Pet owners, stay out of the doghouse and take a tip from your local pound



Animals should always have an adequate supply of water remind workers at the Kindness Center. This unnamed sheltie-spaniel isn't sure whether to drink the water or sit in in. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

By ARLENE VANDERLEUN Since animals can't tell you if they're feeling uncomfortable, the Humane Society Kindness Cen'er has a few hot tips to keep you out of your pet's doghouse this winter.

your pet's doghouse this winter.

Veterinary assistant Pat Valrance says that many owners unknowingly contribute to a pet's discomfort in cold weather through ignorance of the animal's body chemistry.

"Keeping a dog out inside during the "Keeping a dog out inside at night measure of the single pet of the single pet

THE BEST rule of thumb is to decide while the dog is still a puppy if it will be an outdoor or indoor animal. Then stick to that decision.

The Human Society recommends allowing the pet to adapt to outdoor life during mild weather so his coat and body adjust to the temperatures

zero degree range, said Ms. Valrance. Then the dog should be brought inside the house for the night.

Small dogs with not much hair should wear a coat or sweater outdoors for warrath, said Ms. Valrance.

"Inside dogs should not remain outside inactive more than 20 minutes," she added.

Dogs should never wear a sweater uside the house.

"That would be like allowing your child to wear a coat indoors," said Ms.

child to wear a coat indoors," said Ms. Valrance.
Cats should never be allowed outside mattended, said Ms. Valrance. "They will seek warmth and go into a garage and neste under a car. They may be injured or run over by a driver who coesn't know the cat is there."
Cats, if allowed to roam outside, may fall prey to attacking dogs or be hit by a car, added Ms. Valrance. If your outdoor dog has a large, spacious doghouse, you may be doing the pet more harm than good, according to the Humane Society.
STATE LAW mandates that animal

to the Humane Society.

STATE LAW mandates that animal owners must provide "adequate shelter." That means a doghouse should be sized so that the animal can generate enough heat with his own coat to keep warm, according to Humane Society guidelines.
"The doghouse should be just large enough for the grown dog to sit without bumping his head." said Ms. Valrance.

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Sex ed still hot issue

"We do not believe Public Act 226 gives carte blanche permission to school staffs to to school staffs to respond to students' questions about birth control," said Norman P. Weinheimer, executive director, Michigan Association of School Boards.

Boards.

Weinheimer was reacting to a statement made recently by John Porter, superintendent of public instruction, that sex education teachers could answer students' questions on birth control even if program guidelines had not been adopted as required by the legislation.

"Public Act 225 leaves the decision to expand health programs to the decision to expand health programs to the decision to health programs to the decision board" as the decision board and department's interpretation seems to us to the law to allow local communities to control these programs. Local districts must fulfill very specific requirements in the act before such information can be made available to students and in most districts those preconditions have not yet been met.

"In order to avoid citizen complaints and chalenges we are advising school boards to implement the six requirements of the law before permitting teachers to respond to students' inquiries about birth control," Weinheimer said.

Public Act 220 permiss a school district to offer a course in sex education, including family planning, reproducing, and planning, reproduced to that: the course is an elective; is taught by "qualified" teachers; the parents are notified in advance of the program's content and are given the right to exclude their child from the class; the school board establishes a citizens advisory board for the program; the school board adopts guidelines for the instruction, and instruction in reproducing the professionals.

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