

# Animal-Related Careers: A Humane Goal for Youth

By Charles F. Herrmann, HSUS Director of Humane Education

How do you spread the humane ethic? How do you reach America's children and youth? How do you compete with TV, young hunters groups, youthful rodeo enthusiasts, and the violent, often cruel stimuli that is all around us?

We are contenders in an arena chock full of special interest groups vying for the attention of America's young people. Each one is intent upon nurturing specific attitudes and modes of behavior that will enable their philosophy to be passed on to the next generation, and the next, and the next.

What is The Humane Society of the United States doing about humane education? How are we faring as we seek to buttress the natural affinity that children have for animals?

Our strongest effort as of late has been in the area of career education. In recent years, career education has gained a firm foothold in our schools. Starting at kindergarten with career awareness, programs dealing with careers now permeate the entire school structure. HSUS has responded to the popularity of career education by preparing educational materials, with the humane flavor, that will be useful to educators and learners.

Our first effort was a manual entitled: "Careers: Working With Animals." "Careers" is a unique publication designed to be used by students in junior high through college levels, as well as guidance counselors and teachers. Written by Guy Hodge, "Careers" has proven to be very popular. It has chapters dealing with the humane and conservation movements, the job market in animal-related fields, education required, and sources of education and information.

We believe that "Careers" has the most definitive listing available of colleges and universities offering animal-related career preparation programs. In addition, the manual zeroes in on 16 specific careers detailing such information as salaries, working hours, education required, and daily duties. These 16 careers are printed on "dry copiers" (stiff glossy paper) that the

teacher or guidance counselor can use for copying on a photocopying machine for distribution to interested students.

There are two versions of this manual, the Professional Edition and the Student's Edition. In the latter case, the 16 careers mentioned earlier are not printed as "dry copiers" but are included as regular pages. The Student's Edition sells for \$1.95 and the Professional Edition for \$3.95. "Careers" is now in its second printing. We hope it will continue to serve the many young people who are thinking about working with animals.

KIND, the HSUS junior membership program, has also made good use of the popularity of career education. Recent issues of KIND newsletters have stressed animal-related careers, and many KIND members have expressed a high degree of interest in career topics through correspondence with Dale Hylton, KIND editor.

In another use of careers information, John Dommers, director of our Norma Terris Humane Education Center in East Haddam, Conn., and I recently completed work on a six-segment sound filmstrip program entitled "Working with Animals." This career awareness program was designed for use in kindergarten through fourth grade. It is being distributed by Troll Associates of Mahwah, N.J. "Working with Animals" introduces primary youngsters to zoo workers, veterinarians and their aides, dog groomers, pet shop workers, canine control officers, kennel workers, humane educators, animal obedience trainers, conservationists, and park naturalists. The photos are of real workers taken on location. The student learns about the environment where the worker performs his duties, the type of clothing the worker wears, the basic duties, and some of the good and bad aspects of the job.

It is the feeling of the education staff that the natural interest young people have for animals can motivate their study of animal-related careers. And, through the study of careers, we can help children discover what being humane is all about! □

