

Over-population top problem in dog world

by Tony Kneidek
staff reporter

Editor's note: This is the second in a series on animal control in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties. In the final installment next week The Post will look at programs available to have dogs and cats neutered or spayed.

"There is no perfect way to kill an animal. The thing to do is to keep them from being born."

—Mary Scriver, educational coordinator at the Multnomah County Animal Control Center in Troutdale.

If there is an agency or organization that is a whipping boy for the public when it comes to animal control, it is the center in Troutdale.

"People have attacked our investigators with everything from guns to two-by-fours," Mary Scriver, educational coordinator for the county animal control center said. "We've had officers beat up when out making pick-ups and someone tried to strangle me once."

It's a catch-22 situation for the animal control center. "As far as the public is concerned, there are two things the dog catcher can do wrong," Scriver continued.

"He can go out and catch dogs or he cannot catch dogs. People want the dogs picked up, but they want the dog catcher to leave their own dog or a friend's dog alone."

The number one problem, Scriver said, is pet over-population. Logically, the solution to the problem is for persons to have their animals spayed or neutered.

"If dogs get too over-crowded, nature takes over. There's too much competition

for food and space and diseases set in," Scriver said.

At the Multnomah County Animal Control Center in 1976, 18,472 dogs were impounded. Of these, 12,405 were killed and 1,735 were impounded dead.

Both the animal control center and the Oregon Humane Society in Portland use the Euthanaire method to destroy the animals.

Euthanaire is a high-altitude simulation machine in which the animals are taken to an elevation that is equivalent of the top of Mt. Everest.

"They quickly become groggy, go unconscious and then die while unconscious," Scriver said. "It's a lot like carbon monoxide poisoning except that it's safer for the person operating the machine."

The Euthanaire method for destroying animals also is used in Clackamas County, where Richard Wick, director of dog control there, said more than 1,000 dogs had been killed by the county through May.

In Clackamas County, the dog control center "gets the dirty work," Wick said. "After we impound the dog, we bring it in to the kennel. If there is no identification, we'll hold it for five days before doing anything with it. If there is identification, we sent people a letter that the dog has been impounded."

"If no one shows up after five days, we can adopt the dog out or put the animal to sleep," Wick said.

The statistics are equally as grim in Clackamas County, where Wick said 75 per cent of the dogs impounded are killed.

The problem, Wick said, is irresponsible pet owners. "Responsible pet owners can end the problem. People have got to realize that having an animal in this day and age requires just as much care as raising a child."

"People don't let their children run all over the country and they can't let animals do it either."

Director of the Oregon Humane Society Gene Burgess said he believes the Euthanaire (or high altitude) method of killing the animals is the most humane one there is.

"I'm strongly in support of the method. I know we have our critics, but I'm convinced that it is the most humane method going."

Scriver said there are many misconceptions about Euthanaire. "A lot of people have visions of lungs being turned inside out and brains exploding, but that's not the case at all."

At the Troutdale center, dogs are held in the kennels for a maximum of seven days.

If they are not claimed or adopted out in that time, they are killed, cremated and reduced to a pile of paper-like bones that are shoveled into trash cans.

Walking through the kennels, one feels as if he is passing through a death row for dogs. In kennel after kennel dogs howl or play or simply stare at passers-by, unaware of their fate.

"People bring in litters all the time," Scriver said. "And the litters get killed. In our modern, throw-away society, people treat dogs like they are paper plates."

"They say they want their animals to be free. Well, that's the same as saying they are worthless. If there is no investment in the animal then people don't care. And they call it 'free.'"

Scriver said the laws that are written for animals may someday be re-written for people. "No dog ever breaks the leash law. People do, but the dogs take the rap for it."

And when dogs are picked up by owners at the kennel, people treat the dog as if it should have known better than to leave the yard.

"People consider this place a dog jail," Scriver said. "They come in here, find their animal, and say, 'Now listen here dog. I hope you've learned your lesson. Now maybe you'll stick around the yard.'"

"The dog sits there and looks and listens, but what the devil — he's not the one that broke the law."

"If everybody was a good animal owner, we'd be out of business," Scriver admitted. "But we wouldn't mind that at all."

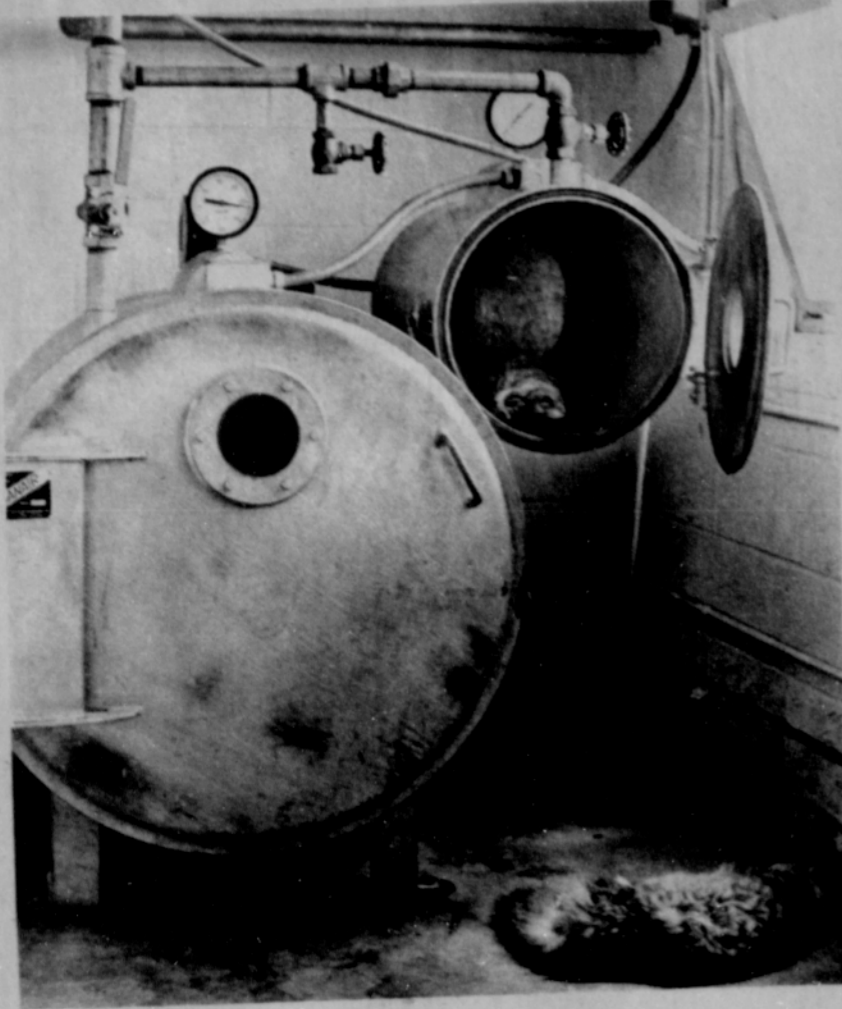
For Scriver, there is no sugar-coating the statistics and the problem of animal over-population and owner irresponsibility.

"The way we feel is that people have to know what is going on. We have to make it more difficult for irresponsible animal owners and less difficult for the responsible ones."

"Nobody wants to say, 'Hey, I went out and killed 30 or 40 dogs this morning.' But it's happening everyday and we have to tell it like it is."

"If the publicity gets 75 per cent of the people to go out and get their dog spayed or neutered, then that's great."

"This idea of not saying how many are killed in a day or a month is wrong. The problem is that this is happening."



THE EUTHANAIRE, a high altitude chamber used to kill abandoned or unwanted dogs and cats, is used by both Clackamas and Multnomah counties as well as the Oregon Humane Society. All cats left at the Troutdale center are destroyed.



A YOUNG pup struggles to greet visitors at the Multnomah County Animal Control Center in Troutdale. Up to 75 per cent of the dogs brought to the center are destroyed.

Utility cutback plans ordered

Oregon's electric utilities must develop curtailment plans in case the Northwest drought creates a serious electricity shortage this coming year, Public Utility Commissioner Charles Davis said Monday.

Davis' order came following public meetings in 12 cities and a public hearing in June to discuss the idea.

"We hope we will never have to implement mandatory electricity curtailment, but in case of a shortage, we must have workable, up-to-date plans," Davis said.

The plan has two stages of

voluntary and three stages of mandatory curtailment. Each is to be triggered by the increasing probability that the region's reservoirs will not be able to supply enough electricity until next spring, when stream runoff begins again.

Latest predictions from the Northwest Power Pool computer model are for 52-54 million acre feet of water by the end of the month, worse than any recorded year and just about half the historical median of 105 million acre feet.

Probability of mandatory curtailment this fall is 50 per

cent if voluntary cutbacks do not continue, and 10 per cent if they do continue at 7 to 8 per cent below forecast usage.

Mandatory curtailment can be implemented only if the governor declares an emergency, which can be extended beyond 30 days only by the legislature, meeting in special session. Plans would be implemented by the utilities under PUC supervision.

The plan provides that residential customers who can prove they have curtailed voluntarily since Gov. Bob Straub's request in March will not be forced "to curtail on a compound basis," and can obtain adjustments.

Under the proposal, voluntary curtailment first would entail a general request for cutbacks — which in effect Gov. Straub issued in March — and then a more urgent request to adjust thermostats and eliminate unnecessary outdoor lighting.

Mandatory curtailment would require utilities to restrict electricity use, impose excess-use surcharges or disconnect service for exceeding allowed usage. At this stage, employment and industrial production would be disrupted.

Curtailment of outdoor lighting would be followed by across-the-board percentage cuts for all customers, and finally restriction of retail, commercial, industrial and government operations, along with service interruption or voltage reduction to all customers on a rotating basis. The most severe measures are

extremely unlikely, but are included in case of dire emergency.

In Stage II of mandatory curtailment, cuts would be based on a customer's monthly usage one year prior to the curtailment. A customer who used more power than allowed would first be charged an excess-power surcharge, based on the extra cost to the utility of supplementing its less expensive supplies with more costly power to meet that customer's demand.

If noncompliance continued, a customer would be disconnected for two days the first time and five days for further violations, in addition to the surcharge. No customer could be disconnected without written notification of appeal rights.

Utilities would monitor their major-use customers and all customers who previously violated curtailment orders. All other customers would be monitored of necessity on a random, representative basis.

Some quasigovernmental and governmental users — including hospitals, police and fire stations and other facilities of critical importance — would be partially exempt from the first two stages of mandatory curtailment.

The new plan will in most cases supersede plans which have been on file since 1973 and 1974, when utilities first were required to file them. While the commissioner does not regulate publicly owned utilities, state statutes require all utilities, whether investor-owned or publicly owned, to have plans on file.

Planning commission to hear requests

Three applications for conditional use permits and one for an ordinance change will be among the requests faced by the Clackamas County Planning Commission at their next meeting on July 25.

In the ordinance waiver, Igno Warangon has requested permission to create three lots on a 7.22 acre piece of land in the Boring area, each with a

depth to width ratio of 4.65 to 1 instead of the required 2.5 to 1.

The lots affected are about 2000 feet north of the Hoffmeister Road and 25th Avenue intersection.

In a conditional use application, Larry Rafferty has asked to place a mobile home and storage shed for use at his father's residence on a lot on Weber Road in the Eagle Creek

area. The lot is currently zoned for Rural Residential Farm Forest use.

Placement of another mobile home on a non-residential parcel is in a request made by D.S. Rogers. He would like to install a mobile home on a parcel on the south side of Thomas Road in the Sandy area. The lot is currently zoned for Transitional Timber.

In a third conditional use application, Sandy Union High School wants to build a farm structure for instructional use on the south side of Bell Street 600 feet west of Bluff Road on a lot currently zoned for residential use. The planning commission will meet in the Clackamas County Courthouse in Oregon City.

OSU engineers test logging system

Researchers in the Oregon State University forest engineering department are attempting to find economical methods for harvesting small timber on steep terrain.

Studies show that an increasingly large percentage of Oregon's timber supply will be coming from stands of smaller timber, rather than the large old growth trees. Much of the smaller timber is on steep slopes and uneven terrain.

Presently, loggers employ huge skyline yarders to harvest on steep slopes, but these systems are too expensive to make them practical for small wood harvest.

A less expensive method of logging uses tractors, but they often cannot be used on steep slopes, especially when the ground is soft.

The OSU forest engineering department has been studying smallwood harvest since 1972. A recent study of European methods revealed small wood harvesters in operation.

One such system, the Igland-Jones Mini-Alp, was purchased by the International Paper Company, as part of a

cooperative program involving several timber companies, for testing the OSU forest. The Mini-Alp, built in Scotland, is being tested to determine its suitability to Northwest conditions.

Relatively, inexpensive at about \$60,000 the Mini-Alp is

smaller than any system available in the U.S. It is tractor drawn and it takes its power from the tractor.

One of its unique features is its ability to utilize a system of intermediate supports along the skyline. This technology borrowed from ski lifts, enables

it to log on convex slopes and uneven terrain.

It is also less damaging to the forest floor than either tractor or large skyline operations.

The OSU Forest Extension Service will demonstrate the Mini-Alp to representatives from the logging industry this fall.

End of season doesn't end work

When the harvest of June-bearing strawberries is finished, the beds should be cleaned up.

"That means removing old and dead plant material," says Duane Hatch, Oregon State University Extension home gardening coordinator.

The clean-up can be done by hand, or with a rotary mower set at the proper height. (Set the mower so it cuts just above the crown of the plant.)

It is important to get rid of rotted and damaged fruits that could become a source of disease.

Once the bed is clean, Hatch

advises letting the strawberries go dormant from mid-July to mid-August. Water and fertilize the berry plants in mid-August to ready them for the fruit-setting stage that follows.

June-bearing varieties (Marshall, Northwest, Hood, Shuksan, Rainier) bear fruit

only in late spring or summer. They are distinguished from everbearers (Quinault, Gem, Ogallala, Rockhill), which produce two crops, one in June and another in late summer or fall.

Everbearing strawberries do not need to be cleaned-up now.

Million employed first time in history

Total employment in June passed the one million mark for the first time in Oregon history, according to Ross Morgan, assistant director of the state Employment Division. The total figure rose to 1,026,800 persons employed.

At the same time, Morgan reported that the statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 8.4 per cent, down from 8.8 per cent in May. The U.S. rate increased from 6.9 per cent to 7.1 per cent for the month.

Oregon's total unemployment rose 1,000 to total 91,900 in June, while the civilian labor force increased by 28,300. Morgan said that June brings large gains in the size of the labor force due to the seasonal entry of youth and other temporary workers into the job market.

The largest job gains in June occurred in food and kindred products (+3,300), retail trade (+3,200) and government (+2,700).

Clarification

We wish to clarify the wording in a story in last week's paper on the Sandy High School meeting. In the story reference was made to the question of whether two recently resigned employees should receive "back

pay." This should have been referred to as "accrued vacation pay." We regret any confusion caused by the wording in the original story.

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RAIN CHECKS WILL BE ISSUED ON:

- The Westclox Antique Twin-Bell Alarm Clock on Page 5.
- The Polaroid Pronto One Step Camera on Page 8.
- The CVA 45 Caliber Colonial Pistol Kit on Page 9.

We hope this does not inconvenience our valued customers.
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