

MAR 2 - 1995

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# Unwanted pets causing cri

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 By Genelle Treaster  
 Staff Writer

The overpopulation of pets is almost more than Sacramento County can bear.

For nearly 30 years, the Sacramento County Animal Control has been responsible for every injured, stray, abused and unwanted pet in the unincorporated county.

The furry wards of Animal Control are becoming more numerous every year, said facility director Patricia Wilcox.

"Pet overpopulation is a situation that's a crisis in our community. Unfortunately, it's somewhat overlooked in our society," Wilcox said.

Nearly 30,000 pets annually come through the doors of Animal Control. "All animals here get adopted, claimed or euthanized," Wilcox said.

While an average of 24 percent of the animals are adopted or picked up by their owners, the remaining are euthanized to make room for the arriving masses.

"When it's OK to kill excess animals as the main way to decrease the pet population, our society should be ashamed," Wilcox said. "We're not talking about filthy, feral animals being euthanized, we're talking about beautiful, wonderful, perfectly acceptable animals being killed each day."

Nearly every type of animal is and has been at the facility, including dogs, cats, rabbits, goats, potbellied pigs, horses, mules, snakes, parakeets, guinea pigs, chickens, ducks and even monkeys.

"The overpopulation issue is really related to dogs and cats. It's an unacceptable situation. It's not acceptable to throw away pets.



This male hound dog is neutered and more than ready to go to his new home. He is well-behaved, thought to be from 1 to 2-years-old and does require ample yard to roam.

Neighbors  
 Genelle Treaster

Claudia Schlachter, volunteer coordinator, works hard at the facility and with potential adoptees to help find homes for the more than 30,000 animals brought into the facility yearly.

