

**PRESENTATION**

I am heartbroken over our present pound system. I feel with some changes we could meet the real needs of the people and the life giving needs of our PETS.

**The needs of the people are:**

There are many reasons why a person can no longer keep their pet(s).  
The wife just had a baby.  
He has to move into an apartment.  
The animal is barking and is bothering the neighbors.  
They have to move.  
So they take their pet to the animal control center. Most people are under the illusion that their pet will find a new home. The pounds are not set up to find new homes, they are set up to kill, and that's what they do mostly.

**WE NEED LAWS TO PROTECT OUR PETS!**

All animals, whether they are stray or whether the owner brings them in, should have a chance for adoption. NO ANIMAL SHOULD BE KILLED IMMEDIATELY. All animals should be held as long as possible.

**WE NEED AN ADOPTION CREW WORKING DIRECTLY FROM THE POUND**

We need to use our media, T.V., radio, local papers, to tell the people what is available. We now pay people \$8.00 per hour to kill. I think we could at least pay a minimum wage to the adoption crew to assure the success of such a venture. Once this program is instituted it should continue, as people will rely on the good will of such a program. The SPCA in Solano County which serves Farfield, Vallejo, Dixon, Benecia and Rio Vista has not euthanised one animal in ten years. They have adopted 1,000 animals since January 1 of last year. Their board of directors does not allow killing, IT IS AGAINST EVERYTHING THEY STAND FOR. The SPCA gets animals FREE from the pound. Carol Abbot manager of SPCA will help us in any way they can. (707) 448-7979. They have a very successful adoption center. We could use the adoption center to place pets, to get information to the public about being a responsible pet owner, and to help County and City animal control follow-up on the spay/neuter program. NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE THESE CHANGES.

**SACRAMENTO CAT LAW READS:**

All cats are allowed to roam free and unlicensed. Yet the City and County rent cat traps to the public. This is a contradiction to the original law, and does not protect the cat.

**WHO IS SPAYED?**

There is no way of telling which animals are spayed, and which are

not. The problem with this is animals being spayed twice. The second problem is the animal can't be easily adopted because of the cost of the spay/neuter fee, when the animal may already be spayed and no one knows this.

**SOLUTION:** The vet could put a small tattoo on the animal, as a symbol for its sterilization.

### **LAWS NEED TO BE MADE TO PROSECUTE ABUSES OF ANIMALS**

The pit bull is a breed of dog, and some people have chosen to use it as a fighting dog. However, many people have pit bulls as pets. Consequently, the pound has adopted a rule itself which does not allow a pit bull to be adopted from its facility. What kind of a rule is this? It means that a pit bull is dead on arrival, without even the slightest chance of being adopted. I feel this is not fair and unjust. The new owner could be screened carefully to be sure that the pit bull was going to a good home, and not to someone who would use it for fighting.

### **HIGH COST OF SPAY/NEUTER FEE**

Because of the high cost of the spay/neuter fee, approximately 500 animals were adopted out of the pound last year. Approximately 25,000 were put to death. Many less adoptions - Many more put to death. Only 1/6 of the animal population get out of the pound alive.

I feel it is a terrible betrayal on our part to let these pets down, that we have all LOVED. When we could so easily do much more. We only cheat ourselves morally by endorsing killing as our first solution to the problem. There is a great need in this community to have a pound system that we trust and respect.

1. One of the reasons people won't have their dogs' licensed is because they won't support a slaughterhouse.
2. People are reluctant to take lost pets to the pound for fear they will be killed. Thus, the owners cannot find them. pets are sold to research facilities, and this another reason why people will not bring lost pets to the pound.
3. Many people are trying to do humane and generous acts, that should be done by the pound systems, by taking in animals, feeding them and trying to place them by putting ads in the local paper. They are then overloaded and exhausted, financially and emotionally.

Comment by Connie at Pets and Pals: "Amen!!!"

4. The spay/neuter deposit is complicated. Often people don't know that they can get their deposit back. This the girl at the front desk should always explain. Also the double payment is inconvenient, and many people may not have enough cash flow to get the animal spayed. A certificate or voucher system that could be used to pay for the spay directly at the chosen veterinarian would service the owner and the pet much more effectively.

VETERINARIANS AND COUNTY SHOULD WORK TOGETHER. WE ARE TRYING TO SAVE LIVES.

5. Most important for ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS to be honest over the phone. If they will refuse to check all kennels for dogs they should always say, "I can't give you information on your animal, PLEASE COME TO OUR FACILITY AND CHECK FOR YOURSELF." This would be HONEST. I know sometimes they say they don't have it when they do. THIS IS TOO LOOSE WHERE A LIFE IS CONCERNED. Should emphasize to the people to come immediately, and every day, for they only hold the dogs for a few hours.

PLEASE, NO MORE KILLING - - PLEASE, NO MORE INDESCRIMINATE BREEDING

How do we want to accomplish this? More laws, rules, and regulations, or more education. Let's work together to find a real solution.

EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR

Education is a most important approach in reducing the number of impounded and euthanised animals. In the counties that do have an educational coordinator they have been able to cut down, almost in half, the number of animals they euthanise yearly. Why haven't we got an educational coordinator? Someone who wants to eliminate the slaughter, educate the public, focus on adoption, and follow-up the low cost spay. These programs many of which have been instituted during the Prop. 13 era, have been sold, and kept inforced because they are cost effective. Had the County followed through and put the educational position in "PLACE" at that time, now, four years later we could have been impounding and destroying a significantly fewer animals, like 10,000. Sometimes it takes time to get the ball rolling , but once it starts is snowballs. Say 10,000 this year, 15,000 the next, 20,000 and so on. LET'S DO IT NOW.

The Sacramento Council of Dog Clubs has been a long and ardent supporter of the Educational Coordinator. In fact, every Humane group including the County Animal Control and the City Animal Control and S.V.V.M.A. have enforced the Educational Coordinator position.

Louise Mitchell  
4079 Bridge Street  
Fair Oaks, California 95628  
961-4844 967-9644

Betty Blake  
Breeders Corner  
4856 San Juan Avenue  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Dee Hart  
967-5665

Connie at Pets and Pals  
1307 Morse Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Ruth Pearson  
Inverness Day Care  
2931 Myrtle Avenue  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
487-1167

Rescue and Place  
8536 Sheraton Drive  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
Dee Hart  
Margaret Hapner  
Harold Hapner  
Marg Hansen  
967-5665

I have enclosed a copy of a letter received from the United States Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc., written by Katherine Rau, as part of this presentation.

Concerned Citizen  
Judy Verhaag  
5701 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
489-7165

Judith Christy  
Pet Lover & Lover of Life  
Fair Oaks Resident  
962-2645

Jo Allen  
8473 Jo Mar Lane  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
967-7108

\*The above people support this presentation in full.

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*United States Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc.*

4218 SAN JUAN AVENUE, FAIR OAKS, CALIFORNIA 95628  
(916) 967-7729

March 12, 1980

Louise Mitchell  
4079 Bridge Street  
Fair Oaks, Ca.

Dear Louise, we want to thank you for sending us a copy of your proposal, to help find homes for the victims in the pound.

We see no valid reason anyone should object to your efforts, to encourage adoption.

However, our organization does not wish to become involved in any program dealing with the County Pound, again. Therefore, we can not help you.

We are certain the, Board of Supervisors, will give your ideas a just consideration and we hope that this consideration leads to your victory and continued good work, for those who can not speak for themselves.

With Sincerity,  
*K. Rau*  
Katherine Rau

Rescue and Place Pet's is firmly convinced that Louisa Mitchell's proposal for a pet adoption crew to work under her direction at the Sacramento City and County Animal Control Centers should be enacted immediately.

Miss Mitchell has worked for two months researching the possibility of an adoption center. She has also contacted other adoption centers in California inquiring about their results, problems, rewards and cost.

Such a crew could be beneficial to help guide unknowledgeable people how to find their lost pet, and how to adopt a pet from the animal control center, where to find low cost spay clinics.

This type of service would benefit individuals adopting pets as well as leave more time for animal control officers to make public appearances to schools, talk shows, with their firsthand knowledge of our pet death rate. Possibly they can convince a percent of John Q. Public not to let their pets breed.

This is just one step in helping our abandoned, and unwanted pets.

Please help all pet groups and individuals that cry to no avail over the killing of God's creatures.

Rescue and Place  
8536 Sheraton Drive  
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been president of the Millennium Guild for the last ten.

Several years ago, it was Pegeen Fitzgerald who successfully led the Millennium Guild's campaign to stop cruel and unnecessary experiments on cats at New York's Museum of Natural History. And now, as she hands out yellow balloons reading, "Don't blind rabbits," she insists "Since science has found a way to test for pregnancy that eliminated the need to kill rabbits, then it can surely find a substitute for the Draize test."

IT'S 11:30 P.M. SEVERAL DAYS LATER; the pace is unhurried. The scene is the Fitzgerald's 16th floor apartment overlooking Central Park South. There are four microphones on a wood table in the middle of the living room, a fireplace against the wall, and countless books on the floor-to-ceiling shelves.

The "living soap opera," as Pegeen calls it, begins. Ed, whose frail health has prevented him from doing the show regularly, is on tonight. That means the banter and bicker, for which the Fitzgeralds are famous, is omnipresent and effervescent. Critics have complained that their slice-of-life program, subtitled, "Book Talk, Back Talk and Small Talk," has neither form nor format. They may be correct, but, nonetheless, the Fitzgeralds, married 50 years, discuss anything and everything, be it the theater, humanitarian causes, current events and governmental affairs, or even a bill or letter they may have received in the mail that morning. Ed can be craggy, Pegeen flippant. But perhaps, as some listeners contend, it is their unusual combination of homespun humor, peppered with slick, city sophistication that colors them, and their broadcasts, "unique."

Pegeen says that she and Ed don't plan controversy—it just happens. Consequently, it's not uncommon for the couple to contradict each other on the air and lace their ensuing conversations with barbs and nettles. Ed, to the surprise of listeners, once walked out on Pegeen during a show, saying that he "wanted to go back to sleep." The Fitzgeralds use no prepared scripts and have no assistants with them while they are on the air; at all times, their conversation is spontaneous. It's in line with Pegeen's view



One of a series of protests outside Revlon's headquarters, protesting their use of the Draize test. Inset: Pegeen Fitzgerald.

Boycott companies  
that use the Draize  
test to blind and  
kill hapless rabbits

other things—articles that may have appeared in that morning's *Times*. And Pegeen, who is also president of the Anti-Vivisection Society of New York and the Mercy Animal Fund, doesn't forget these special interests. Often, she will enlist the aid of listeners in the adoption of pets that can no longer be kept by their owners. She does a listing of lost and found animals, something most people would never expect from New York "big time" radio.

**"Since science has found a way to test for pregnancy that eliminated the need to kill rabbits, then it can surely find a**

telephone calls are numerous commercials, some of which Pegeen styles and reads herself. No advertisements for meats or furs are used on the program.

When the Fitzgeralds leave the city for their summer house in Kent, Conn., they take their program with them. WOR has installed special remote broadcasting facilities in their log cabin retreat which has also served as a shelter for as many as 78 cats at one time before the Fitzgeralds put up a special building for that purpose on the property. The couple has also broadcast while on cruises, courtesy of the U.S. Lines, who, when sponsors, outfitted a stateroom with broadcasting facilities for them. "We've only missed one show in all these years—last January (1980), I lost my voice and Ed was sick," Pegeen recalls.

Pegeen, born in Norcatur, Kan. and the

Pegeen Fitzgerald

IN'S-DRAIZE TES



*"Street theater" tactics were used outside Revlon's headquarters to help dramatize the plight of rabbits in cosmetic laboratory tests. The Millennium Guild was one of the demonstration's sponsors. Since then, Revlon has put up \$750,000 for research to find a replacement for the Draize test.*

show, and Pegeen continued her advertising career, this time with McCreery's department store. Overhearing a conversation between two women on a New York City bus that focused on "Ed Fitzgerald and the woman he married with such choice remarks as, 'she simply must be dreadful,' and 'Ed must be a devil with the ladies,'" convinced Pegeen that a husband and wife radio talk show would

obliging to put a direct line from the studio to her hospital room. Pegeen was embarrassed, however, that her announcer, Henry Morgan (best known for his later movie and television roles), would have to see her in "such a condi-

**Ed, to the surprise of listeners, has even**

their apartment and the couple continued to do what they had done when she was in the hospital. The idea caught on so well, according to Pegeen, that WOR executives decided to let them continue indefinitely.

Pegeen notes that within 18 months of their show's premier, there were at least 78 other husband and wife talk shows broadcast across the United States. Many

Anna Louise Mitchell  
4079 Bridge Street  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
96]-4844 or 967-9644

Dear Editor:

An increasing number of people are becoming aware and horrified by the mass slaughter of our local pets. Many people feel that the County and City Animal Control center is a misguided, poorly run facility whose employees are justifiably embarrassed by the job they do. It is common knowledge that the pound is no more than a SLAUGHTERHOUSE. Most humane, caring individuals are reluctant to subject themselves to the emotional ordeal of a visit to the pound.

Seven and a half years ago, the City Council, with the best intentions, passed an ordinance requiring a spay or neuter deposit to be placed with the pound by anyone adopting an animal. The purpose of this was to discourage all breeding that results in a surplus pet population. Now, seven years later the results of that law are a surplus of some \$60,000 or more and many less adoptions. A complicated problem has become more difficult. More animals than ever are being destroyed. The ordinance does not appear to have effectively decreased the problem. One of the major disadvantages is anyone wishing to adopt a pet from the pound must now have as much as an \$80 cash flow, \$40 for the spay deposit and \$40 for the spay before receiving the initial deposit refund.

We must ask ourselves, "Is the pound serving the pet population, or the community in its best interests?" Unfortunately the answer is no, it serves neither. The pet population is not being served by mass exterminations.

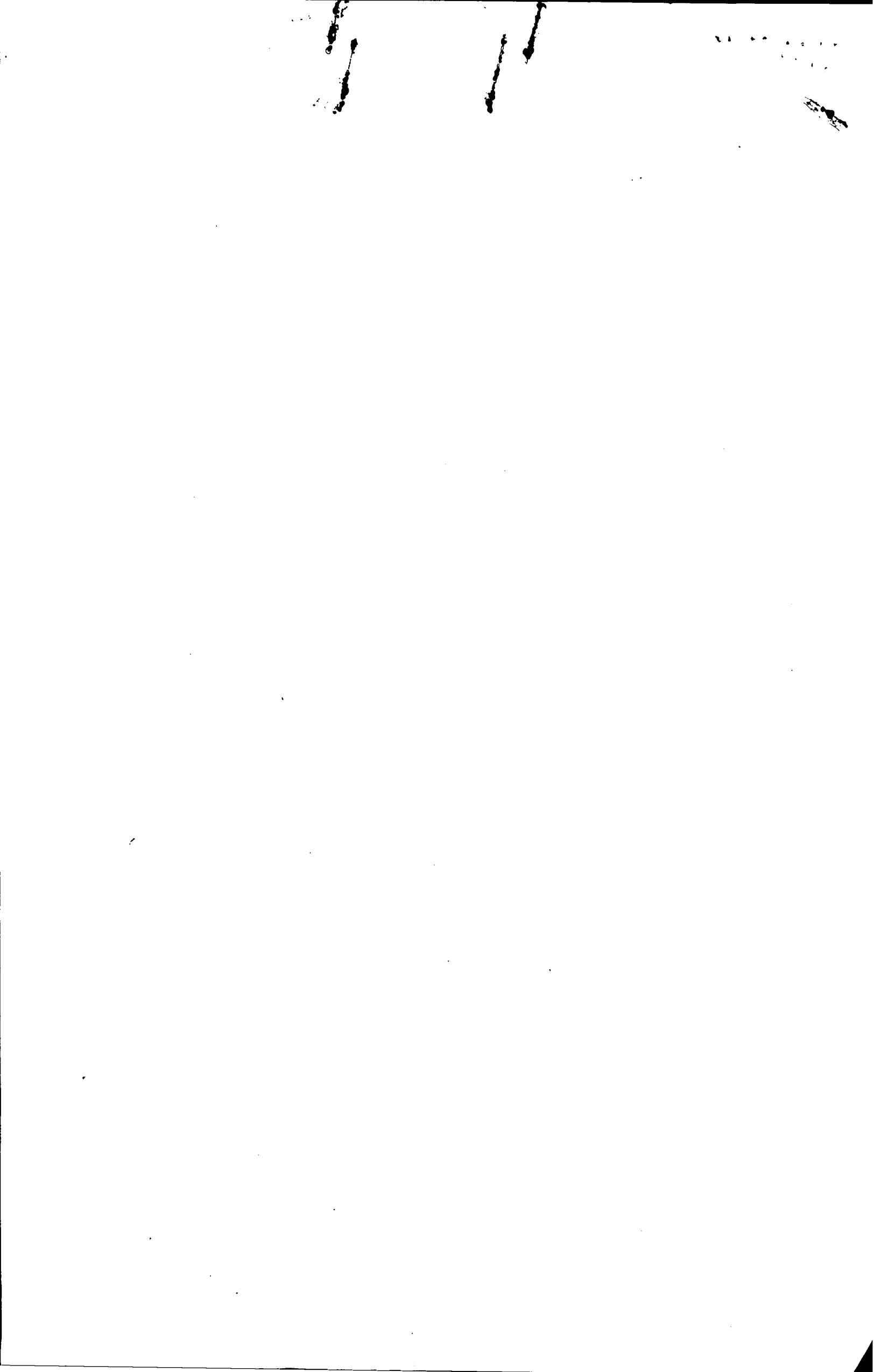
Is there an alternative to this ugly situation? Many people feel there is. First the community must become aware of the problem and be willing to take a stand on the issue. We must get people out to the pound, not only to see how it operates, but to act as a conscience. Presently the main thrust of the operation is EXTERMINATION. We need to reverse that trend and gear the pound toward caring for and placing animals. There are ways of accomplishing this. One way would be to have a volunteer adoption center working directly from the pound, using local media to inform the public. There are many fine adoptive pet services throughout the County which could work in cooperation with the pound. A certificate purchased on adoption could be used to pay at an existing spay clinic therefore eliminating the double payment. All dog licenses should have some sort of owner identification on the tag. This would help many lost animals get home again. As the situation now stands, many of the animals being exterminated are well-fed and cared for, obviously someone's lost pet. Many owners cannot find their pets because people are reluctant to take them to the pound as they object to having them killed. The licenses, spay certificate and owner identification could be gotten directly at the pound at a low and reasonable cost to the owner. This could be done efficiently in one operation.

If a pet owner leaves his pet at an Animal Control Facility, that pet may be destroyed immediately, or sold for research. When you bring your unwanted pets in, LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE IN YOUR MIND, YOUR ANIMAL IS DOOMED. The people at the front desk of the Animal Control Center will not inform you of these facts unless specifically asked. The very least, it seems, is that we have the right to ask the Animal Control Center to be honest, I know people have called them to see if their dog had been picked up and they say no we haven't got it; only to find that they do have the dog. In some cases the owner is too late for his loved one has already been destroyed.

Anyone who has ever loved a pet should be willing to take a stand on this HEART-BREAKING issue. It is possible to run an efficient and humane Animal Control Center; one that is willing to meet the needs of its pet owners. It is the responsibility of the local news media to inform the public of the issues, and the community must become involved and show their concern.

There are several acting alternative situations in Sacramento County. Please call for placement and counseling: Louisa at ANIMAL CRISIS LINE 967-9644 or 961-4844, ~~961-4844~~ ~~961-4844~~, Mela Thompson, PETS IN NEED 446-0933, PETS & PALS 922-4345. Katie at ADOPT A PET 967-7729 or RESUCE AND PLACE dee 967-5665, Margaret 726-0247, Marge 332-3834, and Gean ~~455~~-8831.

Anna Louise Mitchell



**STRAY**  
**SMALL ANIMAL**  
**NOT**  
**FOR**  
**SALE**



# More than 1,000 Animals Die

every month at the  
City and County Pound!



Only 1 out of every 20 animals  
finds a home

For counseling or animal placement

Call

Animal Crisis Line 961-4844 or 967-9644

Ask for Louisa

Rescue and Place — 967-5665 — Dee

726-0247 — Margaret

332-3834 — Marge • 445-8831 — Jean

Responsible Volunteers Needed

*"Live In My Love"*