected into the muscle and not intravenously. (She is following up.) Thank you for the work you are doing. Enclosed check."

Some animal lovers have been working on behalf of animals for years, without accomplishing as much as Mrs. Snyder has in a few months. Our hats are off to her. She had to "force herself" to make those calls, which obviously were a disagreeable task, but she did it.

These are only a few of the specific cases in which our work on euthanasia has been used to stop the destruction of dogs

methods. Other humane societies, seeing the popularity of this campaign, recently have been devoting increasing attention to this important aspect of humane work. Before Humane Information Services started the trend, the subject of euthanasia nearly everywhere was swept under the rug, because humane society officials did not wish to call attention to the large numbers of animals they were forced to destroy, and because the readers of their publications found the subject distasteful. So the suffering went on with little or no attempt to stop it. Even now, we receive occasional letters from readers who urge us to give less attention to killing and more to keeping animals alive. But we are here only to prevent animal suffering, not to please animal lovers who wish to think only of the pleasant aspects of animal rescue work.

We have appealed many times to our readers to make inquiries at nearby shelters and pounds, and report to us the full details about their methods of euthanasia. Only a very small percentage of those on our mailing list have done so. Now that you see how productive such inquiries can be, won't you please, if it is at all possible, do the same thing in your own community. Don't be afraid of rebuffs. If the shelter or pound will not give you the information, that is reason enough to be suspicious, so let us know.

Another milestone passed in our way to substituting genuine euthanasia for so-called euthanasia was passage this summer by Massachusetts of legislation banning the use of the decompression chamber to kill any animal. The major burden of work in obtaining this ban was borne by Dorothy O'Brien, of Plymouth, and Esther Nowell, of Wakefield, but Humane Information Services did all it could to help.

What has your state or community been



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

## WOLVES--DIFFERENCES OF OPINION

"We noted the letter from Lonnie Williamson of the Wildlife Management Institute (Report No. 36) in which he states that 'literally hundreds of thousands of dollars' were spent to prevent Alaska from killing about 100 wolves, while the problems of the National Wildlife Refuge System are being ignored.

"Mr. Williamson is so completely wrong his letter borders on irresponsibility....Defenders of Wildlife shared the costs of fighting to save the wolves with at least seven other organizations. The total costs...were something under \$5,000...Alaska did kill about 100 wolves last winter....It probably cost Alaska's taxpayers in excess of \$2,000 to track down and kill each wolf....In addition, the federal government is supplying Alaska with about \$170,000 in Pittman-Robertson funds for wolf-related research, mostly involving some phase of 'controlled' wolf populations...

"Frankly, we hope Lonnie Williamson is more careful in future letters for publication."--Toby Cooper, Wildlife Programs Coordinator, Defenders of Wildlife, Washington, DC.

## REPLY:

We anticipated that Mr. Williamson's letter would draw rebuttal. We print letters expressing viewpoints differing from our own. In this case, we think that too much money was spent both in the killing of the wolves and in trying to prevent it. That is because of our strong belief in following priorities in spending animal welfare funds, based upon (1) the number of animals involved, (2) the average amount of cruelty per animal, and (3) the prospect that the expenditure will achieve results.

## LEGHOLD TRAPS

Some time ago we received 15 letters written by pupils in Mrs. Stanford's class in Cedar Hills School, 2225 West Sycamore, Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154. The letters protested the use of leghold traps and the taking of furbearers to fill only a vanity need. All were good, but we liked especially the following from Peter Schwichtenberg:

"Dear Sirs: I would like to stop steel traps and any kind of animal trap....Stop killing all of these innocent animals. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE WEARING YOU?"

That last line would make a good slogan for any campaign to stop the use of leghold traps. And Mrs. Stanford evidently knows how to conduct practical humane education. Congratulations to her and the children.

# Merry Christmas



By conventional standards, our Christmas at Humane Information Services should be a dismal one. We have no time to exchange cards with our friends, we receive and give no presents, we have no grandchildren to talk with on the phone, and we will eat fish for Christmas dinner! And a spate of kidney trouble has made us eschew the eggnog toddy.

Yet our hearts will be full of genuine Christmas cheer. That is because we measure happiness not in terms of what affects us, but what affects animals. And during the past year we have been making great progress in helping animals. Getting into "animal work" as we are requires a complete dedication which to some people makes us "warped personalities," fit subjects for the psychiatrist's couch. Many of our members are in the same psychiatric group, and know what we mean. But it doesn't keep us from being happy about it. On the contrary, we believe we have much more going for us than those who are made happy or sad only by what directly affects them. When we help animals, it gives us a lift that nothing else can. Since animals are in such great need of help, we should never run out of the stuff of which our happiness is made.

And this has been a great year for Humane Information Services. Some of our programs really are rolling, at last, and our plans for the future are even more promising. Sure, we are short of funds, since we spend practically all of our time doing meaningful humane work rather than seeking publicity and contributions by devoting our efforts to public relations. We know of no national humane society that is accomplishing more, even with much greater financial resources. We hope to change even the money problem by more aggressive fund-raising efforts in the future, but never at the expense of using what we get to really help suffering animals. How could we be happier this Christmas?

So thank you, dear fellow humanitarians, for helping us to have such a fine Christmas. We hope all of our readers--even those who have not yet decided to become paying members!--feel equally blessed this Christmas season. If you don't, we think it not inappropriate to suggest a remedy: send us a nice big Christmas donation. That will make you feel good! We promise you that it will be used directly and effectively to help the animals.

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## LICENSING CATS

"Licensing cats would make it more difficult for shelters. The cats would then be personal property, like dogs. The amount of cats received at shelters is mind boggling. It would take an armory to house them if they had to be held seven days. I have picked up hundreds of sick and injured cats. I have seen more cruelty to cats than all other animals combined. Most of the time the situation is so horrible I can't wait to get to the shelter to have them put to sleep. My friend and I picked up 66 cats on just two weekends. Selfishly, I am concerned about lawsuits involving owned or licensed cats."--Mrs. George Kolikas, Medford, New Jersey.

## REPLY:

Your letter covers constructively a number of subjects including puppy mills (our Report Nos. 36 and 37). We will use some of your comments later. About cats, your graphic description reflects the fact that cats have not been licensed or included in many pet animal control ordinances. The permit system advocated by Humane Information Services would make possible controlling the breeding of cats which now is out of hand. The holding period for impounded cats would not necessarily be the same as for dogs. And we remind you that cats already are personal property, just as much as dogs. Our proposals for pet animal control would greatly improve the status and treatment of cats.

## PEOPLE DON'T CARE

"Your reports are very informative. You don't waste money on pretty pictures, poetry, puzzles. I like your way but wish it wasn't necessary. The recent report on puppy mills is a sad commentary on our society....I used to think, like you, that educating the people would be the answer, but as you can see, it isn't. It's not that people don't know better, it's that they don't care."--Mrs. Pauline Kinsolving, Memphis, Tennessee.

## REPLY:

We agree with you that merely informing (educating) people about what goes on does little good. This must be combined with providing specific plans for action. Information plus planned action can and does bring results. We must not become discouraged because it takes time for humanitarians to really get behind the plans and produce results. After all, the humane movement is over 100 years old, but only in very recent years have some humane societies realized that mere talk and wringing of hands will not work, and that complicated problems cannot be solved with simplistic actions. We feel encouraged, and hope that you, too, will not give up the ship.

## CAN'T CONTRIBUTE

"I think your organization is doing a great job and I'd like to contribute to that; however, I am self-supporting and have limited funds. Hope you keep up the good work."--Mrs. L. Ruefer, Davenport, Iowa.

## REPLY:

Well, we certainly couldn't if all our members who are self-supporting and have limited funds thought they couldn't afford even a dollar for associate membership. If any other readers feel the same as this one, we ask them to just think of the different things for which they spend a dollar during the year, and see if they can't find just one which could be eliminated in favor of membership in Humane Information Services.

## READING ABOUT ANIMAL SUFFERING

"I'm against inhumane treatment of all animals perhaps more than most people, but I don't like to read about all the suffering. It does not motivate me to go out and fight cruelty. It just makes me sick. Please don't send any more. Thank you."--Ms. Valerie D. Sawyer, Oswego, New York.

## REPLY:

We hope you find the sand does not hurt your eyes when you bury your head in it! We are glad that few think as you do. Following are some contrasting letters.

"Really appreciate the detailed information presented. It is vitally important!"--Mrs. Robert Bauer, Bristol, Indiana.

"You have my deep admiration for your intelligent, well-written, thoroughly-researched articles and the economical use of paper and postage. Your readers are informed and able to make fair judgments on the animal problems which you take up."--Mrs. Herbert O. Albrecht, Springfield, Pennsylvania.

"Your HIS is such a help--and an eye-opener."--Mrs. Dawnalyn D. Powers, Westfield, Massachusetts.

"Your Report is so valuable to me--it is truly a wonderful informative service. Keep up the lengthy reporting!"--Mrs. Miles E. Nickerson, Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

have been received from . . .

Mrs. Howard D. McEwen, Sonoma, California, "in memory of my dear friend Ruth Maxwell Denny."

Miss Helen A. Stiebeling, Hillsboro, New Hampshire, "in memory of Julie, Maggie and Topsy."

Ms. Virginia Thomson, Royal Oak, Michigan, "in remembrance of my mother, Irene Thomson, who passed away September 29. She was 75, though not in appearance, spirit or action. Throughout her lifetime she gave--in a private, quiet way, for she had a hearing problem--time and energy in the cause of animal welfare. My mother was a loving person--particularly fond of dogs and horses--but always rushing to the aid of anything in distress that came her way. The animal world has