

S.P.C.A. Received 6,564 Animals At Its Shelter This Year

Society Has Investigated Many Complaints Involving Cruelty

By MRS. H. B. SCHOOLEY

More Animals Received

From January 1 to September 30, 1961, 6,564 animals were received at the shelter. Dogs totaled 3,763; there were 2,761 cats, and 40 miscellaneous animals. Our ambulance answered 2,504 calls for service. These calls range from everything from squirrels in the chimney to cats in coal bins.

Complaints Involving Livestock

A livestock van, loaded with 212 calves, was enroute from Maryland to a slaughter house in Lackawanna County, when stopped for inspection on Route 315 near our shelter. We found ten of the calves down and being trampled on by the other animals due to the overcrowded condition of the lower deck of the trailer. Two calves on the upper deck had fallen through an opening in the floor and were hanging by their hind legs. In the words of our agent, "It was the most inhumane sight I ever saw." The driver of the truck was arrested and pleaded guilty to a charge of transporting animals in a cruel manner at a hearing before Justice of the Peace Albert Lisi.

We inspected another truck when it passed through the area from Milan, Pa. We found the truck box badly in need of reconstruction.

Although there were no animals in the truck at the time, the flooring was rotten and had large holes in which animals could become caught. We notified the owner of the vehicle who immediately made the necessary repairs.

Gold Fish Swim Halted

We were approached early last summer by a local organization requesting our approval of weekly "gold fish swims." The fish were to be dumped into a swimming pool. Youngsters were then to dive into the pool and attempt to catch the fish with their bare hands or to scoop them up into tin cans. We advised the organization that we would not approve the rough handling of such delicate creatures and the project was dropped.

Shocking Conditions at a Riding Academy

We investigated a complaint against a local riding academy and found six horses kept in a ramshackle barn. There were swarms of flies on the horses and ten inches of mud and filth on the barn floor. No hay or oats could be found. Witnesses reported a horse from the establishment collapsed and lay dying for five days in a nearby woods. We found the carcass of the animal but the witnesses refused to appear against the owner.

We located the owner of the academy and gave him three days in which to clean out the barn, install a floor, and to have one sickling horse treated. We stayed until a supply of feed was brought in and saw to it that all the horses were properly fed and watered. On return investigation we found all of

our conditions had been complied with.

Kitten Survives 25 Foot Drop

A witness reported seeing a group of boys toss a kitten from a bridge to the river twenty-five feet below. The kitten, tiny as it was, managed to swim to the center of the stream to a clump of debris. With the use of our cat pole we were able to reach the shivering, emaciated animal and pull it to safety. After being dried off and kept warm at the shelter for several hours, the kitten revived and enjoyed a large meal of mackerel.

New Cat Yard Donated

Miss Modesta Ximena, board member and cat lover, "kitty sits" at the shelter often. She felt sorry that there was no place for the playful kittens to run in the cat room, so she had a lovely yard for the cats built adjacent to the cat room which will contain a scratching tree and ledges for sunning.

The Pet Cemetery

Already seven beloved pets have been interred during the past months. Lots 2 ft. by 3 ft. are priced at \$10. The burial fee is \$5, plus the cost of a box or pet casket. Samples of these may be seen and ordered at the Animal Shelter. The price, of course, increases with the size of the grave and with special services such as pick-up, euthanasia, etc., as well as engraved markers.

The Cemetery Committee has a picture of the nicest statue that would make a fitting focal point for the cemetery, making it really look like an official pet cemetery. It is an Italian, carved stone fox terrier type dog with a basket of flowers in its mouth. It is 24 inches high—placed on a pedestal with a flower garden around it it would set the tone for the cemetery.

It would cost \$100 which the S.P.C.A. cannot afford. It takes whatever money we have just to run the place. For anyone who has a beloved pet he or she wishes to pay a special tribute to, this would be most fitting. It would be a humane gift, too, for the more attractive the cemetery is the more people will buy lots. After the Society recovers its initial investment spent in fixing the cemetery, the money from the lots will go towards the care of the animals in the shelter.

An Explanation

The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is not in business to round up unlicensed or unconfined pets. However, every once in awhile the police get so many complaints about animal nuisances such as dogs annoying and scaring school children on their way to school, or in school yards

or playgrounds, animals damaging gardens, and biting people. There is a state law, as well as local ordinances, protecting these people. The gist of the law is that dogs must not run at large, either upon the public streets or highways, or upon the property of other than the owners. Police are required to impound all licensed dogs and to shoot those that are unlicensed. The police don't like to do it.

When the Wilkes-Barre police asked the S.P.C.A. to assist in rounding up the unconfined dogs of Wilkes-Barre, rather than have them shot, we agreed to do so. Many people objected to the S.P.C.A. having a part in this. Owners did have to come to the shelter and get their animals, which was inconvenient for the owners, but I think they will agree with us that it is better to be inconvenienced

than to have one's pet shot—and the police haven't enough cages to keep them impounded. It is an unpleasant, but humane duty of the S.P.C.A. occasionally.

Hound Influx at Shelter

The end of the hunting season always results in the abandonment of dogs by unscrupulous people who acquire them before hunting season and then abandon them when it is over. If a stray comes to your

door, please feed it and call us. What Would We Do Without The Thrift Shop

The success story of the Thrift Shop is phenomenal. The clientele come from all over the valley and outside it, too. The turn over is so fast, the shop is continually in need of more stock. Mrs. R. J. Haerter, Second Vice President of the Society, is the tireless, eager, and inspiring volunteer who runs

the shop. She tells me she'll do anything to get merchandise, and after she gets it, she mends, paints, repairs, and embellishes the articles so that the person who gives them is sorely tempted to buy them back at a goodly price.

Mrs. Haerter and Mrs. Ralph Paul recently went to a home in West Pittston where they found so

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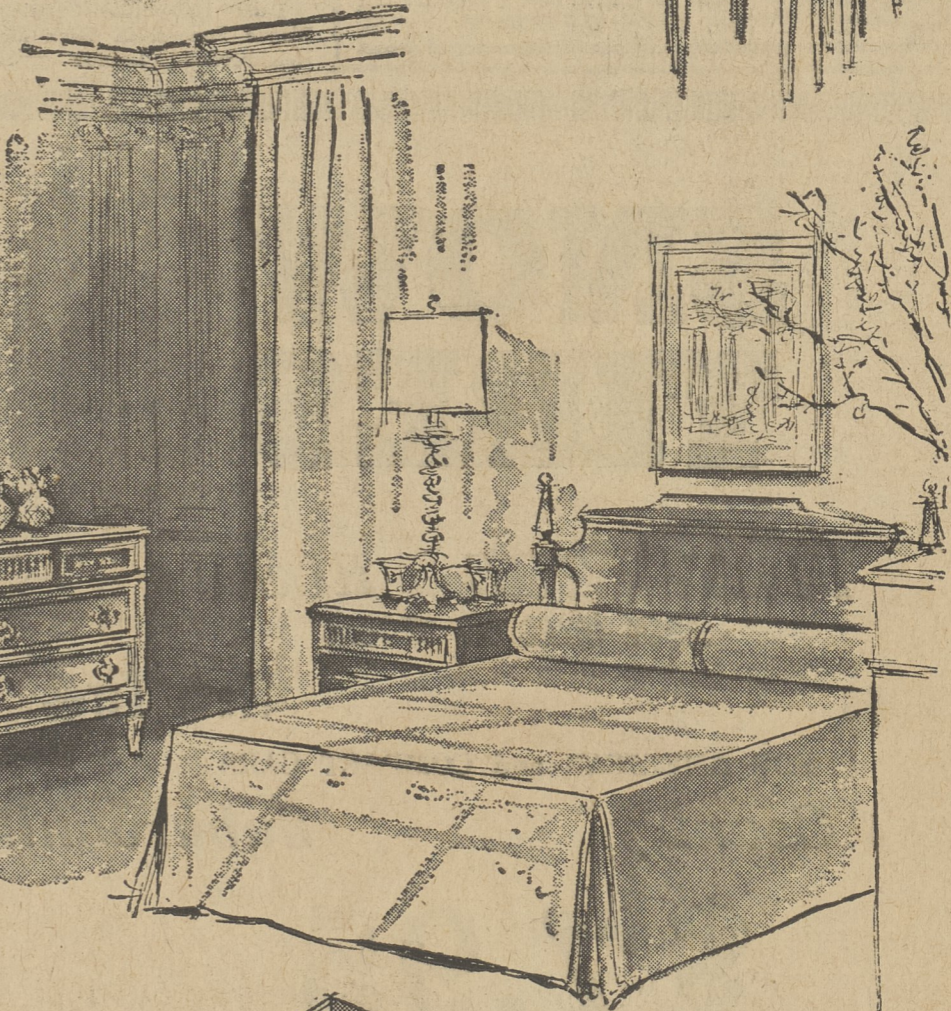
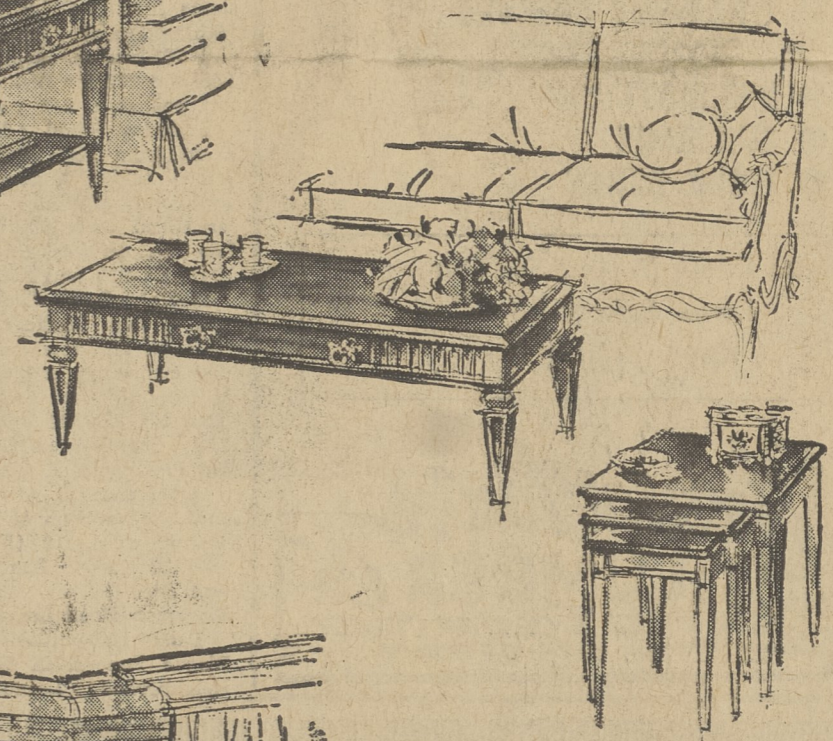
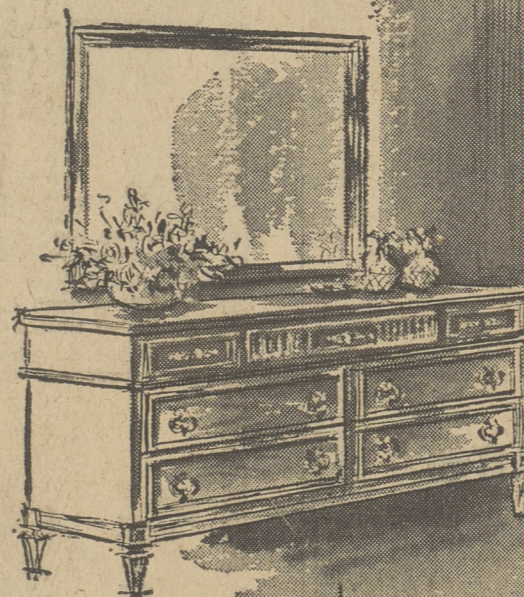
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