Animal shelter final stop for some

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

The final bark or meow for thousands of dogs and cats that roam Baltimore streets are heard in the euthanasia room at the Muncipal Animal Shelter in South Baltimore where death is the only answer.

Last year, 17,141 stray dogs and cats were captured by the city's Bureau of Animal Control. Many were abandoned, injured or dangerous. Ninety-one percent of the animals were put to sleep, Charlotte Crenson, the Municipal Animal Shelter's education coordinator, said.

Crenson said the chemical-injected process is humane and painless.

"It's over just like that," she said.

To curtail the need for euthanasia and the profileration of stray animals in Baltimore, the two-year-old shelter has named February, "Spay/Neuter Your Pet" month.

Pet owners will be able to alter pets for a low-cost fee at various veterinarians throughout the city, Crenson said.

The fees range from $15 to $40.

"It's (altering animals) important," Crenson said. "Because dogs and cats breed too fast. There are not enough homes."

Each day, 70,000 puppies and kittens are born, she said. Nearly 7.5 million animals are euthanized across the nation.

"There's a great deal of indiscriminate breeding when you allow animals to roam the neighborhoods," said Lloyd H. Ross, director of the Bureau of Animal Control. "We're trying to educate people to cut down (pet roaming)."

He said the agency plans to educate elementary and secondary school students, community organizations and enforce animal control laws to spay/neuter information.

"Education is a slow process, but if any animal control service is going to function well, it has to have education," Ross said.

Baltimore leads the others in animal control education he said.

Ross said he hopes at least 500 people spay or neuter their pets this month, during the program's ninth anniversary.

"If we can do 500, that's a drop in the bucket, but it's a start," he said.

The shelter usually keeps abandoned, injured or dangerous animals for five days, to allow time for the owner to claim their pet or for the animals to be adopted.

Currently there are 350 animals in the shelter, Crenson said.

ADOPT A PET—Lloyd Ross holds a young friend who is seeking a home.

AKA anniversary set

Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the organization, with its 79th annual Founders Day luncheon to be held on Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Forum, 4210 Primrose Avenue.

The luncheon will begin at 12 noon and last until 4 p.m. The theme for this occasion will be "Service With a Global Perspective."

The sorority is one of the oldest Greek letter groups in the nation. The scope is national. The membership consists of more than 100,000 dynamic women who foster high ideals of sisterhood and focus on multi-dimensional programs that promote service and democratic principles to all mankind.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. had its inception in 1908 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, DC.

There are now 621 chapters of the organization in the United States and several foreign countries.

The sorority was founded as a service organization and continues to give service by fostering programs of "Life-Long Learning; scholarships to needy students, programs for honoring outstanding young people, promoting welfare and health programs through annual health fairs, sponsoring cultural arts projects and many other needed services in the city, state and community.

Dr. Marjorie Parker, national historian for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Howard University professor, will be the guest speaker.

Paralyzed woman back on her feet

By Alicia Benjamin
AFRO Staff Writer

A fall from the second floor window of her house paralyzed a pregnant Baltimore woman from the waist down. It happened, three months ago, but now, Cora Henderson is able to walk again and doctors say her baby is healthy.

The fall broke Henderson's spine in three places and also caused severe head injury.

Henderson said she backed into the window after her husband called the police to take her to the hospital when she became ill.

She said she suffers from manic-depression and was having an attack the night she fell from the open window.

"Everytime I get pregnant I get manic-depression," she stated.

She said she backed up against the window because she did not want to go with the police. Then she lost her balance and fell.

"When I fell out of the window I didn't know I was going to hit the ground. I didn't feel any pain. I guess it was the shock that knocked me out. It was really like a nightmare."

About four weeks after the accident Henderson said she started getting a feeling in her legs again.

"I feel fine," Henderson said, "and I didn't have any pains the whole time I was sick."

After her fall, Henderson was taken to the University Hospital Intensive Care Unit where she stayed for three days. She has been a patient at Montebello Hospital since then.

She began feebly walking when she regained feeling in her legs but she is just beginning to walk well, she said.

Her baby is due in early April and the doctors said there was no damage done to the baby, Henderson said.

Henderson said doctors told her she suffers from manic-depression and the symptoms are only pronounced when she is pregnant.

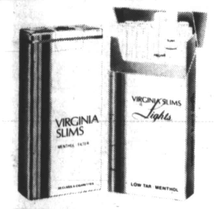
When she was pregnant with her daughter about two yeas ago, she also suffered from manic-depression but she did not realize what it was, she explained.

She is now seeing a therapist regularly. She said the doctors are going to watch her closely in case she has another attack.

But for now she said she is "just glad to be over it."

Fashions: Mario Valentino

VIRGINIA SLIMS MENTHOL



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SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.

Local cop sentenced on drug charges

Chief Judge Alexander Harvey, II of the District of Maryland, sentenced Frank Leroy Chester, a six-year veteran of the Baltimore County Police Force, to a period of 12 years imprisonment for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute cocaine. Chester plead guilty to this offense on Thursday, Dec. 17, 1987.

The investigation which led to Chester's plea and the sentence imposed today was initiated by the Baltimore County Police Department. The DEA Task Force in Baltimore became involved in August of 1987, when it appeared that the case would go beyond the jurisdiction of the Police Department. The subsequent investigation led to three separate purchases of cocaine from Chester in September and October of 1987. The total weight of the cocaine involved was approximately 600 grams with a purity ranging from 83 to 93 percent.

A co-defendant of Chester's, William McFadden, was tried on related charges and convicted by a jury on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1988. Sentencing for McFadden is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25, 1988, at 9:30 a.m.

The DEA/Baltimore Task Force responsible for the investigation of this case consisted of Detectives from Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Police and special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Assistant United States Attorneys E. Thomas Roberts and John V. Geise were primarily responsible for the prosecution in the Office of the United States Attorney.

Supermarket spurs scholars

Stop, Shop and Save Supermarket sponsors its year-old Academic Achievement Awards Program this month, to recognize public school students for their academic excellence.

The awards programs are held every February to honor students who excell in their first semester and in June to honor students for their academic performance during the entire year.

Each recipient of the award receives a Lamp of Learning Trophy.

There are 12 schools participating in February's program, including George Street Elementary School on Bruce Street, Mt. Royal Elementary on McMechen Street and Malcolm X on Shirley Avenue.

For more information call Bill Curtis at 945-7932.

NAACP to hold Freedom reception

The Baltimore branch NAACP will host it's annual freedom awards program and reception at 6 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 12, 1988. Join us as we salute our outstanding volunteers and contributors of 1987. The program will be held at the St. John A.M.E. Church located at 810 N. Carrollton Avenue.

Featured in this years program will be the St. John's sanctuary choir and pastor Naomi Durant's New Refuge Community Choir. The speaker will be the NAACP Religious Affairs Chairman, pastor Benjamin Foust. A reception will follow the program.

For more information about this or other NAACP programs, call 366-3300.

Waxter Center plans western trip

Join the members and friends of Waxter Center for Senior Citizens on an exciting two-week journey through America's western national parks, August 3 through 15. All transportation, hotels, language handling, taxes, service charges, professional guide, 23 meals, sightseeing and admission per itinerary are included in the cost of $1,699.00. Call Frances Moore at 396-1325 for a detailed itinerary.

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